# Labour faces leadership crisis as Lord Hermer row and junior doctors’ strike threaten NHS stability



The escalating tensions over Labour's management of the NHS and its internal discord have reached a critical point, culminating in increasing calls for Lord Hermer’s resignation. His recent statements, particularly regarding sentencing for serious crimes and his troubling comparisons linking calls to exit the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) with the rise of Nazism, have drawn widespread condemnation. Such remarks are only tarnishing Labour’s public image at a crucial juncture when clear leadership is desperately needed.

Set against this backdrop is the situation with junior doctors, who are currently negotiating for what many deem an excessive 35% pay rise. Critics, including several Conservative MPs, have accused Sir Keir Starmer of caving in to union pressures at the cost of vital patient care. This timid approach risks further destabilizing the NHS, as it could incite additional industrial action amidst deteriorating service conditions. The Labour leader’s reluctance to assert firm control not only appears weak but also emboldens unions like the British Medical Association (BMA), jeopardizing healthcare delivery at a pivotal time.

As junior doctors prepare for a planned five-day strike coinciding with Labour’s election campaign launch, the desperate need for effective leadership has never been clearer. The outgoing Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, has pointedly noted the possibly politically motivated timing, warning that Starmer's inability to manage this crisis could deepen the disruptions plaguing the NHS, affecting patients already languishing on long waiting lists. Sunak has urged Starmer to adopt a more decisive stance, cautioning that continued indecision may only prolong the strikes and their chaotic repercussions.

Furthermore, the BMA’s steadfast opposition to NHS reforms complicates matters further for Starmer. Experts warn that without effective negotiations, meaningful changes to the health system will remain elusive. This scenario places the Labour leadership in a precarious situation; Starmer’s previous support for union demands appears to have backfired, leaving him vulnerable to criticism from both unions and a disillusioned electorate.

Calls for Lord Hermer's resignation reflect broader concerns about Labour's coherence and strategic direction as new elections approach. Instead of capitalizing on discontent with the former Conservative government, Hermer’s controversies are inadvertently diverting attention away from Labour's electoral message. As Labour grapples with these intertwined issues, they must urgently work to rebuild trust among party loyalists and the wider public, especially when alternative visions for governance emphasize accountability and a commitment to practical solutions.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2063337/keir-starmers-lord-hermer> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1852519/keir-starmer-doctors-strikes-appeasement> - Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer has been accused of prioritising appeasement of militant unions over patient care by supporting junior doctors' demands for a 35% pay rise. Critics argue that his stance could signal weakness to trade unions and potentially disrupt the NHS further. Conservative MPs have expressed concerns that Starmer's approach may embolden unions and lead to prolonged industrial action, adversely affecting patients awaiting treatment.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/05/29/doctors-strikes-week-of-general-election/> - Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has suggested that the timing of the junior doctors' strike, coinciding with Labour's NHS election campaign launch, appears politically motivated. The British Medical Association (BMA) has called for a five-day walkout starting June 27, just before the general election. Sunak's remarks highlight the potential impact of the strike on the political landscape and the upcoming election.
4. <https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/national/23665969.sunak-tells-starmer-unglue-fence-health-pay-offer/> - Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has urged Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer to take a more active role in ending the ongoing strike action by consultants and junior doctors. Sunak criticised Starmer for not taking a firm stance on health pay negotiations, suggesting that his indecisiveness could prolong the industrial action and exacerbate NHS waiting lists.
5. <https://www.the-independent.com/business/sunak-tells-starmer-unglue-yourself-from-the-fence-over-health-pay-offer-b2378097.html> - Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has called on Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer to take a definitive position on health pay negotiations to help end the ongoing strike action by consultants and junior doctors. Sunak's comments highlight the political implications of the industrial action and the need for decisive leadership to resolve the dispute.
6. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1948510/Keir-Starmer-NHS-reform-BMA> - Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer faces challenges in implementing NHS reforms due to opposition from the British Medical Association (BMA). Experts suggest that without addressing the BMA's influence, significant changes to the health system may be difficult to achieve. The BMA's historical resistance to reforms underscores the complexities of overhauling the NHS.
7. <https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/starmer-criticises-tory-refusal-speak-bma-during-doctors-strike> - Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer has criticised the Conservative government's refusal to engage in talks with the British Medical Association (BMA) during the ongoing doctors' strike. Starmer emphasised the importance of dialogue to resolve the dispute and address the impact of industrial action on patient care.