# Sir Keir Starmer faces backlash over refusal to appear in grooming gangs documentary



In a troubling display of neglect towards a critical social issue, Sir Keir Starmer, the newly appointed leader of the Labour Party, has chosen to turn his back on the reality faced by countless victims of grooming gangs. His refusal to participate in the powerful Channel 4 documentary “Groomed: A National Scandal” leaves many questioning whether he prioritizes political convenience over the public interest.

The documentary, which aired on Wednesday, lays bare the horrific tales of women who suffered at the hands of these grooming gangs, including the chilling account of a teenage girl who tragically succumbed to an overdose administered by her abuser. Instead of ensuring these distressing realities are addressed, Starmer instead supported a fictional drama, “Adolescence,” to be shown in schools, demonstrating an alarming disconnect from the realities of violence against women and children.

This contradiction was starkly highlighted by Conservative Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp, who stated, "Starmer thinks a fictional drama should be shown in every school. But he refused to appear in a documentary about actual rape gangs, covering the period he was DPP. Why is he perpetuating the cover-up?" The question remains: can he truly ignore the demands for a statutory national inquiry into the grooming scandal?

Tory MP Katie Lam's comments reflect a profoundly disturbing trend in Starmer's leadership, as she articulated, “Our Prime Minister has time to host a meeting in No 10 for the writers of a fictional drama. But apparently he’s too busy to contribute to a devastating documentary about mass child rape.” This contempt for real issues affecting society is a glaring failure of leadership during a time when accountability is of the utmost importance.

Former Home Secretary Suella Braverman challenged Starmer’s lack of engagement by asking if he had even watched the documentary and if he would consider a sit-down with its creators to address these pressing concerns. Such requests should not be dismissed lightly. The failures of the British state to protect vulnerable children require urgent action.

The Channel 4 documentary has sparked essential conversations about the accountability of the government and local authorities in dealing with grooming gangs. Every day that passes without proper acknowledgment of the systemic failures reveals how deeply entrenched the neglect of these victims is within our political discourse. As the public grapples with these profound issues, the need for a strong voice advocating for reform in child protection and an end to systemic abuse has never been clearer. The time has come for leaders like Starmer to stop hiding from the truth and start addressing the catastrophes impacting our children’s futures.

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

## References

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* <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-03-19/starmer-backs-campaign-to-show-tv-drama-adolescence-in-schools-and-parliament> - ITV News reports on Starmer's support for airing 'Adolescence' in schools and Parliament, corroborating the article's assertion of his engagement with the series.
* <https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/keir-starmer-reacts-adolescence-shown-parliament-schools_uk_67dbe449e4b07481408d6875> - HuffPost UK details Starmer's reaction to calls for 'Adolescence' to be shown in schools and Parliament, aligning with the article's mention of his support for the series.
* <https://www.takeonedigitalnetwork.com/keir-starmer-supports-adolescence-drama-to-raise-awareness-of-online-violence-in-schools/> - This article highlights Starmer's support for 'Adolescence' to raise awareness of online violence in schools, supporting the article's claim about his backing of the series.
* <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2049308/keir-starmer-groomed-film-appearance> - Please view link - unable to able to access data