# Kemi Badenoch calls for reassessment of UK's relationship with ECHR



Kemi Badenoch, the recently appointed Leader of the Conservative Party, has sparked a crucial debate regarding the United Kingdom's relationship with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). In her inaugural foreign policy address at the Policy Exchange think-tank in Westminster, Badenoch highlighted the urgent need for Britain to critically reassess longstanding agreements that may now be undermining British sovereignty and national interests.

As the world grapples with shifting power dynamics and the rise of authoritarian regimes, her message is clear: protecting British sovereignty should trump the obligations of international law. “When faced with regimes that have no respect for the law, we must adopt a more realistic stance,” she asserted, addressing an audience of scholars and policymakers. This recognition aligns with the sentiments of many who feel that international frameworks, including the ECHR, have strayed from their purpose and now promote an activist agenda detrimental to national priorities.

Badenoch raised valid concerns over how international bodies have been manipulated by activist groups and non-governmental organisations, emphasizing, “International law should not be used as a weapon by NGOs to impose their political agendas through courts.” Her reference to the ECHR's controversial ruling declaring protection from climate change a human right—alongside its influence in pressuring the UK on sovereignty matters, such as the Chagos Islands—illustrates the dangers posed by a system that increasingly prioritizes global over national interests.

She warned that the UK must be vigilant against international regimes being exploited by "activists or by autocratic regimes like China or Russia," insisting that maintaining the integrity of Britain's policies is paramount. “If disengagement becomes necessary, we must not shy away,” she cautioned, calling for a thorough reevaluation of existing agreements that may no longer align with Britain’s priorities.

Emphasizing a pragmatic approach to international relations, Badenoch declared, “We cannot win a war against an opponent willing to break all the rules while we insist on playing by what we think are fair standards.” This sentiment resonates with many who argue that post-World War II agreements have lost their relevance in today’s geopolitical landscape and require urgent scrutiny.

When confronted with the possibility of withdrawing from the ECHR, she affirmed, “The ECHR must not prevent us from doing what’s right for our people and safeguarding our national interests.” While she stressed that any decision would require meticulous planning, her stance indicates a significant potential pivot in the UK's approach to international obligations.

Badenoch also reaffirmed the UK’s critical alliance with the United States, despite the complexities arising from former President Donald Trump’s views on international leaders. Her address represents a significant moment in her leadership, foreshadowing an urgent and necessary recalibration of Britain’s foreign policy to prioritize national interests in a rapidly changing global arena. As the nation grapples with the consequences of the recent general election and the emergence of new political forces, such as those advocating for a firmer stance against compromising national sovereignty, her remarks echo a growing frustration with the status quo.

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

## References

* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2025/02/24/kemi-badenoch-tories-willing-disengage-international-law/> - This article supports Kemi Badenoch's stance on reassessing international agreements, particularly her willingness to disengage from the European Convention on Human Rights if it undermines British sovereignty. It highlights her 'conservative realism' approach to foreign policy.
* <https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/badenoch-threatens-to-disengage-from-echr/5122460.article> - This article corroborates Badenoch's concerns about international bodies being used to advance activist agendas and her threat to disengage from institutions like the ECHR if they no longer support British interests.
* <https://www.policyexchange.org.uk/> - This is the website of the Policy Exchange think tank where Kemi Badenoch delivered her inaugural foreign policy address, emphasizing the need to reassess international agreements in light of British sovereignty.
* <https://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=home> - This is the official website of the European Court of Human Rights, providing context on the institution that Badenoch has criticized for straying from its original purpose and potentially undermining national interests.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-us-announce-new-partnership-to-promote-global-security> - This page from the UK Government website highlights the UK's alliance with the United States, which Badenoch reaffirmed as crucial despite recent complexities in international relations.