# Kemi Badenoch calls for burqa ban at constituency surgery amid wider integration debate



Kemi Badenoch, the recently elected leader of the Conservative Party, has stirred controversy by advocating for employers to have the right to prohibit burqas in the workplace. Alongside this remark, she expressed her personal stance against face coverings, asserting she would deny entry to anyone wearing a veil during her constituency surgeries. Badenoch has made it clear that while she supports allowing individuals to dress as they choose, her opposition is rooted in a broader concern for effective integration in British society.

In her comments to The Telegraph, Badenoch declared, “If you come into my constituency surgery, you have to remove your face covering, whether it’s a burka or a balaclava.” She further elaborated on her views by emphasising that legislative focus should prioritise substantial issues surrounding integration over specific dress codes. She argued that tackling more serious concerns—such as the influence of sharia courts and cousin marriages—should take precedence.

The backdrop for Badenoch's comments is a recent uproar within the Reform UK party, following contentious remarks related to burqa legislation. This internal strife culminated in party chairman Zia Yusuf’s brief resignation after he referred to MP Sarah Pochin as “dumb” for her queries about the legality of burqas during Prime Minister’s Questions. Yusuf has since retraced his steps, describing his resignation as impulsive and clarifying that it was not motivated by any strong stance on the burqa issue itself. He insisted the problem stemmed from a miscommunication within the party rather than any personal disagreement over the topic.

Badenoch’s remarks echo a widening debate on integration within the Conservative Party, with her critics and supporters offering a spectrum of opinions. Some view her as a necessary voice of change in tackling uncomfortable issues related to social cohesion directly, while others caution that her candidness risks deepening divisions. Badenoch herself has previously described the current integration approach as fraught with political correctness, arguing for a strategy that more honestly addresses the challenges facing diverse communities in the UK.

Moreover, Bardenoch noted that France, which has enforced a burqa ban, appears to face its own integration challenges, suggesting that merely legislating dress codes will not resolve deeper societal issues. Her comments suggest a recognition that complex social problems cannot be solved through simple prohibitions, marking a nuanced stance amidst a heated national conversation.

As Reform UK seeks to stabilize its leadership following the upheaval, Yusuf’s role has been clarified; he will lead a new initiative inspired by American political strategies aimed at efficiency and budget reductions, designed to enhance the party’s visibility and effectiveness. A new party chair is set to be appointed soon, as the leadership seeks to navigate these tumultuous waters.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/kemi-badenoch-burqas-workplace-reform-b2765940.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/kemi-badenoch-burqas-workplace-reform-b2765940.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/kemi-badenoch-burqas-workplace-reform-b2765940.html), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/08/02/kemi-badenoch-interview-integration-tory-leadership/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/08/02/kemi-badenoch-interview-integration-tory-leadership/), [[6]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/08/02/kemi-badenoch-interview-integration-tory-leadership/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/kemi-badenoch-burqas-workplace-reform-b2765940.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/kemi-badenoch-burqas-workplace-reform-b2765940.html> - Kemi Badenoch, the Conservative leader, has argued that employers should have the authority to ban burqas in the workplace. She also stated that individuals wearing face veils would not be permitted entry into her constituency surgeries, expressing strong views on face coverings. Despite this, she acknowledged that more pressing issues related to integration in Britain should be addressed before legislating on face coverings. This statement follows a controversy within Reform UK regarding the burqa ban, which led to party chairman Zia Yusuf's brief resignation and subsequent return to leadership.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/08/02/kemi-badenoch-interview-integration-tory-leadership/> - In an interview, Kemi Badenoch emphasised the need for a clearer strategy on integration, criticising the current approach as ineffective. She highlighted the importance of addressing integration issues directly, rather than avoiding them due to political correctness. Badenoch's candid approach has attracted both support and criticism, with some viewing her as a necessary force for change and others as unpredictable. Her remarks underscore the ongoing debate within the Conservative Party regarding the best approach to integration and social cohesion.
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