# Stornoway shop owner challenges council order to remove Trump protest banner



A shop owner in Stornoway faces an unwelcome obstacle after the Western Isles Council ordered her to remove a politically charged banner reading, “Shame on you Donald John!” Displayed prominently outside Lewis Revival since March, the banner was a protest against former US President Donald Trump’s disastrous handling of international affairs, particularly his administration's disregard for the conflict in Ukraine.

The council's directive requires the banner removed by June 11, citing vague planning regulations related to its location and potential impact on a conservation area. While the content isn’t in breach of planning laws, the council’s decision raises significant questions about the suppression of free expression in a community increasingly disillusioned by political leadership. A council spokesperson noted that the banner’s disruptive scale and aesthetics were a concern, but the motivations behind the directive appear to be more about maintaining a ‘politically correct’ façade than adhering to genuine legislative intent.

Shop owner Sarah Venus, an American expatriate, expressed her frustration on social media about the council's involvement, fearing repercussions for her landlady due to her outspoken views. Despite the directive, Venus remains unwavering in her cause, offering free protest materials to her customers. “As for the banner, maybe we could pass it around from site to site,” she proposed, showcasing her determination to continue drawing attention to failing leadership.

Trump’s ties to the Isle of Lewis further complicate the narrative. His mother, Mary Anne MacLeod, hailed from the region, creating a fraught relationship between the community and the former president. There’s a palpable ambivalence toward him among residents, a sentiment that aligns with the region’s growing disenchantment with distant leaders who fail to represent their interests. Observers in Stornoway have remarked that opinions on Trump are “not suitable for television viewing,” highlighting a widespread disapproval eclipsing any familial connections.

The reluctance to embrace Trump, despite his Scottish heritage, reverberates through discussions among islanders who believe his policies threaten the values of their community. While his family members have contributed positively through charitable efforts, the politically charged actions of the former president have incited a backlash that underscores a disconnect between his proclaimed roots and the realities faced by locals. His visits to Scotland reveal a stark contrast between his family’s legacy and community sentiments towards his governance.

Ultimately, the banner controversy symbolizes deeper rifts not only in global political discourse but also within the cultural tapestry defining the Isle of Lewis. The community's readiness to confront these challenges through public demonstrations reflects a resilience in the face of indifferent leadership, reaffirming their commitment to engage with the implications of policies that feel alien to their lives. It's a reminder that leadership should be held accountable, not just at the national level but in every corner of local communities.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/6768824/couple-ordered-to-remove-anti-trump-banner/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.malaymail.com/news/life/2025/05/09/shame-on-you-donald-john-scottish-island-where-trumps-mother-was-born-shuns-her-famous-son/176111> - In May 2025, a banner reading 'Shame on you, Donald John! #democracy' was displayed in front of a shop in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland. The shop owner, Sarah Venus, born in the United States, received overwhelming support from locals and US tourists for the protest against President Donald Trump. The banner's message was clear, even without explicitly mentioning Trump's name, as 'Donald John' is a common name on the island. The protest was in response to concerns over US leadership's handling of international affairs, particularly the situation in Ukraine and Russia.
3. <https://news.stv.tv/politics/stornoway-residents-say-their-opinions-on-trump-not-suitable-for-television> - Residents of Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, expressed strong negative opinions about US President Donald Trump. Many were reluctant to discuss him on camera, with one resident stating that their views were 'not suitable for television viewing'. The community's sentiments were influenced by Trump's policies and actions, including global tariffs. The islanders' reactions highlight the complex relationship between Trump's Scottish heritage and his presidency, with many locals distancing themselves from his political stance.
4. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/us/few-rooting-for-donald-trump-on-his-mother-s-scottish-island-1.2663636> - The article discusses the lukewarm reception of US President Donald Trump on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland, where his mother, Mary Anne MacLeod, was born. Despite his Scottish roots, many islanders are sceptical of Trump's commitment to the community. The piece highlights the contrast between Trump's visits and the local community's sentiments, noting that his mother and sister have been more involved in charitable activities on the island, fostering better relations with the residents.
5. <https://news.sky.com/story/donald-trump-a-loser-on-family-s-ancestral-scottish-island-10645351> - This article explores the strained relationship between US President Donald Trump and the residents of the Isle of Lewis, Scotland, his mother's ancestral home. Despite his Scottish heritage, Trump's policies and actions have led to a lack of support from the local community. The piece delves into the historical context of Trump's family ties to the island and the contrasting views held by islanders regarding his presidency.
6. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/14903168.revelation-about-donald-trumps-mother-is-no-surprise-to-islanders-unfazed-by-his-fame/> - The article reveals that Mary Anne MacLeod, Donald Trump's mother, emigrated legally to the US in 1930 with just $50. This information was not surprising to the residents of the Isle of Lewis, where she was born. The piece highlights the islanders' indifference to Trump's fame and their focus on their own community's history and values, rather than his political career.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35756032> - This BBC News article provides a detailed account of Donald Trump's mother's background, Mary Anne MacLeod. Born in 1912 in the village of Tong on the Isle of Lewis, she emigrated to the US in 1930 and later married Fred Trump. The piece offers insights into her life, the family's Scottish heritage, and the community's reaction to Trump's political career, highlighting the complexities of identity and heritage.