# Kneecap removed from TRNSMT amid police and political safety concerns



Controversial Irish rap group Kneecap has been removed from the lineup of the popular TRNSMT Festival in Glasgow due to concerns raised by police regarding public safety. The band announced on their social media platforms that they could no longer perform at the festival, expressing regret to fans who had already purchased tickets, flights, and accommodation to see them. They reiterated their long history of performing in Glasgow, stating, “Glasgow has always been a huge city for us... we’ve played there many, many times, with no issues—ever.”

Kneecap's exclusion from TRNSMT follows troubling scrutiny linked to one of their members, Liam O’Hanna, who faces a court appearance next month for allegedly displaying a Hezbollah flag during a show in London. This incident has drawn intense media attention and public outcry. The police expressed that they had significant concerns about the potential audience reaction to Kneecap's performance, necessitating a large police presence to ensure safety at the event.

First Minister John Swinney has also voiced his concerns, suggesting that the band’s provocative comments, which appear to endorse the actions of groups such as Hamas, warranted their removal from the festival. Recently, a video surfaced in which a band member reportedly shouted, “The only good Tory is a dead Tory. Kill your local MP,” leading to further scrutiny from both law enforcement and political figures. A spokesperson for Police Scotland indicated that the decision regarding the festival lineup lies with its organisers, although police had not been consulted beforehand and had expressed their apprehensions based on public feedback.

Kneecap, known for their politically charged lyrics and robust advocacy for Irish identity, has faced accusations of pro-terrorism messaging but contests that their music is often misrepresented. The group asserts that their political expressions should not silence their artistic freedom. In the face of increasing criticism from UK lawmakers and public figures, they defended their stance, maintaining that their comments have been taken out of context. Kneecap stated that they do not endorse violence against civilians and condemned any attacks directed towards them or their families.

Despite the controversy, Kneecap’s schedule includes prominent upcoming performances, including a show at Glasgow’s O2 Academy, which they aim to fill following the festival’s cancellation. This venue is well-regarded for its vibrant atmosphere and excellent acoustics, suggesting a potential recalibration of their fan base in the wake of TRNSMT's cancellation. The band's emergence as significant cultural figures has been underscored by the success of their recent semi-autobiographical film, which gained recognition at the Sundance Film Festival and received an Oscar shortlist mention.

As Kneecap navigates the complexities of public and political sentiment, their future at major UK music festivals remains precarious. Their experience raises broader questions about the boundaries of artistic expression, particularly when art intersects with explosive political discourse.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14758799/Kneecaps-TRNSMT-gig-AXED-police-raise-safety-fears-potential-reaction-Irish-rappers.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/irish-band-kneecap-say-terrorism-charge-seeks-silence-artists-2025-05-22/> - Irish-language rap group Kneecap has condemned a terrorism-related charge against band member Liam O'Hanna as an attempt to silence politically outspoken artists. O'Hanna, 27, was charged by London's Metropolitan Police for allegedly displaying a Hezbollah flag during a performance in November. Kneecap stated the flag was thrown on stage and denied endorsing Hezbollah or Hamas, emphasizing their condemnation of all attacks on civilians. The band, known for advocating Irish identity and unity, has been scrutinized recently for pro-Palestinian messaging during their Coachella performance. O'Hanna is scheduled to appear in court on June 18. Despite mounting criticism, including calls from UK lawmakers for their exclusion, Kneecap is still set to perform at the Glastonbury Festival in June. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/irish-band-kneecap-say-terrorism-charge-seeks-silence-artists-2025-05-22/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://apnews.com/article/3cc86cf249c366554dee3cf5dd498fdc> - British counterterrorism detectives are investigating comments by Irish hip-hop group Kneecap following controversial statements made during concerts. In 2024, a band member allegedly said, "The only good Tory is a dead Tory. Kill your local MP," and in 2023, shouted "up Hamas, up Hezbollah," referencing groups banned in the UK. The Metropolitan Police confirmed there are grounds for further inquiry, now led by its Counter Terrorism Command. Kneecap, known for combining satirical songs with Irish republican symbolism, has ignited political tensions and public debate, especially after projecting anti-Israel messages during a Coachella performance. The group apologized to the families of UK MPs Jo Cox and David Amess, who were murdered in separate extremist attacks, claiming their comments were taken out of context. Some UK lawmakers have called for Kneecap to be removed from upcoming festivals, though notable musicians have defended them, criticizing attempts to silence the group and uphold artistic freedom. Kneecap’s recent rise to international attention follows the success of their semi-autobiographical film "Kneecap," which screened at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival and received Oscar shortlist recognition. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/3cc86cf249c366554dee3cf5dd498fdc?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.nme.com/news/music/politicians-call-for-kneecap-to-be-removed-from-glastonbury-and-trnsmt-line-ups-following-counter-terrorism-investigation-3858944> - Politicians have called for Kneecap to be removed from Glastonbury and TRNSMT's 2025 line-ups following a recent counter-terror investigation. Calls for the Irish trio to be removed from upcoming festival dates come after it was revealed earlier this week that counter-terror police are assessing footage from a show that appears to show a band member shouting "Up Hamas, up Hezbollah," while also displaying a Hezbollah flag. ([nme.com](https://www.nme.com/news/music/politicians-call-for-kneecap-to-be-removed-from-glastonbury-and-trnsmt-line-ups-following-counter-terrorism-investigation-3858944?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.academymusicgroup.com/o2academyglasgow/> - O2 Academy Glasgow is a prominent music venue located in Glasgow, Scotland. It hosts a variety of concerts and events throughout the year, featuring both international and local artists. The venue is known for its vibrant atmosphere and excellent acoustics, making it a popular choice for music enthusiasts. ([academymusicgroup.com](https://www.academymusicgroup.com/o2academyglasgow/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.kneecap.ie/gigs> - Kneecap, the Irish-language rap group, has an upcoming performance at the TRNSMT Festival in Glasgow, Scotland, scheduled for July 11, 2025. This festival is a significant event in the UK's music calendar, attracting a diverse audience. ([kneecap.ie](https://www.kneecap.ie/gigs?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.concertarchives.org/bands/kneecap?date=upcoming&page=1> - Kneecap's upcoming performances include the TRNSMT Festival in Glasgow, Scotland, from July 11 to July 13, 2025. The festival lineup features various artists, including The Script, 50 Cent, Gracie Abrams, Fontaines D.C., Biffy Clyro, Snow Patrol, and others. ([concertarchives.org](https://www.concertarchives.org/bands/kneecap?date=upcoming&page=1&utm_source=openai))