# Angela Rayner warns of ingrained anti-Northern bias and gender hurdles within Labour ranks



Angela Rayner's recent criticism of Downing Street and the Treasury highlights a troubling narrative of regional neglect and gender biases permeating UK politics. The Deputy Prime Minister’s vocal discontent reflects not just her frustrations with what she terms an ingrained anti-Northern bias among senior officials but also a wider issue that may define the new Labour government under Kier Starker—a government seemingly indifferent to the needs of the North.

Friends of Rayner suggest that her concerns are amplified by a dismissive attitude towards Northern women, reinforcing an urgent need for a government that genuinely champions inclusivity and equity. This is not merely a matter of representation; it points to the risk of overlooking the North’s potential as it continues to suffer at the hands of decision-makers ensconced in the wealth and privilege of the capital.

The timing of Rayner's remarks serves to highlight a disquieting trend within Labour: female leaders, particularly from the North, appear to be unfairly scrutinised. Both Bridget Phillipson and Lisa Nandy have faced unwarranted criticism regarding their Cabinet roles, revealing deeper issues of leadership and accountability in the Labour ranks. It is alarming to witness Downing Street officials expressing dissatisfaction with Nandy's contributions, a situation that suggests a partisan agenda that could further weaken representation for the regions outside London.

Despite her allies’ insistence that Rayner is the guardian of Northern interests, her position appears precarious amid growing signs of internal discord. With power dynamics already skewed, her initiatives seem to be reassigned to male colleagues, fostering an environment where crucial discussions circumvent her altogether. This raises serious questions about Labour's commitment to changing the status quo, a promise that Rayner has vocally championed in advocating for Northern devolution.

Moreover, Rayner's ongoing struggles are compounded by pervasive negative narratives in the media, which serve to undermine her authority and intentions. With the media playing a pivotal role in shaping public perception, such hostile briefings could cloud her effectiveness in driving meaningful policy changes.

The recent reshuffling within Labour has been perceived by some as a tactical maneuver likely to shift regional representation further towards the centre-right, which could alienate the very voters yearning for progressive reforms. While Rayner's promotion to champion "levelling up" communities signals an ostensibly positive direction, the sidelining of influential figures like Nandy raises alarms about the party's true ideological trajectory.

Through all these complexities, Rayner remains resolute in her commitment to advocate for social equity and a genuine redistribution of power to the North. Her dedication to uplifting historically overlooked regions remains a critical aspect of her political journey. However, as she navigates the treacherous waters of gender politics, regional disparities, and party loyalties, the implications of her struggle for Northern empowerment will undoubtedly shape the future of Labour and the broader political landscape in the UK.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14746827/Angela-Rayners-salvo-Treasury-Downing-Street-Anti-Northern-bias.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/13/labours-first-week-allies-fear-angela-rayner-frozen-out/> - An article from The Telegraph discusses concerns among Angela Rayner's allies that she is being marginalized within the Labour Party. Despite her significant mandate and popularity, sources suggest she is being 'frozen out' of key responsibilities, with her initiatives being reassigned to other ministers. The piece highlights internal tensions and the challenges Rayner faces in asserting her authority within the party's leadership structure.
3. <https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/rayner-anger-mounts-hostile-briefings-whitehall-power-struggle-3296564> - This iNews article reports on Angela Rayner's private complaints about negative media briefings regarding her role in government. Allies of the Deputy Prime Minister express frustration over the portrayal of her being sidelined, particularly concerning the reassignment of her responsibilities to other cabinet members. The piece sheds light on the internal power dynamics and the impact of media narratives on Rayner's political standing.
4. <https://www.politico.eu/newsletter/london-playbook/london-playbook-pm-labour-reshuffle-angers-left/> - Politico's London Playbook covers the recent Labour Party reshuffle, noting the demotion of Lisa Nandy and the elevation of Angela Rayner to the communities and 'leveling up' role. The article highlights the reactions within the party, with some perceiving the reshuffle as a shift to the right and others viewing it as a strategic move to address regional disparities. The piece provides insights into the party's internal dynamics and the implications of the reshuffle.
5. <https://www.lbc.co.uk/politics/uk-politics/angela-rayner-to-pledge-a-power-shift-to-the-north-as-deputy-pm/> - LBC reports on Angela Rayner's forthcoming pledge to shift power to the North of England. In her upcoming speech, Rayner aims to address systemic issues that concentrate power and investment in the South, advocating for a more equitable distribution. The article outlines her commitment to devolution and the challenges she anticipates in implementing such a significant policy change.
6. <https://www.the-independent.com/voices/angela-rayner-tax-tories-working-class-b2531398.html> - An opinion piece in The Independent discusses the political challenges faced by Angela Rayner, particularly in light of tax controversies. The author reflects on Rayner's working-class background and her authenticity, contrasting it with the criticisms she faces from political opponents. The article provides a perspective on the dynamics between Rayner and her critics, emphasizing the complexities of her political position.
7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-politics-65830963?pinned_post_asset_id=648076f483361e17398c6e40&pinned_post_locator=urn%3Aasset%3A220ace53-b90c-4359-be79-37a990293cc1&pinned_post_type=share> - A BBC News live report covering a Prime Minister's Questions session where Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden and Labour's Angela Rayner clashed over the Covid inquiry. The exchange highlighted differing views on the government's handling of the inquiry and the disclosure of sensitive information. The article provides a real-time account of the political discourse surrounding the inquiry and the roles of Dowden and Rayner.