# Liberal Democrat MP Wera Hobhouse refused entry to Hong Kong



Liberal Democrat MP Wera Hobhouse was shockingly refused entry to Hong Kong on Thursday, an incident that underscores the failures of the UK Government in holding authoritarian regimes accountable. Ms. Hobhouse, known for her vocal stance against China's human rights violations, arrived at Hong Kong airport eager to reunite with her son and newborn grandson but was instead detained and swiftly returned to the UK.

In an interview with The Times, she described her experience as “cruel,” emphasizing the personal toll of a prohibitively bureaucratic and oppressive regime. “My son was waiting at the other end at arrivals. I couldn’t even see him and give him a hug and I hadn’t seen him in a year,” she lamented, demonstrating just how distant the political mismanagement of our leaders has made our connections with family across borders.

The episode has sparked outrage among her parliamentary colleagues, with Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey condemning the decision as “heartless” and “totally unacceptable.” The position taken by the Labour government, however, is alarmingly tepid. Calls for accountability fall on deaf ears as our political leaders fail to confront the Chinese authorities with the urgency this matter demands.

Calum Miller, the party's foreign affairs spokesman, denounced the attitude of the Hong Kong authorities as “truly shocking,” but when will this Labour administration take genuine steps to defend our MPs? The repeated violation of our democratic representatives’ rights should raise serious alarm bells and demand action.

Labour MP Phil Brickell, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, echoed the sentiment that barring a British MP without justification is unacceptable. Yet, the current government's approach seems more concerned with maintaining diplomatic niceties than asserting our national dignity in the face of blatant governmental overreach by foreign regimes.

Ms. Hobhouse's situation highlights a concerning trend: “I am the first MP to be refused entry on arrival to Hong Kong since 1997,” she pointed out. This incident is not merely an affront to her personally, but an insult to all parliamentarians and a glaring indication of the Labour government’s impotence in the face of flagrant authoritarianism.

The ongoing refusal of entry for British Parliament members is not a new phenomenon; several representatives from various parties have faced similar treatment from the Chinese state. Unfortunately, instead of galvanizing a fierce response from our leaders, we remain ensnared by a political climate that prioritizes inaction over integrity. As this situation continues to unfold, real questions arise about the Labour government’s ability—and willingness—to adopt a robust stance against those who seek to undermine our democracy and liberties.

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

## References

* <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/wera-hobhouse-mp-banned-hong-kong-grandson-china> - This article supports the claim that Wera Hobhouse was refused entry to Hong Kong due to her status as a British MP and her involvement with the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC). It also provides details about her experience at the airport and the reaction of her party leader, Sir Ed Davey.
* <https://www.lbc.co.uk/politics/uk-politics/mp-denied-entry-hong-kong-china-wera-hobhouse/> - This article corroborates the information about Wera Hobhouse being denied entry to Hong Kong and provides additional context about the incident being the first of its kind since 1997.
* <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/uk-mp-wera-hobhouse-refused-entry-to-hong-kong-8nxlvzbrs> - This article would provide an interview with Wera Hobhouse detailing her experience and emotional response to being refused entry to Hong Kong. However, access might require subscription.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics> - While not specific to Wera Hobhouse's case, the BBC's UK politics section often covers parliamentary reactions and government responses to international incidents involving British MPs. This could provide context on broader UK political reactions.
* <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/foreign-affairs-committee/news/> - This website provides information on the work of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, which could offer insights into how British parliamentarians like Phil Brickell address foreign policy issues, including relations with China.