# Kneecap respond to Sharon Osbourne's call to revoke US visas after Coachella controversy



Belfast-based Irish language rap group Kneecap have responded to calls from Sharon Osbourne to revoke their US work visas following their politically charged performance at the Coachella festival. The controversy arose after lead singer Mo Chara made comments about the Israel-Gaza conflict during their set, which led the audience to chant “Free, free Palestine.” This moment has since been widely shared across social media platforms.

Sharon Osbourne, known for her roles as a judge on X Factor and America’s Got Talent and as the wife of former Black Sabbath frontman Ozzy Osbourne, criticised the group for what she described as “incorporating aggressive political statements” into their Coachella appearance. Speaking on the social media platform X, she said the festival would be “remembered as one that compromised its moral and spiritual integrity” because the promoters, Goldenvoice, allowed Kneecap a platform for political expression. She added: “At a time when the world is experiencing significant unrest, music should serve as an escape, not a stage for political discourse.”

In response, Kneecap issued a brief statement to the BBC, rejecting the accusation that their comments were aggressive, stating: “Statements aren’t aggressive, murdering 20,000 children is though.”

The US State Department weighed in, noting that visa revocations are only considered in cases that suggest a potential visa ineligibility under US immigration law, pose a public safety threat, or in similar situations where revocation is justified.

Currently, Kneecap are on a tour across the US and Canada and are scheduled to perform at the UK’s Glastonbury Festival later this year. The group is known for blending Irish language and culture with contemporary rap, and their politically infused performances have drawn both acclaim and controversy. The Irish News (Belfast) reports that the group continues to maintain a prominent presence on the international music stage despite the recent criticism.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/music/story/2025-04-21/kneecap-coachella-2025-controversy> - Documents Kneecap's Coachella performance featuring pro-Palestine messages and mentions their critique of Israel's actions in Gaza during live sets.
2. <https://allisrael.com/blog/kneecapped-by-their-own-hatred-the-coachella-festival-of-hate-for-israel> - Details Kneecap's on-stage comments about Israel-Gaza at Coachella, including Mo Chara's assertion that Palestinian suffering exceeds historic Irish persecution.
3. <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/music/story/2025-04-21/kneecap-coachella-2025-controversy> - Notes Kneecap's claim that their Weekend 1 Gaza-related projections were omitted from Coachella's livestream, suggesting possible censorship.
4. <https://allisrael.com/blog/kneecapped-by-their-own-hatred-the-coachella-festival-of-hate-for-israel> - Corroborates the audience's 'Free Palestine' chants during Kneecap's set and the group's accusations against Israel's military actions.
5. <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/music/story/2025-04-21/kneecap-coachella-2025-controversy> - Confirms Kneecap's ongoing US/Canada tour schedule and their Sonora Tent performances at Coachella's punk-oriented stage.
6. <https://allisrael.com/blog/kneecapped-by-their-own-hatred-the-coachella-festival-of-hate-for-israel> - Substantiates the political backlash against Kneecap's Coachella appearance and their blending of Irish language with contemporary rap activism.
7. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/kneecap-hit-back-at-sharon-osbourne-comments-following-coachella-gig-7OYVKWVE4RCQLGLSWMZNEU6UHE/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data