# Sharon Osbourne urges Belfast rap group Kneecap to follow Bono’s example on political expression



In a recent statement, Sharon Osbourne, a prominent figure in the entertainment industry and former music manager, has addressed the ongoing controversy surrounding the Belfast-based rap group, Kneecap. Her remarks come as the group faces scrutiny over their lyrical content and political messages.

Osbourne highlighted the approach taken by Bono, the lead singer of the renowned rock band U2, as a model for how artists can engage with sensitive political issues without provoking violence. "Bono talks about Palestine… but he does it in a way that doesn’t incite violence from a crowd," she stated, suggesting that Kneecap could benefit from adopting a similar strategy. Her comments reflect a broader conversation about the responsibilities of artists in addressing contentious topics through their work.

The Belfast Telegraph reports that Kneecap’s lyrics often tackle themes pertinent to Irish identity and the socio-political landscape of Northern Ireland, which have drawn both admiration and criticism. Osbourne's comparison to Bono illustrates a notable point of contention in the music industry regarding the balance between artistic expression and social responsibility.

This latest discourse adds another layer to the ongoing dialogue about the influence of music on societal issues, particularly within the context of Northern Ireland's complex history. As artists continue to navigate these challenges, Osbourne's insights may spur further reflection on how best to communicate politically charged messages in a way that fosters understanding rather than division.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.ft.com/content/2a228472-da0f-4d7f-81f3-dbbbf23455ae> - This article discusses Kneecap's controversial performances at Coachella, where they displayed slogans such as 'Fuck Israel. Free Palestine.' and faced accusations of antisemitic hate speech, leading to calls for prosecution and condemnation from politicians.
2. <https://www.apnews.com/article/3cc86cf249c366554dee3cf5dd498fdc> - This report details British counterterrorism police investigating Kneecap following controversial comments made during concerts, including alleged support for Hamas and Hezbollah, and the projection of anti-Israel messages during a Coachella performance.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/irish-rappers-kneecap-apologise-families-murdered-uk-lawmakers-2025-04-29/> - This article covers Kneecap's apology to the families of murdered British lawmakers Jo Cox and David Amess after resurfacing controversial footage from their 2023 performance, where a member appeared to make violent remarks about MPs.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/9b22f8a5-2e06-4a9a-9799-1b4462bb8c16> - This piece highlights Kneecap's debut album 'Fine Art,' which blends political themes with youthful nightlife, reflecting on their approach to addressing socio-political issues through music.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/156e9143-caa7-4f6d-82b2-565b1004d15e> - This article discusses Kneecap's use of bilingual tracks in Irish and English, their nationalistic themes, and provocative antics, illustrating their approach to addressing contentious topics through their work.
6. <https://www.kneecap.ie/> - This is the official website of Kneecap, providing information about the band's background, music, and their approach to addressing socio-political issues through their work.
7. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/entertainment/music/they-need-to-be-more-like-bono-sharon-osbourne-hits-out-again-at-kneecap-following-the-rap-trios-statement/a1802893228.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data