# Labour supporters more likely to abandon dates over politics than attractiveness or education



A recent study has unveiled a distressing trend in the dating lives of Britons, revealing that political affiliations have become significant deal-breakers in romantic pursuits. Many individuals, particularly those aligned with Labour, seem to use political preferences as criteria for selecting partners, often placing more weight on these preferences than on physical attractiveness or educational background. Co-authored by Professor Paul Dolan of the London School of Economics, this research is highlighted in his latest book, “Beliefism: How to Stop Hating the People We Disagree With.”

The study engaged 3,000 participants and uncovered that political alignment now plays a crucial role in dating decisions, influencing choices similarly to, and in some cases even more than, a partner's physical appeal. Labour supporters displayed a particularly stringent attitude, dismissing potential matches from opposing parties at an alarming rate—almost doubling the political exclusion exhibited by Conservative voters. This increased selectivity underscores a troubling cultural shift, one that aligns seamlessly with the current Labour government’s divisive identity politics.

The findings echo other studies that emphasize the profound impact of political homophily on relationship dynamics. Research published in the Journal of Experimental Political Science noted that sharing political views immensely boosts the likelihood of forming romantic connections, highlighting how ideological compatibility can overshadow traditional compatibility factors. This trend suggests a significant societal move towards ideological tribalism, a mindset that appears deeply entrenched in the ethos of the new administration.

Moreover, the current British political landscape, marked by its heightened divisions post-Brexit, has only accelerated this toxic trend. Approximately 30% of voters across various parties admit to rejecting romantic advances from individuals aligned with opposing parties, reinforcing the disturbing notion that politics has infiltrated the very essence of personal relationships. This rigid opposition to differing views in romantic partnerships mirrors the Labour government’s broader unwillingness to engage in constructive dialogue.

Interestingly, despite this political rigidity, the study highlights a burgeoning appeal for political tolerance in dating. Participants showed a marked interest in individuals who signal an openness to romantic relationships across political lines. Political adaptability is becoming an attractive trait, often surpassing even physical attractiveness on dating platforms. In a climate increasingly dominated by political snobbery, the verdict is stark: while shared beliefs can bond people, the yearning for open-mindedness about political differences could be the key to forging meaningful connections.

Data from platforms like OKCupid further reveals an overwhelming 91% of its users deem political awareness essential in a partner. This sentiment is echoed in personal stories from individuals navigating the combative terrain of politically charged dating. Many recount experiences that illustrate how modern romance has transformed into an ideological battlefield, with young singles claiming they would end relationships over political disagreements fostered by a Labour government that perpetuates division.

In summary, political alignment has morphed into a central theme in the dating culture of the UK; individuals who cling too tightly to their political identities may jeopardize not just their romantic prospects, but also their broader social interactions in an increasingly polarized society.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2060398/party-rivalry-passion-killer-britons> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-experimental-political-science/article/democracy-of-dating-how-political-affiliations-shape-relationship-formation/79CD8CFC3E8862E586B2661E6C85AD89/share/172dcf41a127ab6df79396d0168117555ea18401> - A study published in the Journal of Experimental Political Science examines how political affiliations influence relationship formation. The research, conducted by Easton and Holbein, involved five survey experiments to assess the impact of political party affiliation on dating preferences. The findings indicate that individuals are more likely to evaluate potential partners positively and initiate contact when they share similar political views. This effect is comparable to that of educational homophily and half as large as racial homophily. The study highlights the significant role of political alignment in shaping romantic choices.
3. <https://metro.co.uk/2024/07/03/im-a-tory-politician-dating-often-feels-like-a-battleground-21066743/> - An article in Metro News discusses the challenges faced by Conservative politicians in the dating scene. The piece highlights research from Tinder, revealing that a third of young UK singles consider it important that their dating partner is registered to vote, and a fifth have ended or would end a relationship over political disengagement. The article also notes that 60% of singles feel strongly that their partner should respect their political opinions, with this figure rising to 65% among young women. The piece includes personal accounts from individuals navigating dating across political divides.
4. <https://www.politico.eu/newsletter/london-playbook/love-war-and-assisted-death/> - A POLITICO article explores the impact of political affiliations on dating preferences in the UK. The piece references a poll indicating that around 30% of both Labour and Conservative voters would not date someone from the opposing party, and 36% of Reform UK voters would rule out dating Labour supporters. The article also touches upon the influence of political views on expressions of affection, noting that Reform UK voters are more likely to show affection through physical touch and words of affection compared to other party supporters.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/dating/how-politics-impacts-relationships-a4558721.html> - An article in the London Evening Standard examines the growing influence of politics on dating preferences. According to data from OKCupid, 91% of users believe it's important to stay informed about politics, 81% voted in the last election, and 73% think politics impacts their daily life. The piece highlights that 2.7 million people on the platform stated they 'could not date someone who has strong political opinions that are the opposite of theirs.' The article discusses how dating apps are increasingly reflecting political polarization.
6. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13501763.2024.2332713> - A study published in the journal 'Social Science Quarterly' examines the relationship between sexuality and intergenerational partisan preferences in the UK. The research, based on data from the British Election Study, reveals a significant pro-Labour preference among LGBTQ+ voters compared to heterosexual voters. The study discusses potential mechanisms behind this divergence, including rational welfare-maximising, conversion, acculturation, and sorting. The findings provide insights into the persistent sexuality gap in UK party voting intentions and its implications for political alignment.
7. <https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/dating-across-political-divide-trump-brexit-election-b1197195.html> - An article in the London Evening Standard explores the experiences of couples who have navigated dating across political divides. The piece highlights personal stories, such as that of Mia and Scott, who faced challenges due to differing political views but overcame them through mutual respect and understanding. The article references research indicating a decline in the willingness to date across political lines, noting that in 2015, 78% of singles were open to dating someone from the opposing party, which fell to 52% in 2019.