# Labour Party Leader Accused of Offering Peerages to Persuade Left-Wing MPs to Step Down



Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer has been accused of offering peerages to several left-wing MPs, including Diane Abbott, to persuade them to step down ahead of the upcoming general election on July 4. This move is reported to be an attempt to place Starmer's allies in Labour’s safest seats. High-profile names being considered for these seats include Josh Simons, Luke Akehurst, and Alex Barros-Curtis.

Diane Abbott, the first Black woman elected to Parliament, was initially offered a peerage as part of a 'peace deal' but later confirmed that she would stand as a Labour candidate after regaining the party whip. Starmer has acknowledged her contributions, despite disagreements on issues.

The controversy has led to accusations of a 'purge' of the party's left-wing members, with both Abbott and other prominent figures like Lloyd Russell-Moyle and Faiza Shaheen facing obstacles. Abbott's support to continue her candidacy came from left-wing activists, including the Socialist Action group, and was seen as a significant pushback against Starmer's leadership tactics.

Additionally, Labour's candidate selection process has seen the nomination of several Starmer supporters in place of local member preferences, amplifying tensions within the party ahead of the elections.