# Labour mayor faces resignation calls after Hitler costume photos resurface



A newly appointed Labour Mayor has plunged into controversy after photographs resurfaced of him dressed as Adolf Hitler at a charity event over a decade ago. Seve Gomez-Aspron MBE, who took office in St Helens earlier this month, has faced an immediate backlash as over 1,000 constituents signed a petition demanding his resignation. The damning images depict Mr Gomez-Aspron in a German Army uniform, adorned with a swastika and faux moustache, taken in 2009 during a fancy dress dinner for Claire House Hospice, which supports seriously and terminally ill children.

The mayor's defence is a feeble attempt to deflect responsibility, claiming his costume choice was inspired by Mel Brooks' satirical film "The Producers." He describes the decision as a "clumsy" misstep from his youth, but many rightfully question how someone with such a questionable judgment is now holding a position of power. His apology failed to quell the outrage; protests included a walkout by 11 councillors during his swearing-in ceremony, highlighting a significant lack of confidence in his leadership. One councillor stated that Mr Gomez-Aspron is "reviled throughout St Helens for his inappropriate behaviour and attitude," indicating a deep-seated belief that he's unfit for public office, especially in such a prominent role.

This incident is merely the latest in a series of troubling conduct from Mr Gomez-Aspron. His history includes apologies for "offensive" remarks made during council meetings, where he displayed a shocking lack of respect towards a fellow councillor during discussions on council tax increases. Such behaviour is indicative of a leader who does not take accountability for his actions, culminating in formal complaints and insufficient apologies.

Moreover, Mr Gomez-Aspron's past controversies extend to receiving a Police Information Notice in 2019 following harassment allegations from a member of the public, which he dismisses by alleging the complainant had a history of harassing him. Further complicating his public image, offensive language from a 2015 Facebook post has resurfaced, raising even more serious concerns about his capacity to represent his constituents effectively.

Despite these multiple outrages, Gomez-Aspron has maneuvered his way into various leadership roles, including his appointment as deputy leader of St Helens Borough Council in May 2020—a move that drew disbelief and condemnation from his political opponents. The leader of the Conservative group in St Helens labelled it the "most amazing decision this Labour group has ever made," a clear indication that even within the local political arena, the faith in his leadership is faltering.

As Mr Gomez-Aspron grapples with this latest scandal, reminiscent of his past transgressions, it remains uncertain whether the escalating calls for his resignation will be acknowledged. The local Labour Party is under increasing pressure to confront the serious concerns about his suitability for office. With public sentiment sharply shifting against him, the likelihood of a heavily scrutinised tenure seems inevitable. In light of Gomez-Aspron’s troubling history, one must question how the new Labour government can maintain credibility amidst such clear failures of leadership.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14745639/Labour-mayor-sacked-Adolf-Hitler-charity-event.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thejc.com/news/merseyside-labour-councillor-apologises-after-pictures-of-him-in-hitler-costume-uncovered-vnuh9ku3> - In April 2019, Seve Gomez-Aspron, a Labour councillor in Merseyside, apologized after photographs emerged of him wearing an Adolf Hitler costume at a fancy dress fundraiser. The photos, taken before he joined the council in 2012, showed him dressed as a German soldier with Nazi symbols. Gomez-Aspron explained that the outfit was inspired by the film 'The Producers' and expressed regret for his 'clumsy decision.' He also mentioned his part-Jewish ancestry and recent visit to Israel to commemorate Holocaust victims. The Labour Party initiated an investigation into the matter.
3. <https://www.sthelensstar.co.uk/news/17575537.labour-councillor-faces-inquiry-over-decade-old-hitler-fancy-dress-photos/> - In April 2019, decade-old photos surfaced of Seve Gomez-Aspron, a St Helens councillor, dressed as Adolf Hitler at a fancy dress fundraiser. The photos, taken before he joined the council in 2012, showed him in a German soldier's uniform with Nazi symbols. Gomez-Aspron stated that the outfit was inspired by the film 'The Producers' and apologized for his 'clumsy decision.' The Labour Party launched a formal inquiry into the incident, and Gomez-Aspron expressed regret for any offense caused.
4. <https://www.wigantoday.net/news/photos-emerge-of-former-wigan-teacher-turned-councillor-dressed-as-adolf-hitler-984537> - In April 2019, photos emerged of Seve Gomez-Aspron, a former Wigan high school teacher and current St Helens councillor, dressed as Adolf Hitler at a fancy dress fundraiser. The photos, taken before he joined the council in 2012, showed him in a German soldier's uniform with Nazi symbols. Gomez-Aspron explained that the outfit was inspired by the film 'The Producers' and apologized for his 'clumsy decision.' The Labour Party initiated an investigation into the matter.
5. <https://www.inkl.com/news/merseyside-labour-councillor-faces-inquiry-over-hitler-fancy-dress-photos> - In April 2019, decade-old photos surfaced of Seve Gomez-Aspron, a Merseyside councillor, dressed as Adolf Hitler at a fancy dress fundraiser. The photos, taken before he joined the council in 2012, showed him in a German soldier's uniform with Nazi symbols. Gomez-Aspron stated that the outfit was inspired by the film 'The Producers' and apologized for his 'clumsy decision.' The Labour Party launched a formal inquiry into the incident, and Gomez-Aspron expressed regret for any offense caused.
6. <https://www.sthelensstar.co.uk/news/18706316.tory-leader-speechless-seve-gomez-aspron-appointment/> - In May 2020, the leader of the Conservative group in St Helens expressed shock at the Labour Party's decision to appoint Seve Gomez-Aspron as deputy leader of the council. Gomez-Aspron, who had previously faced controversy over decade-old photos of him dressed as Adolf Hitler, was elected deputy leader of St Helens Labour. Conservative leader Allan Jones criticized the appointment, stating it was 'the most amazing decision this Labour group has ever made.' Gomez-Aspron defended his record and achievements on the council.
7. <https://www.sthelensstar.co.uk/news/18703421.st-helens-council-leader-faces-first-leadership-challenge/> - In May 2020, Seve Gomez-Aspron was named deputy leader of St Helens Borough Council following the Labour Party's annual general meeting. Gomez-Aspron, who represents Newton, was elected deputy leader of St Helens Labour, defeating other candidates. He expressed honor at the appointment and outlined his priorities for the council, including delivering affordable housing, creating job opportunities, and supporting key workers and the armed forces. The announcement was met with mixed reactions from the public and political figures.