# Grassroots mobilisation calls for a new direction in UK foreign policy and social justice



Extra-parliamentary mobilisation in the UK has long been stronger on the left than on the right, often serving as a formidable force against complacency in government. Historically, mass demonstrations have mobilised principled voices from protests against apartheid to opposition campaigns during the Iraq war and calls for another EU referendum. Yet, the current Labour government’s approach suggests a disturbing drift away from these grassroots sentiments, aligning instead with establishment interests and a misguided pursuit of political expediency.

Despite rousing rhetoric on human rights, the government’s reluctance to fully condemn Israel’s policies in Gaza and its hesitancy to oppose geopolitical alliances rooted in US military dominance reveal a troubling shift. These stances betray the very principles that have historically rallied the working class and progressive activists—those who see Britain’s foreign policy as an extension of justice and national integrity. Instead of leading a truly principled opposition, Labour’s equivocation fosters a disconnect with the grassroots, creating an opportunity for more authentic resistance to the declining status quo.

Recent moves such as the UK’s recognition of the State of Palestine, while presented as diplomatic progress by some, fundamentally illustrate a government out of touch with the will of a significant majority of Britons. After years of dodging meaningful action on international conflicts, the government’s slow approach to human rights and peace has only emboldened divisive narratives pushed from the right—narratives that seek to distort national discourse into a ‘civil war’ over identity, security, and sovereignty. Meanwhile, grassroots activists remain eager for a government that unapologetically champions anti-imperialist values and stands firm against the reckless foreign policies of the UK’s NATO-aligned establishment.

Domestically, the winds of change are blowing in a direction that challenges the current Labour stance. Recent polls indicate that over half of UK voters now favour a closer relationship with the European Union—a clear signal that the public yearns for a Britain that rebuilds ties based on mutual respect, economic fairness, and social justice. Far from the pro-business, globalist rhetoric increasingly embraced by the current administration, the people want a government that prioritises working-class interests through re-engagement with Europe, safeguarding public services, and resisting the pressures of global financial elites.

There is a real opportunity for a principled opposition to reconnect with these sentiments. By boldly opposing foreign policy failures, advocating for genuine European integration, and championing the social and economic policies that resonate with ordinary Britons, a true progressive alternative could galvanise the disillusioned and energise a movement against the establishment’s push for division. Such leadership would not only undermine right-wing narratives of chaos and civil war but also restore hope that Britain can be a force for justice and fairness rather than a pawn in global power games.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/sep/21/labour-should-draw-strength-from-the-principled-majority> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/sep/21/labour-should-draw-strength-from-the-principled-majority> - In this opinion piece, Jake Lynch argues that extra-parliamentary mobilisation on the left has historically been stronger than on the right. He highlights significant demonstrations, such as the 1985 anti-apartheid protest, the 2003 anti-Iraq war protest with 1.5 million participants, and the 2019 second EU referendum protest with around 1 million attendees. Lynch contends that the Labour government, under Keir Starmer, has distanced itself from this support by opposing key issues that resonate with the progressive majority, including stances on Israel, military engagements, and EU relations.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/jun/04/keir-starmer-calls-israels-recent-actions-in-gaza-appalling-and-intolerable> - In June 2025, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer condemned Israel's actions in Gaza as 'appalling and intolerable.' He mentioned that the UK was considering imposing sanctions on members of the Israeli government but was resisting calls for a complete ban on arms sales and immediate recognition of Palestine. Starmer emphasized the need for a ceasefire, the release of hostages, and increased humanitarian aid to Gaza.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-deputy-pm-says-decision-recognise-palestine-does-not-create-state-overnight-2025-09-21/> - On September 21, 2025, the United Kingdom officially recognized the State of Palestine after Israel failed to meet conditions tied to a ceasefire in the Gaza conflict. Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab stated that this decision does not create a state overnight but is a step toward reviving peace and a two-state solution. The recognition aligns Britain with over 140 nations and was joined simultaneously by Canada and Australia.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/dec/09/uk-voters-want-closer-relationship-with-eu-in-significant-shift-since-brexit> - A major study published in December 2023 revealed that 52% of UK voters now desire a closer relationship with the European Union, a significant shift since Brexit. The report indicates that nearly twice as many UK voters prioritize ties with the EU over the US for peace, prosperity, and security. This change suggests potential support for a progressive government to work towards closer links with the EU, particularly in trade, security, and defense.
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