# Prime Minister Rishi Sunak responds to criticism from Nigel Farage on British culture and Ukraine conflict



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has responded to criticism from Reform UK leader Nigel Farage, who questioned Sunak's understanding of British culture after the Prime Minister left D-Day anniversary commemorations in Normandy before the main international event. Farage suggested his comments were aimed at Sunak's privileged background rather than his heritage as the child of immigrants.

In response, Sunak expressed his deep love for the UK, noting his family's immigrant background and emphasizing his commitment to repaying the country for its opportunities.

Farage's remarks have received wide backlash. Cabinet minister Mel Stride expressed discomfort with the comments, while Shadow Justice Secretary Shabana Mahmood labeled them "completely unacceptable."

Separately, Farage has faced criticism over his comments on the Ukraine conflict. In a BBC Panorama interview, he claimed that NATO and EU expansion provoked Russia's invasion of Ukraine, asserting that the West's actions gave Russian President Vladimir Putin an excuse to go to war. Prime Minister Sunak condemned Farage's statement as "completely wrong and only plays into Putin’s hands," stressing that such remarks are dangerous for UK and allied security.

Former Defence Secretary Ben Wallace compared Farage to a "pub bore," critiquing his simplistic views on complex geopolitical issues. Additional criticism came from Home Secretary James Cleverly and Labour's Shadow Defence Secretary John Healey, who accused Farage of being sympathetic to Putin.

These incidents highlight ongoing political tensions and debates around leadership, cultural understanding, and international security issues within the UK.