

Labour calls on the Government to hold social media companies to account over discrimination in sport

Today (Wednesday), Labour will use an Opposition Day Debate in the House of Commons to call for tougher action to tackle discrimination in sport.

Labour would like to see a system introduced where offending content on social media is shared with sports governing bodies and clubs to ensure the offender can be banned from matches and sporting events.

Labour MPs will be calling on the government to hold social media companies to account given the unacceptable levels of discrimination that remain in sport.

Racism, sexism and homophobia targeted at players and fans are often left unpunished on social media. It affects athletes of all levels, across the country.

Labour recognises the work done by governing bodies, clubs and supporters' groups across all sports to combat discrimination and encourages these organisations to work with fans to stamp out the behaviour of a minority of supporters.

Rosena Allin-Khan MP, Labour's Shadow Sports Minister, said:

"Parliament has a responsibility to send a strong message that we need to combat discrimination across all sports. This is an important debate because right now, our national sport is being ruined by racists, sexists and homophobes.

"The comments being made on Twitter would be indefensible in a court of law, indefensible in front of an employer, and yet they are going unpunished on social media. We want social media companies to have a responsibility to remove hate speech within 24 hours or face serious

finances that hit their bottom line.

“There is no greater unifier in the world than sport, so we want Parliament to send a clear message today, that discrimination in sport must no longer be tolerated.”

[Plastics plan falls short while recycling rates slump – Hayman](#)

Sue Hayman MP, Labour’s Shadow Environment Secretary, commenting on the government’s plastics announcement, said:

“It is disappointing that this announcement falls short of EU proposals announced earlier this week, especially when we have had warm words from government that British environmental standards will not lag behind after Brexit. Despite the headlines, it appears that plastic drinks stirrers are the only item that will be totally banned from sale.

“Meanwhile, recycling rates have slumped and the UK continues to export large amounts of recyclable materials to countries that have little or no waste infrastructure – which is how a lot of plastic ends up in our oceans.

“Labour is calling for a truly comprehensive waste and recycling strategy that tackles our lack of domestic infrastructure to deal with what we throw away as well as further action to reduce waste at source and improve levels of recycling.”

[John McDonnell responds to news that](#)

[inflation has increased to 2.1%](#)

John McDonnell MP, Shadow Chancellor,

responding to news that inflation has increased to 2.1% and that borrowing in the latest full financial year has exceeded the March forecast by the Office for Budget Responsibility, said:

“With rising prices and surging government borrowing today, it’s clear the Tories have left the economy unprepared for the shock of a No Deal Brexit.

“They have broken their promise to eliminate the deficit by 2015, and have overseen stagnating wages driven by slumping business investment and productivity.

“Only a Labour Government will deliver the radical transformation that is desperately needed to boost livelihoods and protect future generations.”

[Gestures on human rights are insufficient – Shami Chakrabarti](#)

Shami Chakrabarti, Labour’s Shadow Attorney General, commenting on the government’s appointment of an international ambassador dedicated to the promotion of human rights, said:

“Any nod in the direction of human rights is welcome and we wish the new Ambassador well.

“But gestures alone are insufficient, and Rita French’s task will be an uphill struggle in a party that has consistently campaigned to scrap Human Rights instruments and cosied up to every despot in the pursuit of trade.

“The race to be next Tory leader has so far involved pretenders competing to be the most authoritarian. We wait to see if this announcement sees a reversal of this worrying direction of travel.”

Nia Griffith responds to reports that a new defence review will be launched

Nia Griffith MP, Labour’s Shadow Defence Secretary, responding to reports that a new defence review will be launched, said:

“The decision to hold a separate defence review cannot simply be an excuse to kick the difficult decisions facing the defence budget into the long grass.

“Just this week we have had serious warnings from the Head of the Army about the threats that this country faces and there has been growing concern that the Government’s deep cuts to our nation’s defences have left us ill-equipped to respond to those threats.

“The true test of any defence review will be whether it delivers real investment in our nation’s defences and the resources that our Armed Forces so badly need. You cannot do security on the cheap and it is high time that the Government recognised this.”