

CBS NEWS

Donald Trump's historic 2nd state visit to the UK: he was welcomed by King Charles III and other senior British officials. Mr. Trump and Starmer signed a major U.S.-U.K. investment agreement, dubbed the "Tech Prosperity Deal," as the British government announced a total of more than \$200 billion of U.S. investment in the U.K.

THE GUARDIAN

More than 110,000 people have taken part in a far-right street protest organised by the activist Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, known as Tommy Robinson, in what is thought to be the largest nationalist event in decades.

Marchers travelled to London by train and coach for a demonstration, which was billed as a "festival of free speech", but by its conclusion had amplified racist conspiracy theories and anti-Muslim hate speech across Whitehall.

The scale of the protest vastly outgrew police estimates, resulting in tense and at times violent clashes between protesters and police.

SKY NEWS



Jimmy Kimmel Live is to return to TV, says The Walt Disney Company

<https://news.sky.com/video/jimmy-kimmel-live-is-to-return-to-tv-says-the-walt-disney-company-13436490>

Historic /hɪˈstɒrɪk/ = significant in history v. **historical**: related to history

A 'government [gʌ]

Dubbed /ʌ/ = named

\$200 billion – « two hundred billion » ▲ *Noter que « billion » est au singulier parce qu'il fonctionne comme une unité de mesure. De la même façon on dira « a 10-kilometer race » ou « a 5-year plan ».* (See NiB#1)

An e 'vent

Billed as: annoncé comme

Whitehall: the British government and its administrative departments

To out'grow (outgrew, outgrown) = to surpass

To re'sult in = to lead to ▲ *le sens du verbe « result » dépend de la préposition qui l'accompagne : in (consequence) / from (cause)*

CULTURAL NOTE

Free speech in the UK v. in the USA

In the United States, the legal basis for the protection of free speech is the 1st amendment to the constitution, **whereas** in the UK, there is no single constitutional amendment; it rather derives from the Human Rights Act (1998). Free speech is sacralised in the US, with a broad protection, **while** the British law restricts it more. Some similar restrictions in **both** countries concern incitement to violence, libel (/ˈlaɪbəl/: diffamation), national security and classified information.

Jimmy Kimmel = an American television host and comedian (= humoriste). He is best known as the host and executive producer of the late-night talk show "Jimmy Kimmel Live!", which has aired on ABC since 2003. He is famous for his sharp humour, celebrity interviews and political satire.

[0:06] Pulled off air = removed from being broadcast on TV or radio

[0:12] It sparked a heated national debate = it caused a strong, widespread argument

[0:51] Open letter: lettre ouverte

[1:09] A tense situation = full of worry and potential conflict

[1:16] Ill-timed = happening at an inappropriate time

[2:01] To be likely to = having a high probability of happening

[2:09] To be lost for words = to be unable to think of anything to say

How the simmering row over freedom of speech in the UK reached boiling point

Nick Robinson, BBC.COM, September 22nd, 2025

"At what point did we become North Korea?" That was the question Nigel Farage posed when asked by a US congressional committee about limitations on freedom of speech in the UK.

He was condemning the "awful authoritarian situation we have sunk into", which he claimed had led to various arrests including that of Father Ted co-creator Graham Linehan over his views on challenging "a trans-identified male" in "a female-only space".

When I heard the question, I confess I thought that the leader of Reform UK had gone over the top.

Farage was comparing his country - my country - with a brutal dictatorship that murders, imprisons and tortures opponents.

And he was doing it in front of an influential audience of American lawmakers. [...] But Farage is not alone in questioning how far restrictions to freedom of speech have gone in the UK. Tensions around the limits of free speech are nothing new and since the advent of social media in the mid-2000s, the arguments have been simmering. Now, though, they're reaching a boiling point.

During his recent visit, US Vice-President JD Vance said he did not want the UK to go down a "very dark path" of losing free speech. The US business magazine Forbes carried an editorial this month that took this argument further still. In it, editor-in-chief Steve Forbes condemned the UK's "plunge into the kind of speech censorship usually associated with tin pot Third World dictatorships".

He argues that, in stark contrast to the United States - where free speech is protected by the first amendment to the constitution, "the UK has, with increasing vigour, been curbing what one is allowed to say, all in the name of fighting racism, sexism, Islamophobia, transgenderism, climate-change denial and whatever else the woke extremists conjure up".

So, how exactly did we get to the point where the UK is being compared to a dictatorship and, given how inflamed the conversation has become, what - if anything - would it take to turn down the heat?

Big tech dialled up the debate

The case of Lucy Connolly has become a cause celebre to some in the UK and beyond. The former childminder from Northampton, who is married to a Conservative councillor, had posted an abhorrent message on X, calling for people to "set fire" to hotels housing asylum seekers following the murder of three young girls at a dance class in Southport in July 2024. It was viewed hundreds of thousands of times at a time when the threat of violence was very real.

Connolly had pleaded guilty to inciting racial hatred by publishing and distributing "threatening or abusive" written material on X. And yet she was given the red carpet treatment at the Reform party conference, as "Britain's favourite political prisoner". [...] It is just one case that highlights how much social media has changed the shape of the debate around free speech and made heroes and villains of ordinary people.

[...] In the UK, the Human Rights Act does give protection to free speech but as a "qualified right". This means that "governments can restrict that right... provided that the response is proportionate - [or] 'necessary in a democratic society' is what people tend to say", according to Lorna Woods, professor of internet law at the University of Essex. But some of the comments made at the protest in London earlier this month, billed by far-right, anti-Islam activist Tommy Robinson as a "free speech rally," demonstrate that, despite other controversies, that right isn't that qualified.

Simmering row /raʊ/: conflit latent	Sink into : s'enfoncer dans	To go over the top = to exaggerate
To reach a boiling point /'bɔɪlɪŋ/: atteindre le point de rupture	A path = a way	Tin-pot = médiocre
Stark 'contrast = an obvious difference	To curb = to control, to limit	To 'conjure up = to bring to mind
To dial up something = to intensify	Childminder : nourrice	Abhorrent /æb'hɒrənt/ = disgusting
Asylum seekers /ə'saɪləm/: demandeurs d'asile	To be given the red carpet treatment : recevoir un accueil royal	