

# Musk wants to oust Starmer to save UK

[D theday.co.uk/musk-wants-to-oust-starmer-to-save-uk-4](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jan/13/musk-wants-to-oust-starmer-to-save-uk) 13 January 2025



*Deception: Fact-checking service BBC Verify examined a "24-hour snapshot" of Elon Musk's X timeline last week and found "a wave of misinformation amplified in the posts".*

**Should he stop interfering in British politics? The world's richest man has torn into the British government on X. Some welcome him with open arms. Others think he should back off.**

## What's happening?

Earlier this week, X owner Elon Musk launched a barrage of tweets against the British government. He accused Prime Minister Keir Starmer and other Labour politicians of allowing "grooming gangs" to roam Britain.

## Find out more

In 2021, *The Times* reported on the sexual exploitation of young girls by gangs of criminals across parts of England.

An investigation found that at least 1,400 children had been groomed between 1997 and 2013 in the town of Rotherham and that similar gangs operated in other places. Many of the perpetrators were British Pakistani.

Musk claims that Starmer is "deeply **complicit**" in failing to bring the criminals to justice.

Many would agree that the official response to the grooming gangs has not been good enough. A national review released in 2022 contained 20 recommendations to protect

children. The Conservative government failed to act on most of them.

Musk feels that free speech is threatened in Britain. Perhaps he is simply **affirming** everyone's right to say what they want.

Musk called Labour minister Jess Phillips, a long-time activist on violence against women, a "**genocide** apologist" who should be jailed. Phillips says that Musk's claims have endangered her life.

## Should he stop interfering in British politics?

### Some say

Yes! Musk is a toxic attention-seeker who seeks to remake the world in his own image. We should ignore him completely.

### Others think

No! Everyone should be allowed to speak their mind. That Musk has an enormous platform does not change this.

## Some people say

*"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."*

**Martin Luther King Jr. (1929 – 1968), American civil rights leader**

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*What do you think?*

## Six steps to discovery

### 1. Connect

**How do you feel about this story?** - Do you think the social media platforms you use shape your opinions?

### 2. Wonder

**What questions do you have?** - For example: How did Elon Musk become so rich? What is the official status of free speech in British law?

### 3. Investigate

**What are the facts?** - Elon Musk has 211.9 million followers on X. What percentage of total X users is this?

#### 4. Construct

**What is your point of view?** - What causes would you support if you had Musk's wealth and platform?

#### 5. Express

**What do others believe?** - In groups, discuss whether you think free speech should have limits.

#### 6. Reflect

**What might happen next?** - Write a poem about Musk.

### Glossary

**Grooming** - Luring, or persuading.

**Complicit** - To be involved with others in an unlawful or morally wrong activity.

**Affirming** - Declare that something is true, or show your support for it.

**Genocide** - The annihilation of a people, either through killing of its members, or through the suppression of its culture.