# Keir Starmer faces calls to sack Lord Hermer over ECHR-Nazi Germany comparison



Keir Starmer is currently under intense scrutiny as calls grow for him to dismiss Lord Hermer following the Attorney-General's reckless comments linking discussions about the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) to Nazi Germany. This inflammatory comparison, which suggests that advocating for a recalibration of international commitments mirrors the rhetoric of the 1930s, has drawn sharp rebuke from various quarters, including Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch. She described the remark as “appalling,” emphasizing a troubling misjudgment on Hermer's part. Badenoch further criticized not just Hermer's latest faux pas, but a broader trend of misguided decisions that threaten the UK's sovereignty and national interests.

This incident highlights the fractures emerging in the political landscape as even figures within Labour express discontent. Lord Maurice Glasman, a peer in Starmer's party, voiced concerns over Hermer's reliance on outdated legal frameworks at the expense of pragmatic political solutions. He pointed specifically to Hermer’s involvement in the contentious return of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, a move that has raised significant public and political objections. Glasman's push for Hermer's resignation exemplifies the growing discord within Labour, where an increasing number are questioning the prioritization of international law, particularly amid pressing issues of immigration and national security.

The ongoing political discourse underscores a broader and worrisome narrative about the UK's role in the world. Hermer’s warning against the pitfalls of withdrawing from longstanding treaties reflects a disconnect with the sentiments of many Britons who demand stronger border controls and national prioritization. His views resonate with a diminishing group of legal experts who argue that the UK's commitments to international law, rather than bolstering its standing, may actually compromise its sovereignty. The call for a reassessment of these commitments aligns with a populist momentum that questions whether the UK should continue to be bound by international dictates that many feel are incompatible with domestic priorities.

Separately, Starmer's recent visit to Auschwitz, where he promised to combat rising antisemitism, attempts to project an image of leadership. However, his diplomatic overtures with Polish leaders on security and economic cooperation starkly contrast the isolationist sentiments burgeoning within his own party and the rivalry. This contradiction illustrates the complexity of navigating alliances while grappling with contemporary party divisions.

As the debate surrounding the ECHR intensifies, factions within Labour diverge on their approach, with some pushing for reform while others advocate for more aggressive changes. Lord Hermer's insistence that reform is essential to uphold the ECHR’s credibility reveals the central ideological struggle currently playing out within UK politics. The clash between the entrenched status quo and the populist urgency for a new direction illustrates the high stakes involved.

