Twitter Thread by GET A GRIP ■



GET A GRIP ■
@docrussjackson

The Libertarian-billionaire funded Right pretend free speech is threatened from an authoritarian Left, yet 90% of UK campaigners say their free speech is threatened by hostile right-wing politicians & media using them as “fodder for phoney culture

Nearly two-thirds of campaigners say politicians are increasingly negative & less tolerant towards charities which actively fight for social justice, with politicians “shutting down channels of communication, & attacking campaigners & their allies as a threat to the common good”.

Examples include criticism of the @nationaltrust by the "Common Sense group" of Tories for publishing a report into historical slavery links at some of its country house properties. The MPs used an antisemitic conspiracy to accuse the Trust of "cultural Marxist", “woke” agenda.



Britain's heroes

SIR – The Common Sense Group (59 Conservative MPs and seven peers) was formed to speak for the silent majority of voters tired of being patronised by elitist bourgeois liberals whenever issues such as immigration or law and order are raised.

Part of our mission is to ensure that institutional custodians of history and heritage, tasked with safeguarding and celebrating British values, are not coloured by cultural Marxist dogma, colloquially known as the "woke agenda".

So, when National Trust directors implicitly tarnished one of Britain's greatest sons, Winston Churchill, by linking his family home, Chartwell, with slavery and colonialism, 20 of the group wrote to the Culture Secretary requesting he review the trust's funding applications to public bodies.

After revelations that the National Maritime Museum, guardian of Nelson's Trafalgar coat (pierced by a bullet on Victory's deck) would, in light of Black Lives Matter protests, portray "multiple perspectives on history" and thus review Nelson's "heroic status", our group challenged the museum's CEO, Paddy Rodgers.

Subsequently, both the National Trust and Maritime Museum have attempted to reassure the public about their intentions, and kindly invited Common Sense Group members to visit Chartwell and the Museum.

However, recent comments by the trust's chairman – as ill-informed as they were unwise – prove the good judgment of the chairman of the Charity Commission, Baroness Stowell, in reminding charities that their purpose is far from involvement in the theory or practice of politics.

History must neither be sanitised nor rewritten to suit "snowflake" preoccupations. A clique of powerful, privileged liberals must not be allowed to rewrite our history in their image.

Sir John Hayes MP
Lord Lilley
Sir Edward Leigh MP
Sally-Ann Hart MP
Tom Hunt MP
Imran Khan MP
and 22 others; see telegraph.co.uk
London SW1

Also cited was Priti Patel's targeting of "do-gooders" and "lefty" "activist lawyers" in a speech at Tory party conference, despite Law Society complaints that the home secretary's earlier comments about "activist lawyers" had led to a racist assault on an immigration lawyer.

Top ministers urged Priti Patel to stop attacks on 'activist lawyers'

The home secretary's rhetoric targeting the legal profession continued despite warnings that it led to violence



▲ Priti Patel speaking at this month's virtual Conservative party conference.

Home secretary Priti Patel ignored warnings from at least two senior colleagues to stop targeting immigration lawyers after a knifeman threatened to kill a solicitor last month in an attack linked to her rhetoric, the *Observer* can reveal.

Unicef was accused last month of a “political stunt” by Jacob Rees-Mogg after it funded food support for deprived children in south London, while Tory MPs reported Barnardo’s to the charities regulator after it published a blog discussing racial inequality and white privilege.

Fury as Jacob Rees-Mogg accuses Unicef of 'playing politics' by feeding hungry children in the UK

18 December 2020 by Andy Ricketts

The Leader of the House of Commons told parliament that the charity should be 'ashamed of itself'



Jacob Rees-Mogg (Photograph: Matt Cardy/Getty Images)

Jacob Rees-Mogg, the Leader of the House of Commons, has sparked a backlash after he accused Unicef of "playing politics" in its announcement that it would help to feed children in the UK for the first time.

The charity said earlier this week that it would begin an emergency response in the UK to help feed children affected by the coronavirus outbreak.

The Sheila McKechnie Foundation foundation said the findings came after years of ever-tightening restrictions on charity campaigning, including lobbying restrictions, & the use of "gagging clauses" in grants & contracts to prevent charities openly criticising government policy.

UK charities call for end to 'gagging law' in run-up to elections

NGO leaders say Lobbying Act stops them from representing the most vulnerable in society

Latest election news – live updates



▲ Charity bosses have written to leaders of the major political parties calling for greater freedom to speak out. Photograph: Urbanbuzz/Alamy

Leading charities are calling on the next government to lift the legal gag that prevents them from campaigning for the poor and marginalised in society.

Heads of non-governmental organisations, including Friends of the Earth, Shelter, Liberty, End Violence Against Women, the Quakers and the Howard League, have written to all of the main political parties calling for greater freedom to speak out.

Nine out of 10 campaigners said they thought the freedom to organise, speak out or protest was under threat.

Over half (56%) felt conditions had got worse over the past year, while 72% said negative media coverage was a threat to their freedom to campaign.



Politicians & the media are out of touch with public attitudes to campaigning. Over half of respondents felt the public was increasingly positive about social justice issues, citing widespread support for #BlackLivesMatter & Marcus Rashford's action over food poverty.
Agency.

Halima Begum, the director of the race equality charity Runnymede Trust, was criticised in parliament by the women & equalities minister, Liz Truss, after saying the government sought to divisively prioritise the white working class at the expense of ethnic minorities.

Divisive idiot Liz Truss called Begum's comments "appalling", saying they reflected "an attitude on the left of politics that says: 'If you're not from an oppressed group, you're not entitled to an opinion'.

Truss & others spout dangerously misleading populist garbage.

"It's a grave concern to see charity leaders being attacked at a time when charities' funding is drying up. Increasingly, the Govt appears to engage with independent charities in a one-way process, making clear that it's their way or the highway if you dare disagree with policy."

The chief executive of the Sheila McKechnie Foundation, said: "Civil society will keep working to defend rights & build a better world out of the pandemic. It's time for politicians to work with us, even where we don't always agree, not make us fodder in phoney culture wars."

More context and examples of the Government attacking charities.

To be crystal clear: the Libertarian-billionaire-funded Tories have fully embraced a dangerously divisive populist nationalist agenda, that we see unfolding across Europe, & in the #USA.

https://t.co/b2JNL9MF3k

> VERY IMPORTANT.
>
> Our increasingly unhinged & polarizing authoritarian populist nationalist Govt is openly attacking, scapegoating & demonizing UK charities/campaigners who are desperately trying to help people failed by our Govt.
>
> Solidarity @Halima_Begumhttps://t.co/Pl9p940lUp https://t.co/Giy8Z2d9l1
>
> — GET A GRIP \U0001f499 (@docrussjackson) January 15, 2021