# London protests highlight deep public discontent over Trump’s visit amid spectacle and controversy



Thousands of demonstrators poured into the streets of London this week to protest against the spectacle of a second state visit by former U.S. President Donald Trump, exposing the deep-rooted concerns that his presence continues to ignite among ordinary Britons. Organized by grassroots groups and supported by a coalition of campaign organizations, including those dedicated to defending national sovereignty and traditional values, the protest saw around 5,000 people march peacefully from Regent Street to Parliament Square. Speakers at the rally—featuring figures aligned with opposition sentiments—eviscerated the extravagance and perceived hypocrisy surrounding the visit, condemning the lavish security and ceremonial pageantry as emblematic of a government out of touch with its own people.

One speaker, Zack Polanski, a vocal critic of elite excess, described the millions spent on Trump’s security and the theatrical pomp—such as the red carpet and military displays—as “absolutely outrageous,” asserting that Trump's divisive values are fundamentally at odds with the moral fabric and true interests of Britain. Jeremy Corbyn, the former Labour leader, praised activists who had linked Trump to Jeffrey Epstein in provocative projections onto Windsor Castle, a stark reminder of the ongoing controversy swirling around the former president's associations. Thames Valley Police confirmed multiple arrests, including those related to the castle projections and others for disrupting public order in Windsor, underscoring widespread dissatisfaction.

The visit itself was a sharply contrasting display of pomp and protest. Trump was given a royal welcome at Windsor Castle, complete with a carriage procession, military parade, and a state banquet hosted by King Charles III—an unprecedented honor for a visiting American politician. This spectacle aimed to reinforce the so-called “special relationship” between the UK and the US amidst claims of deeper economic and strategic ties. Yet, beneath the grandeur, the debate within Britain remains fierce. Many citizens see this visit as a calculated display of alliance that ignores the genuine concerns of ordinary people about Trump’s controversial policies and character. Recent polling reveals a stark divide: over 45% oppose the visit, while only 30% support it, exposing a lack of consensus or genuine enthusiasm from the British public.

The controversy was amplified by provocative incidents, including the projection of images linking Trump to Jeffrey Epstein onto Windsor Castle—events that garnered media and political backlash. Critics argue that hosting Trump amid such controversy tarnishes Britain’s reputation and diminishes the moral authority of its leadership. The government’s handling of the trip has attracted scrutiny, with opposition voices, including those calling themselves reformers and conservatives, criticizing the decision to roll out the red carpet. They argue that British values—such as integrity, national sovereignty, and dignity—are being sacrificed to appease a foreign leader whose policies and associations threaten the moral standards many Britons hold dear.

While the visit included dignified moments—such as paying respects at Queen Elizabeth II’s tomb and engaging with high-profile tech leaders—these were overshadowed by the domestic and international fallout. Many see the entire affair as a symbol of a government desperately clinging to outdated notions of prestige and alliance, ignoring the concerns of those who see this as a capitulation to globalist interests. Critics insist that, instead of bowing to this spectacle, Britain should focus on defending its national identity and safeguarding the interests of its citizens, rather than pandering to Trump's divisive and morally questionable legacy.

