# Conservative MP Mark Pritchard signals troubling shift on Gaza that threatens party unity



Amid a spiraling humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Conservative MP Mark Pritchard’s recent remarks signal a troubling shift that raises serious questions about his party's integrity and commitment to ethical foreign policy. In an interview with LBC, Pritchard claimed that some Conservative members are privately echoing calls from Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer and international allies for Israel to halt its military operations. To think that the Prime Minister is somehow on the “right side of history” is nothing short of catastrophic, especially given the appalling civilian casualties, particularly among innocent children.

Pritchard's comments are indicative of a faction within the Conservative Party that appears to prioritize a misguided humanitarian approach over reasoned political strategy. His assertion that half of Gaza's population consists of children fails to confront the more significant issue: the responsibility of British leaders to uphold a principled stance that champions the UK's interests and reflects a fair approach to all parties involved. Instead, we see Tory MPs criticizing the government’s ineffective handling of the crisis, including former cabinet ministers who have called for an immediate ceasefire, feigning concern over Israel's military response while ignoring the root causes of the conflict.

While Pritchard attempts to strike a balance by suggesting the need for accountability from the Israeli government, his rhetoric about recognizing a Palestinian state betrays a lack of understanding of the complex political terrain. Such recognition, at this juncture, risks undermining the long-standing negotiations conducive to genuine peace and stability. Instead of representing a beacon of hope, this position reduces our foreign policy to mere gestures that fail to account for the realities on the ground.

The disunity within the Conservative ranks is alarming. Kemi Badenoch, the party's current leader, has shown skepticism about using trade negotiations as leverage against Israel. Her reluctance to shift UK foreign policy in response to actions in Gaza raises an essential question: is the party genuinely committed to a stance that prioritizes the security of British citizens and regional stability, or are they becoming dangerously beholden to populist narratives of condemnation?

Pritchard's remarks reflect an unsettling trend, where an increasing number of Conservative MPs are aligning themselves with narratives that prioritize international sentiment over national interest. Recent parliamentary debates highlighted the chaotic reality of this ideological shift, where procedural disputes erupted rather than focusing on actionable solutions. The fracturing consensus within the party not only exposes deep divisions but also invites criticism of the government's mismanaged response to a developing humanitarian disaster that continues to unfold.

As discussions unfold, one thing is painfully clear: a significant number of Conservative MPs appear willing to overlook the moral complexities involved in navigating this conflict. Pritchard’s newfound crusade for Palestinian recognition and his tacit disapproval of Israeli actions could signify a dangerous pivot within the party that disregards the necessity for a robust, principle-driven foreign policy. If the Conservative Party continues down this path, the consequences for both the UK and global stability could be dire.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/some-tories-privately-support-pms-stance-on-israel-and-gaza-conservative-says-LQSMMFVZ4BJRJBUGT6CT74JMFA/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/some-tories-privately-support-pms-stance-on-israel-and-gaza-conservative-says-LQSMMFVZ4BJRJBUGT6CT74JMFA/> - Conservative MP Mark Pritchard stated that many Tory MPs privately support calls for Israel to cease its actions in Gaza, aligning with Sir Keir Starmer's stance. Pritchard emphasized the humanitarian crisis, noting that half the population of Gaza are children being 'literally bombed to bits every single day.' He expressed support for the Prime Minister's position, asserting it is on the 'right side of history' and humanity. Pritchard also advocated for the immediate recognition of a Palestinian state, highlighting the need for the Israeli government to be held accountable.
3. <https://news.sky.com/story/senior-tories-pile-pressure-on-rishi-sunak-to-back-immediate-gaza-ceasefire-13033693> - In December 2023, ten senior Conservative MPs, including former cabinet ministers Kit Malthouse and George Eustice, urged Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to support an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. They criticized Israel's actions as disproportionate and targeted, leading to thousands of civilian casualties and displacement. The MPs expressed dismay over the UK's abstention from a UN vote calling for a ceasefire, emphasizing the need for a sustainable peace and humanitarian aid to Gaza.
4. <https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/mp/mark-pritchard/debate/2023-10-23/commons/commons-chamber/israel-and-gaza> - In October 2023, Conservative MP Mark Pritchard addressed the House of Commons, emphasizing the necessity for a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East post-conflict. He advocated for a regional solution involving various actors, including those currently in conflict, and stressed that the people of Gaza should not be represented by organizations that promote violence. Pritchard highlighted the importance of moving beyond the status quo to achieve lasting peace in the region.
5. <https://www.politics.co.uk/news/2024/02/23/growing-number-of-conservative-mps-back-immediate-ceasefire-in-gaza/> - In February 2024, a growing number of Conservative MPs, including Paul Bristow, Kit Malthouse, and Rehman Chishti, publicly supported an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. They criticized the UK's abstention from a UN vote calling for a ceasefire and urged the government to recognize the humanitarian crisis, with thousands of civilians dead and injured, and close to two million forcibly displaced. The MPs called for a new political reality, emphasizing the need for an immediate ceasefire to facilitate peace.
6. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-parliament-descends-into-chaos-over-gaza-ceasefire-vote-2024-02-21/> - In February 2024, the UK Parliament experienced chaos during a vote on a Gaza ceasefire. Speaker Lindsay Hoyle allowed votes on three non-binding resolutions from different parties, leading to accusations of procedural breaches and favoritism. This decision resulted in walkouts by Conservative and Scottish National Party members, leaving the Labour version of the ceasefire motion to pass by voice vote. The incident highlighted deep divisions within the UK government over the response to the Israel-Hamas conflict.
7. <https://www.ft.com/content/cac2c8cb-41b3-48c8-8cdd-6a56f6e1a6ce> - The House of Commons debate on the Gaza conflict in October 2023 raised significant concerns about parliamentary procedures and the safety of MPs. Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle's intervention, allowing a vote on Labour's amendment to a ceasefire proposal, broke with tradition and led to protests from Conservative and Scottish National Party members. The situation underscored the challenges faced by Parliament in addressing the conflict while ensuring the safety and integrity of its members.