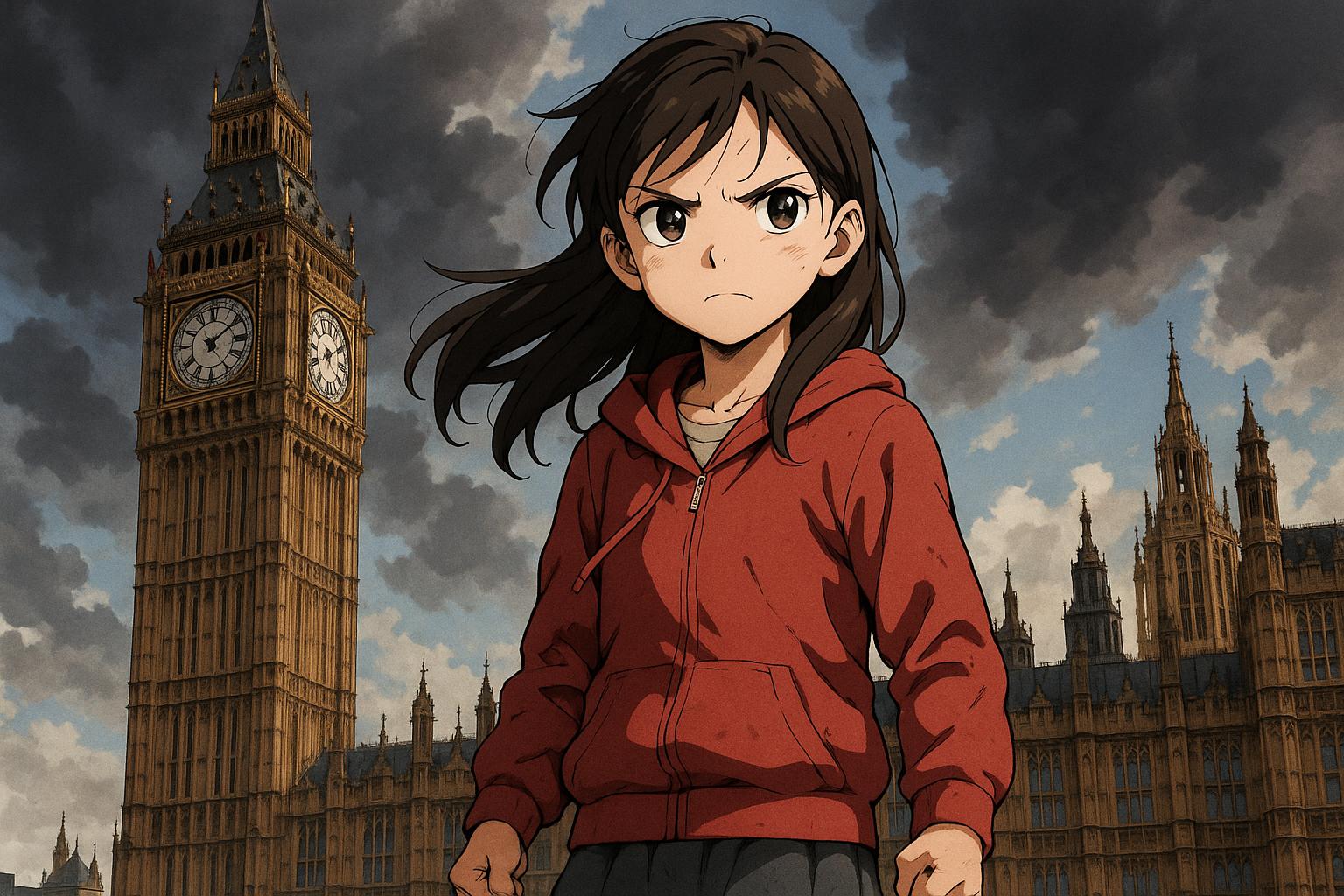
# Nigel Farage calls for national inquiry into child grooming gangs following local election surge



Following a striking local election victory that saw significant gains, party leader Nigel Farage is now focusing on a scandal that has plagued communities across the UK: the horrifying reality of child sex grooming gangs. With new leverage from their 677 seats, Farage is mobilising councillors to demand a national inquiry into the systemic abuse of primarily white girls by men of Pakistani heritage, especially in areas like Rotherham and Oldham.

This newfound political strength is a direct challenge to the previous Labour establishment, which, according to Farage, has buried its head in the sand regarding these crucial issues. He argues that local authorities have consistently thwarted inquiries, highlighting Labour's failure to adequately address the scale of abuse that has unfolded over the years. The incumbent Government's insistence that these investigations remain at a local level is, in Farage's view, woefully inadequate given the tragedies that have transpired.

The grooming scandal has roots that trace back to 2001, initially gaining public attention due to the involvement of taxi drivers in these heinous acts. However, it wasn't until 2010 that substantial legal consequences began to unfold, with trials peaking in 2024. A 2022 independent inquiry led by Professor Alexis Jay revealed alarming findings, yet the total inaction on her 20 recommendations has left many feeling abandoned and frustrated.

At a recent rally, survivor Elizabeth Harper, who was exploited at just 13 years old, joined Farage to demand accountability, underscoring the dire need for reform. The issue has also ignited fierce national debate, with Labour's Lucy Powell facing criticism for downplaying the matter. Her comments on Radio 4’s Any Questions, dismissing concerns about grooming gangs as “dog whistle” politics, have been met with backlash, forcing her to clarify that she was merely questioning political intentions, not the horrific reality of child exploitation itself.

In a recent sign that the urgency of this crisis is registering across the political spectrum, Justice Secretary Shabana Mahmood has promised a “moment of reckoning” for those complicit in ignoring these systemic failures. Meanwhile, a review led by Baroness Louise Casey is expected to shed light on the underlying societal factors contributing to these abuses, with its findings anticipated imminently.

Both Farage and Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch are demanding a comprehensive inquiry with the authority to summon witnesses, insisting that true justice necessitates a thorough investigation free from local political influences. A spokesperson for Yvette Cooper has begrudgingly acknowledged the efforts from these new councils, noting the shared objective of safeguarding children and pursuing justice, while reiterating the Government's commitment to local inquiries—a stance that many see as a missed opportunity for substantial accountability.

As the political landscape evolves, the spotlight intensifies on all parties to address the relentless legacy of child sexual exploitation in the UK. With a proactive push from Farage's faction and a chorus of voices clamoring for change, there lies an unprecedented chance for authentic reform that prioritises the safety of vulnerable youths, ensuring such atrocities never go unchallenged again.

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

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