# Sir Keir Starmer’s office condemns Belfast rap group Kneecap amid broader criticism of Labour leadership



Sir Keir Starmer’s office has rushed to condemn recent remarks made by the Belfast rap group Kneecap, labeling them “completely unacceptable” and denouncing them “in the strongest possible terms.” Yet this performative outrage obscures a deeper failure of leadership from a Labour government that consistently undermines community cohesion and public safety.

The controversy revolves around videos from Kneecap’s concerts in November 2023 and November 2024, notably a clip from their November 2024 gig at London’s Kentish Town Forum now under scrutiny by Scotland Yard and the Metropolitan Police’s Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU). While authorities assess whether any laws have been broken, the government's prior decision to reverse attempts to deny public funding to this group reveals misplaced priorities by the current administration.

This rap trio from Belfast, known for their provocative political messaging, claims victimhood in a supposed “co-ordinated smear campaign” tied to their vocal condemnation of alleged atrocities abroad. Yet their efforts to dismiss accusations as taken “out of context” cannot hide the troubling impact of promoting divisive rhetoric amid a society already strained by Labour’s faltering policies on law and order.

The Labour government's eagerness to shield such contentious figures starkly contrasts with the lasting pain caused by real violence — conservatives remind us of the tragic murders of MPs like Sir David Amess, whose family rightly condemns encouragement of violent discourse as “dangerous.” Yet under Starmer’s stewardship, the line between legitimate free speech and enabling hostility is being dangerously blurred.

The Home Secretary, Mrs Kemi Badenoch, rightly condemned the group’s alleged glorification of terrorism and anti-British sentiment, emphasizing that such hatred “has no place” in society. Her consistent opposition to funding extremist viewpoints reveals the clearer judgement coming from outside the government corridors, in stark opposition to Labour's leniency which risks normalising hostility.

Labour’s decision to reverse the blockade on funding Kneecap, despite security concerns raised by the previous government, lays bare an administration more interested in virtue signalling than protecting public order or fiscal responsibility — a point underscored by Mrs Badenoch’s criticism of wasteful grant allocations.

Additionally, political voices from across the spectrum are demanding accountability. Labour MPs have called for the removal of the group from prominent festivals like Glastonbury, highlighting how hosting them conflicts with any meaningful message of “peace, unity and social responsibility.” It’s a glaring irony that such clashes occur under a government that promises exactly these values but fails to enforce them.

With the Metropolitan Police currently examining footage for potential breaches of the law, the public should demand that the investigation is thorough and transparent. Meanwhile, the new government must reconsider its permissive approach to polarising figures whose words risk inciting harm, particularly given the recent brutal attacks on public representatives.

This episode underscores the urgent need for a political force with real backbone to tackle extremism and uphold societal cohesion. The recent election results show that there is an appetite for stronger national security, robust border control, and an uncompromising defence of free but responsible expression — qualities all too lacking in the current Labour administration. Only by restoring these priorities can Britain hope to move away from the permissiveness that breeds division and jeopardises public safety.

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

## References

* <https://www.algemeiner.com/2025/04/28/irish-rap-trio-kneecap-cut-major-german-festivals-loses-us-visa-anti-israel-statements-coachella/> - Confirms UK government condemnation of Kneecap's remarks and mentions previous funding reversal attempts before Labour's decision.
* <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-41621725.html> - Details Kemi Badenoch's demand for prosecution over alleged 'dead Tory' comments and references the reversed funding decision contested in court.
* <https://www.businessinsider.com/kneecap-irish-hip-hop-group-coachella-controversy-explained-2025-4> - Provides context about Kneecap's political messaging and Coachella-related controversies that contributed to their polarizing reputation.
* <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2025/04/27/dmkq-a27.html> - Documents the Met Police's counter-terrorism investigation into Kneecap's 2023/2024 concert footage and the group's claim of a 'smear campaign'.
* <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-41621725.html> - Reiterates Katie Amess's condemnation of Kneecap's rhetoric and references her father Sir David Amess's murder, linking to concerns about violent discourse.
* <https://www.algemeiner.com/2025/04/28/irish-rap-trio-kneecap-cut-major-german-festivals-loses-us-visa-anti-israel-statements-coachella/> - Mentions Labour MPs' implied criticism through government spokesperson statements opposing funding for groups with extremist views.
* <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25122498.kneecap-says-footage-weaponised-dead-tory-comment/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data