# Eden Project faces backlash over Kneecap gig amid political and security concerns



The Eden Project in Cornwall is facing criticism over the scheduled performance of Northern Irish hip hop group Kneecap, amid concerns about the group’s political messaging and alleged support for terrorist organisations. Kneecap, composed of Móglaí Bap, Mo Chara, and DJ Próvaí, is set to make its Cornish debut at the Eden Sessions on 4 July. However, their upcoming appearance has sparked controversy and public debate.

Critics have voiced concerns about Kneecap’s openly expressed political views, particularly their anti-British and anti-Israel rhetoric. Ed Abrahamson, speaking to CornwallLive, said: “Kneecap are known for their anti-British and anti-Israel views, and whilst I believe in free speech, their extreme rhetoric in particular against the Jewish state, in my opinion, poses a risk of radicalising young people.” He pointed to recent evidence from their US performance at the Coachella festival where the phrase “F\*\*K Israel” appeared on screens and in social media posts linked to the band.

Abrahamson also highlighted footage from a November 2024 concert at the O2 in London which appeared to show one of the band’s members shouting support for the proscribed terrorist groups Hamas and Hezbollah while wrapped in a Hezbollah flag. “The Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA) has reported the band to counter-terrorism police given the explicit support for Hamas and Hezbollah that has emerged,” he added. UK law prohibits speech that incites racial or religious hatred or promotes terrorism, and Abrahamson expressed that the Eden Project should not provide a platform for such messaging, especially given Cornwall’s reputation as a peaceful county.

Additional concerns were raised by a man who claimed to have served in the British Armed Forces in Northern Ireland. He expressed unease about the group’s pro-terrorism stance and anti-British rhetoric, as well as the representation of drug use in their lyrics. “Some of us served in Northern Ireland: and have lost friends as a result of terrorism acts,” he said. “Is this really the sort of thing you want associated with The Eden Project and Cornwall in general?”

The Eden Project has reportedly received a number of complaints regarding Kneecap's appearance. A spokesperson commented: “We are taking this issue very seriously and discussing it internally.” Efforts to obtain a response from the band’s management were ongoing at the time of reporting.

The controversy around Kneecap intensified following their recent performance at Coachella in California over Easter weekend. The group concluded their set with three on-screen messages accusing Israel of genocide and war crimes against Palestinians. The statements read: “Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinian people”, “It is being enabled by the US government who arm and fund Israel despite their war crimes”, and “F\*\*\* Israel. Free Palestine.”

These political messages prompted TV personality and music manager Sharon Osbourne to call for Kneecap’s US work visas to be revoked, describing the band’s actions as “projections of anti-Israel messages and hate speech.” Osbourne further accused the group of openly supporting terrorist organisations and said they “took their performance to a different level by incorporating aggressive political statements.” When asked for a response by BBC News Northern Ireland, Kneecap retorted: “Statements aren't aggressive, murdering 20,000 children is though.”

On 23 April, UK counter-terrorism police were reported to be assessing video footage from the O2 concert, which was referred to them by the Metropolitan Police for potential breaches of terrorism legislation. The spokesperson from the Metropolitan Police stated: “We have been made aware of the video and it has been referred to the counter-terrorism internet referral unit for assessment and to determine whether any further police investigation may be required.”

In the UK, both Hamas and Hezbollah are listed as proscribed terrorist organisations. Under Section 12 of the Terrorism Act 2000, expressing an opinion or belief supportive of a proscribed organisation constitutes an offence.

The situation remains under close scrutiny as the date of Kneecap’s Eden Project performance approaches, with heightened awareness of the complex issues arising from the group’s political stance and its implications for public events in Cornwall.

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

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