# Kemi Badenoch's controversial speech sparks backlash at ARC conference



Kemi Badenoch, leader of the Conservative Party, has ignited a firestorm of criticism with her keynote speech at the Alliance for Responsible Citizenship (ARC) conference in East London, attended by around 4,000 delegates. As the Labour government seeks to consolidate its power following a tumultuous election, Badenoch’s remarks come off as an ineffective attempt to regain relevance.

Badenoch vehemently attacked diversity initiatives and climate activism, branding these as “the real poison of left-wing progressivism.” She claimed that Western civilization is at a crossroads and lamented, “We are distracted, too busy critiquing and deconstructing what previous generations built, rather than making sure that the very best of our inheritance is left intact for the next generation.” However, opponents swiftly pointed out that while she peddles this rhetoric, the priorities of the country are shifting under her watch—one can’t help but notice the glaring absence of any meaningful proposals to confront imminent threats from adversaries like Russia.

Critics from the Labour camp seized upon her speech, asserting that Badenoch is more interested in reviving the ghost of Trumpism than in addressing the real concerns of the nation. Liberal Democrat deputy leader Daisy Cooper suggested that instead of bolstering national security, Badenoch is, "competing with Nigel Farage to fawn over Donald Trump."

The timing couldn't be worse, as European leaders convened in Paris to forge a unified response to global challenges. Badenoch's fixation on social dilemmas rather than pressing defence issues underscores a reckless neglect of urgent matters. A Conservative source lamented that her choice to pursue this line of argument further cements the party's detachment from the pressing needs of the country.

Badenoch’s attempts to liken her leadership to Donald Trump’s rhetoric only serve to alienate the electorate. By stating, “If we throw this opportunity away because of anger or self-doubt or weakness, our country and all of western civilisation will be lost,” she magnifies the disarray within her own ranks. Rather than presenting a coherent vision, she calls for a renewal of conservative ideas that have repeatedly failed to gain traction with voters disillusioned by the last government’s inadequacies.

Furthermore, her assertion that liberalism's “loopholes” have deteriorated the rule of law and national security rings hollow amid a government that has chosen to ignore the declining public services crucial to the populace. “A country cannot be successful if its people and intellectual elite don’t believe in it,” she declared, but it’s hard to see how these words align with the realities faced by everyday citizens struggling with the repercussions of past Tory governance.

While figures like Jordan Peterson spoke at the conference alongside Badenoch, the attendance of personalities such as Farage signals a retreat into outdated, divisive politics that fail to resonate with the electorate ready for change.

In the wake of Badenoch's speech, Labour spokespersons are quick to highlight the Conservative Party's failure to learn from previous shortcomings. “They haven’t listened and they haven’t learned,” one representative stated, calling attention to the party's misguided responses to public service issues.

With the ARC’s agenda struggling to address vital contemporary matters from economic policies to the role of the family in society, the imagined revival of traditional values appears increasingly out of touch. As these discussions unfold, questions linger about what future policies might emerge in a political landscape defined by stark criticism and a pressing need for accountability.

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

## References

* <https://conservativehome.com/2025/02/17/conservative-leader-kemi-badenochs-full-speech-to-the-alliance-for-responsible-citizenship/> - This URL provides Kemi Badenoch's full speech at the ARC Conference, where she discussed Western civilization being in crisis and the need for conservative renewal.
* <https://www.thefp.com/p/kemi-badenoch-i-dont-think-doge-is> - This article includes an interview with Kemi Badenoch, discussing her views on various issues, including immigration and the economy, which aligns with her speech at the ARC Conference.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WCQ6-QbTDQ> - This YouTube video features Kemi Badenoch's speech at the ARC Conference, highlighting her call to renew confidence in Western society and its values.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source provides context on the political landscape and reactions to Kemi Badenoch's speech, including criticisms from Labour and Liberal Democrat figures.
* <https://www.arcforum.com/store/p/the-best-of-our-inheritance-arc-research> - This URL relates to the ARC Conference and its mission, which aligns with Badenoch's themes of preserving Western values and civilization.
* <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-leaders-paris-summit-russia-ukraine/> - This article discusses European leaders convening in Paris to address global challenges, contrasting with Badenoch's focus on internal social issues rather than pressing defense matters.
* <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMipgFBVV95cUxOa2h1ODZZZXBpZ1BxdTNrUWhRbFY3LVRrMkV3QUpaMTJQYXc3a2NwN29Dc01xUGhOX2pwbnI1R2hvZmx3SlpIXzVMSFhBbHIxQXJNb1Vpd09yTExCdEZMRlNuZXk5cEp0bFFGTDd3eHlKaHJJcnFtX1RBSWRFTGdXaU5lOGtHUnJDRS1BbEdoMnUzNDk2ZFVsbDVqR0E4cnZXQmltb1JB?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/failure-to-renew-conservative-party-could-doom-the-west-badenoch-claims-L5MXOOLGXRPWTAHV3VNSZ7TWEE/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/kemi-badenoch-culture-wars-defence-ukraine-b2699524.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data