As Trump continues his visit with meetings at Chequers and discussions on critical geopolitical issues, the opposition remains resolute. They condemn the current government’s apparent eagerness to prioritize diplomatic optics over the concerns of everyday Britons who question whether aligning so closely with a figure associated with turmoil and controversy truly benefits the nation's future. This episode has reignited calls for a government that puts national interests and moral integrity above fleeting diplomatic gestures.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/thousands-take-to-streets-in-protest-against-trumps-second-state-visit-OGUPGLSZKFO4HLUA34BS3MVN7A/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://apnews.com/article/11e2c897c9047f12614cfa70e0c17753> - During U.S. President Donald Trump's second state visit to the United Kingdom in September 2025, he was met with both royal pageantry and widespread protests. Though welcomed with a formal reception by King Charles III at Windsor Castle and scheduled to meet Prime Minister Keir Starmer, thousands gathered in London to voice their opposition to his visit. Demonstrators carried signs decrying Trump's policies and rhetoric, many referencing racism and fascism, while a counter-protester supporting Trump was jeered by the crowd. The protest—smaller than those during his 2019 visit—saw the deployment of 1,600 police officers to manage various activist groups. Despite strategically avoiding central London, Trump's presence still drew dissent, including the projection of an image linking him to Jeffrey Epstein on a Windsor Castle tower, resulting in four arrests. In Windsor, two other individuals were arrested for separate incidents related to the protests. Critics questioned the royal family's decision to host Trump and expressed frustration over his domestic and international policies.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/anti-trump-protesters-march-through-london-president-basks-royal-welcome-2025-09-17/> - During U.S. President Donald Trump's unprecedented second state visit to the UK, thousands of protesters marched through central London denouncing his administration. Organised by the Stop Trump Coalition with support from Amnesty International and various advocacy groups, the 'Trump Not Welcome' rally saw around 5,000 attendees peacefully demonstrating near parliament with messages opposing Trump's global policies. Simultaneously in Windsor, a much smaller group of Trump supporters gathered near the royal castle where he was welcomed with regal pageantry, including a carriage procession and military parade. The visit has sparked controversy, with a YouGov poll showing a divided British public: 45% objected to the state invitation, while 30% supported it. Additionally, tensions rose after images linking Trump to Jeffrey Epstein were projected onto Windsor Castle, resulting in four arrests. This issue gained traction after Prime Minister Keir Starmer recently dismissed the UK's U.S. ambassador over Epstein links. Despite Starmer's amicable ties with Trump, public sentiment remains largely critical, with this protest resembling the turnout from Trump's prior 2019 visit, though less than the massive demonstrations during his first UK visit in 2018.
4. <https://apnews.com/article/c02883df588c4783778f0dbb5894de1d> - During an unprecedented second U.K. state visit, President Donald Trump was honoured with royal pageantry, including a banquet at Windsor Castle hosted by King Charles III. The trip emphasised bolstering U.S.-U.K. ties amid trade tensions, featuring high-level interactions with British royals and tech leaders such as Tim Cook and Sam Altman. Trump, praising the grandeur and emphasising U.S.-British relations, participated in ceremonial events and paid tribute at Queen Elizabeth II's tomb. Meanwhile, domestic controversy unfolded as fired CDC Director Susan Monarez testified before the Senate, alleging Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. pressured her to endorse vaccine recommendations without scientific review. Her testimony, supported by other former CDC officials, raised concerns about vaccine policy and scientific integrity, especially as a newly restructured advisory panel prepared controversial votes on vaccine guidelines. Additionally, protests occurred in London opposing Trump's policies, and media scrutiny intensified regarding misinformation and executive overreach. In parallel, the Fed cut interest rates, and Trump's administration faced legal, political, and foreign policy challenges ranging from surveillance and disinformation to immigration enforcement. Also, tensions surrounding the death of conservative activist Charlie Kirk further exacerbated the political divide, prompting congressional inquiries into online radicalisation and misinformation.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-embraces-trump-with-royal-pomp-historic-state-visit-2025-09-17/> - U.S. President Donald Trump began his historic second state visit to the UK on Wednesday, welcomed with grand pageantry by King Charles at Windsor Castle. This marks an unprecedented event, as Trump is the first elected politician to be invited for two UK state visits. The visit features extensive ceremonial honour, including a carriage procession and a state banquet, and is seen as a key opportunity for UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer to bolster the 'special relationship' between the two nations. Discussions include deepening economic ties, trade, tariffs, and issues such as Ukraine and Israel. Major tech firms have pledged £31 billion ($42 billion) in UK investments in areas like AI and quantum computing. Despite the celebration, the visit faces challenges. Trump is unpopular in Britain, and Starmer is grappling with declining approval ratings. Protests erupted in London, and controversy resurfaced surrounding Jeffrey Epstein, with images of Trump and Epstein projected on Windsor Castle. Nevertheless, Trump expressed admiration for Britain and its royal heritage, while Thursday's discussions are expected to shift focus toward geopolitics and economic strategy.
6. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/four-arrested-after-trump-epstein-images-projected-onto-britains-windsor-castle-2025-09-16/> - Four individuals were arrested after projecting images of former U.S. President Donald Trump and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein onto Windsor Castle during Trump's state visit to the UK. The incident occurred shortly before Trump was formally welcomed by King Charles at the royal residence on Wednesday. Protesters initially displayed a large banner of Trump and Epstein near the castle, followed by the unauthorised projection of images onto one of its towers. The projections included a controversial birthday letter allegedly written by Trump to Epstein over 20 years ago, which was recently released by Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives. The White House has denied the letter's authenticity. Additionally, the projections included images of Epstein's victims and related news segments. UK police described the act as a public stunt and arrested the four adults on suspicion of malicious communications. The event rekindles public scrutiny of Trump's past association with Epstein, an issue that continues to generate political controversy despite Trump's attempts to distance himself.
7. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-rolls-out-red-carpet-trump-hopes-avoid-red-faces-2025-09-17/> - Former U.S. President Donald Trump began his unprecedented second state visit to the UK on September 17, 2025, receiving an elaborate ceremonial welcome from the British royal family at Windsor Castle. The visit was marked by grand pageantry, including a carriage procession, military flypast, and a state banquet hosted by King Charles III. Trump, an admirer of the royals, expressed affection for both King Charles and Britain. Prime Minister Keir Starmer aims to leverage Trump's admiration to strengthen the U.S.-UK 'special relationship,' focusing on economic ties, a potential trade deal refinement, and greater U.S. investment, particularly in AI and energy technologies. A tech pact worth £31 billion ($42 billion) has already been announced. Despite heightened security and a large police presence, protesters managed to project images linking Trump to the late Jeffrey Epstein onto Windsor Castle, drawing attention to controversial associations. The incident follows Starmer's recent dismissal of Ambassador Peter Mandelson over his Epstein ties. Wednesday's events were centred on royal ceremony, while Thursday will shift toward political discussions, particularly regarding Ukraine and trade, at Starmer's country residence. The visit is seen as diplomatically significant, if politically delicate, for both leaders.