Ultimately, the controversy surrounding Lord Hermer symbolizes a larger crisis within the Labour party and the UK overall—confronted with the choice between allegiance to international partnerships and the pressing populist demand for a more insular stance. As Starmer navigates these increasing pressures, the decisions taken in the coming weeks could significantly redefine not only his leadership but also the UK’s future position in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2062347/Starmer-Hermer-ECHR-nazi-Germany> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/929a6597-28ab-4b44-bee3-b906c34e9e57> - UK Attorney-General Richard Hermer has strongly criticised Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch's suggestion that Britain consider leaving the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). In a lecture at the Royal United Services Institute, Hermer warned that abandoning international treaties would undermine the West and embolden adversaries like Russian President Vladimir Putin. He emphasised the necessity of adhering to international law and advocated for reforming international agreements rather than withdrawing from them. Hermer rejected Badenoch’s call to review all UK international agreements as dangerous and naive, arguing it conflates law with politics. While some critics accuse Hermer of prioritising international law over national interest—citing the UK's plan to hand over the Chagos Islands to Mauritius—he insists Britain's stance reflects 'progressive realism.' Supported by Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who has affirmed the UK’s continued commitment to the ECHR, Hermer maintains that international law is essential for maintaining state sovereignty. Despite Conservative criticism of Article 8 for complicating deportations, Hermer supports the ECHR and sees potential in reform, not withdrawal. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/929a6597-28ab-4b44-bee3-b906c34e9e57?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/1032d709-9f10-42cc-8c33-75358d7423de> - Labour peer Lord Maurice Glasman has called for the resignation of UK Attorney-General Lord Richard Hermer amid growing internal party conflicts. Glasman criticises Hermer for his progressive stance, claiming he relies excessively on legal solutions rather than political ones. This controversy arises primarily due to Hermer's involvement in negotiating a deal to return sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius while leasing Diego Garcia for military purposes. Hermer defended the agreement, stating it balances various interests and respects international law. Despite the criticism, Prime Minister Keir Starmer stands by Hermer, citing national security priorities. The political tension occurs against a backdrop of rising support for Nigel Farage's Reform UK, influencing Labour's recent focus on immigration and security policies. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/1032d709-9f10-42cc-8c33-75358d7423de?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/eadeb257-de36-4748-a6ea-1bd76806b8a0> - Britain will not thrive in a 'might is right' world and must uphold the rule of law despite political evolution. The current attack on Lord Hermer, the Attorney-General, highlights his firm commitment to the rule of law, which clashes with the populist right's desire to lift judicial constraints on the government. Hermer's staunch defence of international courts, human rights laws, and the ECHR is criticised by populists who see the UK’s role in international law as outdated given the power shifts. Critics argue that the UK's strength in global politics is diminished without adherence to established legal frameworks, which were originally shaped by the UK. Consequently, efforts to dismantle international law could lead to a more chaotic world order, leaving the UK at a disadvantage. Britain's self-interest lies in maintaining the rules-based order for economic and political stability, and Hermer's work, although contentious, is indispensable to this goal. Despite the political challenges, abandoning this commitment would leave the UK weaker and less influential on the global stage. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/eadeb257-de36-4748-a6ea-1bd76806b8a0?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.gbnews.com/news/migrant-crisis-attorney-general-echr> - Lord Hermer's pledge that Britain would 'never withdraw from the European Convention rights' has sparked tension. He told the Council of Europe that the Government would maintain its commitment to key international institutions, including the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. He emphasised the UK's intention to take 'positive steps to promote their importance and rebuild respect for them.' In a clear declaration of intent, Hermer added: 'I'd like to be very clear, the new United Kingdom Government will never withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights or refuse to comply with judgment of the court.' ([gbnews.com](https://www.gbnews.com/news/migrant-crisis-attorney-general-echr?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/auschwitz-prime-minister-england-government-nazi-b2613916.html> - British Prime Minister Keir Starmer visited Auschwitz before holding talks with Polish leaders on European defense and enhancing UK-EU relations. At the Auschwitz memorial, Starmer expressed horror at the atrocities, pledging to fight growing antisemitism. In Warsaw, he met with Polish President Andrzej Duda and Prime Minister Donald Tusk to discuss increasing cooperation on security, economic ties, and countering illegal migration. Starmer emphasised deepening security collaboration with the EU and bilaterally, while Tusk expressed a desire for Britain to return to the EU. The visit preceded the 80th anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation and comes amid a resurgence of antisemitism following conflicts involving Hamas and Israel. Starmer's visit highlights his ongoing efforts to combat antisemitism within his party and broader society. ([independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/auschwitz-prime-minister-england-government-nazi-b2613916.html?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2025-03-20/debates/e288ceb1-1bb9-4755-9b82-1a5d2b017d15/LordsChamber> - In a debate in the House of Lords, Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury discussed the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and its historical context. He noted that the ECHR was established in 1950, just two years after the Nuremberg trials, as Europe was recovering from the horrors of World War II. Lord Neuberger highlighted that the ECHR has led to legal advances, enabling judges to make innovative rulings in areas such as sexual equality, privacy, and personal autonomy. However, he also acknowledged the tension between parliamentary democracy and an unelected court, especially when the European Court of Human Rights adopts expansive interpretations of the convention. This discussion underscores the ongoing debates about the ECHR's role and its relationship with national sovereignty. ([hansard.parliament.uk](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2025-03-20/debates/e288ceb1-1bb9-4755-9b82-1a5d2b017d15/LordsChamber?utm_source=openai))