# John Legend opens up on how Kanye West’s controversies ended their friendship



John Legend recently candidly discussed his tumultuous relationship with Kanye West, revealing insights into how he might approach their friendship without the pressure of a public audience. In an interview on the High Performance podcast with Damian Hughes, Legend reflected on their past collaborations and indicated that their proximity was increasingly strained, largely due to West's controversial behaviour and their diverging political views.

West, who has garnered significant media attention for a series of inflammatory incidents—ranging from antisemitic social media rants to wearing a Ku Klux Klan outfit during an interview—has left many of his former collaborators questioning their association with him. Legend noted that the political split between him and West became insurmountable, particularly after West openly supported Donald Trump during his presidential campaign. This shift strained their friendship to a point that Legend described as unable to be sustained, emphasising that their differing views had fundamentally altered their dynamic.

Reflecting on the impact of their lost connection, Legend shared his concerns regarding West's mental health and public behaviour, particularly since the death of his mother in 2007, which many speculate marked a significant turning point in West’s life. Legend called attention to the broader implications of West's remarks and actions, particularly regarding the historical context of antisemitism and anti-Blackness, which he addressed during his public criticisms. His condemnation of West's antisemitic comments, made during a tumultuous series of outbursts from West in late 2022, underscored his disappointment and the damaging effects such rhetoric can have on vulnerable communities.

Despite their history, which includes notable moments of support—Legend once appreciated West's backing in his early career—he acknowledged that their friendship has been irrevocably altered. The more recent discussions also highlight a changing landscape in their interactions, with West expressing disappointment over Legend's lack of support during his own presidential endeavours, which was reported as a contributing factor to the deterioration of their relationship.

In summary, Legend’s recollections paint a picture of not just a personal fallout, but also a reflection on the broader societal implications of their rift, challenging the entertainment industry's grappling with such divisive figures. Without the constraints of public scrutiny, Legend's hypothetical conversations with West would no doubt delve deeper into these complex issues surrounding friendship, loyalty, and the moral responsibilities of public figures.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/lifestyle/john-legend-kanye-west-interview-video-b2762249.html), [[4]](https://exclaim.ca/music/article/john_legend_on_his_falling_out_with_kanye_west_he_was_upset_that_i_didnt_support_his_run_for_presidency)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/lifestyle/john-legend-kanye-west-interview-video-b2762249.html), [[3]](https://people.com/music/john-legend-lost-touch-kanye-west-condemns-anti-semitic-comments/), [[5]](https://www.nme.com/news/music/john-legend-hits-out-at-kanye-west-over-anti-blackness-and-antisemitism-3326638)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://exclaim.ca/music/article/john_legend_on_his_falling_out_with_kanye_west_he_was_upset_that_i_didnt_support_his_run_for_presidency), [[6]](https://www.thewrap.com/john-legend-politics-reason-friendship-kanye-west-ended/), [[7]](https://www.etonline.com/john-legend-addresses-fractured-relationship-with-kanye-west-hes-definitely-changed-193815)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/lifestyle/john-legend-kanye-west-interview-video-b2762249.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.antimusic.com/news/15/February/12John_Legend_Shares_His_View_Of_Kanye_Wests_Grammy_Controversy.shtml> - In February 2015, John Legend addressed Kanye West's controversial interruption at the Grammy Awards, where West mimicked his infamous 2009 MTV Video Music Awards incident during Beck's Album of the Year acceptance speech. Legend initially found the act humorous but later clarified his stance, expressing gratitude for West's support in his early career and acknowledging their differing views on the incident. He emphasized the importance of understanding the context and intentions behind such actions.
3. <https://people.com/music/john-legend-lost-touch-kanye-west-condemns-anti-semitic-comments/> - In November 2022, John Legend discussed his strained relationship with Kanye West, attributing it to West's recent antisemitic remarks. Legend expressed concern over West's changed behaviour, noting a significant shift since the death of his mother in 2007. He mentioned that they had lost touch and that others were attempting to help West, highlighting the broader issue of antisemitism and its historical impact.
4. <https://exclaim.ca/music/article/john_legend_on_his_falling_out_with_kanye_west_he_was_upset_that_i_didnt_support_his_run_for_presidency> - In August 2022, John Legend revealed that his friendship with Kanye West deteriorated due to differing political views, particularly West's presidential run and support for Donald Trump. Legend stated that West was upset by his lack of support for his candidacy and his endorsement of Joe Biden, leading to a significant strain in their relationship.
5. <https://www.nme.com/news/music/john-legend-hits-out-at-kanye-west-over-anti-blackness-and-antisemitism-3326638> - In October 2022, John Legend criticised Kanye West following a series of antisemitic posts by West. Legend expressed disappointment over West's remarks, highlighting the harmful impact of such rhetoric. He also discussed the broader issue of antisemitism and anti-Blackness, emphasizing the importance of addressing these issues within society.
6. <https://www.thewrap.com/john-legend-politics-reason-friendship-kanye-west-ended/> - In May 2025, John Legend discussed the end of his friendship with Kanye West, attributing it to differing political beliefs. Legend expressed disappointment over West's support for Donald Trump and noted that their relationship became strained due to these differences. He also reflected on the broader implications of political disagreements on personal relationships.
7. <https://www.etonline.com/john-legend-addresses-fractured-relationship-with-kanye-west-hes-definitely-changed-193815> - In May 2025, John Legend addressed the fractured relationship with Kanye West, noting significant changes in West's behaviour over the years. Legend expressed concern over West's recent controversial actions and statements, highlighting the impact of such behaviour on their friendship and the broader community.