# Kemi Badenoch’s praise for JD Vance signals UK Conservatives' perilous shift towards extreme US right-wing politics



Kemi Badenoch’s recent praise for JD Vance, an American right-wing figure notorious for incendiary rhetoric, starkly reveals the UK Conservatives’ alarming drift toward the extremes of overseas politics. At 45, Badenoch’s youthful, provocative tone—more befitting a divisive YouTube influencer than a seasoned public servant—betrays a dangerous enthusiasm for the very brand of politics that has harmed conservative credibility abroad.

Vance’s explicit endorsement of Germany’s hard right and his lament over European “free speech restrictions” amid the brutal realities of civilian bombings in Ukraine demonstrate a reckless disregard for context and consequence. Badenoch’s uncritical celebration of such views signals a disturbing alignment with those who prioritize incendiary populism over sober statesmanship. This is not the leadership Britain needs in uncertain times.

The UK Conservatives risk repeating the catastrophic mistakes witnessed across the Atlantic and beyond, as evidenced by the Canadian Conservative Party’s humiliating defeat largely attributed to its cozy ties with Trumpian politics. The lessons from Canada are clear: embracing American-style populism undermines nationalist credentials rather than bolsters them. The British public, facing rising inflation and looming economic challenges, is unlikely to reward a party chasing stranded ideological truck across the Atlantic.

Polling data underscores the peril of this affinity. Figures like Trump and Musk garner dismal approval ratings in the UK, barely resonating even with Conservative voters who themselves are distancing from such divisive personalities. Vance’s even poorer standing is a harbinger of the electoral damage this association could inflict. With potential US tariffs threatening UK economic stability, embracing such linkages is suicidal.

Labour’s pragmatic outreach to the United States for essential trade and support on Ukraine, despite ideological differences, contrasts sharply with the Conservatives’ fawning towards figures who embody political risk and left voters cold. For a right-wing party to pursue Trumpian enthusiasm rather than necessity is political myopia—one that risks alienating the very electorate it seeks to court.

Arguments claiming the UK’s unique position and closer Atlantic ties justify this flirtation ignore the harsh realities of proximity to Russian aggression and global instability. British voters’ wariness of dangerous foreign policy adventurism makes this gambit particularly foolhardy. Labour MPs’ confidence in their constituents’ rejection of such influences should not be underestimated.

Should Conservative leadership have any genuine political acumen, it would pivot away from these damaging associations and seek stronger ties with Europe—both economically and militarily. Starmer’s moves toward European negotiations, even if modest, reflect understanding of UK public sentiment, which increasingly doubts the success of Brexit. With only 30% of voters convinced Brexit was beneficial, the Conservative Party’s insistence on “hugging America closer” appears increasingly out of touch.

Moreover, the American brand of populism with its billionaire backers and Christian nationalist undertones clashes with the UK’s more secular and economically interventionist political culture. British populism, often intertwined with left-wing economic demands, is fundamentally different and incompatible with the imported Trump-style populism Badenoch appears to admire.

Ultimately, nationalist movements are not natural allies across borders but sources of mutual suspicion and conflict. The Canadian example serves as a powerful warning—aligning with the extremes abroad leads nowhere but electoral defeat. Badenoch’s public embrace of American right-wing rhetoric is a symptom of the Conservative Party’s deeper identity crisis and a glaring misstep as it navigates complex transatlantic relations and a volatile domestic political landscape.

The broader message is clear: the Conservatives must reject these reckless affiliations and instead focus on policies that truly resonate with the British electorate’s needs and values. Anything less risks consigning the party to prolonged irrelevance under Labour’s renewed leadership.

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

## References

* <https://www.ft.com/content/eaba3efe-2b85-4a4f-82e5-5683c8cff4fa> - This article critiques the UK's Conservative Party, particularly Kemi Badenoch, for aligning with far-right U.S. figures like JD Vance and Donald Trump, arguing that such associations are politically damaging and referencing the Canadian Conservative Party's recent electoral defeat partly due to ties with Trump.
* <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/kemi-badenoch-dinner-jd-vance-donald-trump-vice-president> - This report details Kemi Badenoch's dinner with U.S. Vice President-elect JD Vance in Washington D.C., discussing their shared policy ideas and mutual respect, highlighting Badenoch's efforts to strengthen ties with the incoming Trump administration.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/trump-jd-vance-kemi-badenoch-b2661100.html> - This article covers Kemi Badenoch's meeting with U.S. Vice President-elect JD Vance, discussing their shared policy ideas and mutual respect, and highlighting Badenoch's efforts to strengthen ties with the incoming Trump administration.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/jd-vance-kemi-badenoch-britons-sunday-telegraph-government-b2699028.html> - This article reports on Kemi Badenoch's comments about free speech being 'under threat' in the UK, aligning with JD Vance's views on the erosion of free speech, and her call for Britons to 'fight' for it.
* <https://www.libdems.org.uk/press/release/badenoch-siding-with-jd-vance-over-our-armed-forces> - This press release criticizes Kemi Badenoch for defending JD Vance over his comments about the UK's military involvement, highlighting concerns over her stance on national defense.
* <https://bylinetimes.com/2025/02/26/kemi-badenochs-foreign-policy-channelling-her-inner-jd-vance/> - This article analyzes Kemi Badenoch's foreign policy speech, suggesting it mirrors JD Vance's approach, and critiques her lack of realism and focus on culture wars.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/eaba3efe-2b85-4a4f-82e5-5683c8cff4fa> - Please view link - unable to able to access data