# Kemi Badenoch calls out 'Adolescence' for fundamental narrative changes



Kemi Badenoch, the British politician and Leader of the Conservative Party, has made remarks regarding the controversial drama series "Adolescence," suggesting it is based on a true story that has been "fundamentally changed." Her statement drew attention to the show's exploration of themes surrounding incel (involuntary celibate) culture, which has ignited a broader discussion about online safety for young people.

The series, which depicts a teenage boy accused of murdering a schoolmate, has made waves for its reflection on societal issues. Badenoch, who has not viewed the series but claims to understand its narrative, conveyed her views during an appearance on LBC. "I don’t have time to watch anything to be honest, but I have read about it … what I understand is that this is a fictional representation of a story that is actually quite different," she stated.

While acknowledging that "Adolescence" addresses significant modern issues, Badenoch emphasised that Islamic terrorism represents a more pressing threat. She stated, "it is not the biggest thing that is happening in the world today in terms of what is happening to people being radicalised on social media." She argued against crafting policy based on fictional narratives, pointing out that alterations made to the original story detract from its factual basis.

Her comments surfaced against the backdrop of a recent roundtable discussion held by Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer at Downing Street, where Thorne, the show's co-creator, and representatives from children's charities convened to address the influence of misogyny on young boys due to their online interactions. Badenoch also referenced the Conservative Party's initiative to ban mobile phones in schools, adding that it may not be necessary since many educational institutions already impose similar restrictions.

Social media speculation, fuelled by prominent figures such as Elon Musk, has suggested that the character in "Adolescence," played by a white actor, is based on the Southport attacker. In response to these claims, Jack Thorne refuted the idea of "race-swapping" in the series, clarifying that it is not rooted in a true story. During an interview on the News Agents podcast, he remarked, "It’s absurd to say that (knife crime) is only committed by black boys. It’s absurd. It’s not true. And history shows a lot of cases of kids from all races committing these crimes." Thorne emphasised that the narrative aims to address issues surrounding masculinity rather than race.

The discourse surrounding "Adolescence" highlights the complex intertwining of fiction, societal issues, and policy implications in contemporary discussions about youth and culture.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.gbnews.com/celebrity/netflix-adolescence-jo-hartley-statement-instagram-ending-finale> - This URL supports the discussion about the Netflix series 'Adolescence' and its exploration of societal issues, including its impact and reception.
* <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-03-19/starmer-backs-campaign-to-show-tv-drama-adolescence-in-schools-and-parliament> - This URL corroborates Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's backing of the campaign to show 'Adolescence' in schools and Parliament as part of addressing online safety and misogyny.
* <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-03-31/adolescence-creators-meet-pm-as-tv-drama-made-free-to-watch-in-schools> - This URL provides further details about the creators of 'Adolescence' meeting with Prime Minister Starmer to discuss the show's themes and its availability in schools.
* <https://www.noahwire.com/> - This URL is referenced as the source for the initial article discussing Kemi Badenoch's remarks on the drama series 'Adolescence' and its exploration of incel culture.
* <https://www.lbc.co.uk/> - This URL would support Kemi Badenoch's appearance on LBC, where she discussed 'Adolescence,' though specific details are not available without the exact article link.
* <https://www.thefulltranscript.com/podcasts/the-news-agents> - This URL is related to The News Agents podcast, where Jack Thorne may have addressed claims surrounding 'Adolescence'; however, the exact link to his interview is not provided here.