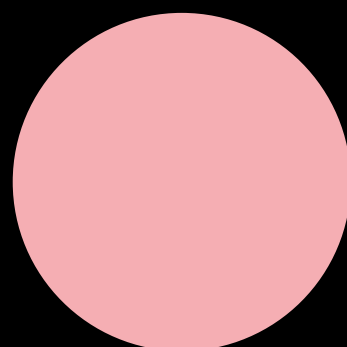
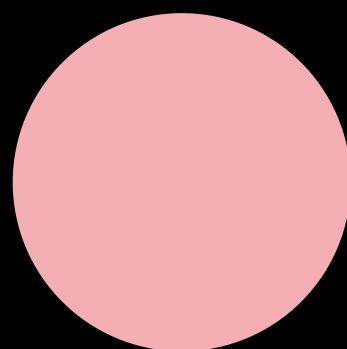


8 February 2021

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# Reclaim Party – Freedom of Speech Poll



Classified: Private

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## Headline results

## Methodology

Savanta ComRes interviewed 2,119 UK adults aged 18+ online from 5-7 February 2021. Data were weighted to be representative of population by age, gender, region, and socio-economic characteristics such as social grade. Savanta ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

## Summary

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? 'Freedom of speech in the UK is under threat.'

<b>Sum: Agree</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Sum: Disagree</b>	<b>24%</b>
Strongly agree	22%
Somewhat agree	28%
Neither agree nor disagree	22%
Somewhat disagree	15%
Strongly disagree	9%
Don't know	4%

Base: All respondents (n=2,119)

- Adults aged 55+ (28%) are more likely to disagree that freedom of speech in the UK is under threat than their younger peers (35-54: 21%, 18-34: 23%).
- Over three in five Leave voters agree that freedom of speech in the UK is under threat as opposed to less than half of Remain voters (62% vs. 45%).

Q. Thinking about each of the following time periods compared to now, to what extent do you think people in the UK were or were not freer to say what they think?

	5 years ago	10 years ago	20 years ago
<b>Sum: Freer to say what they think</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Sum: Less free to say what they think</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>23%</b>
Much freer to say what they think	21%	28%	35%
Slightly freer to say what they think	28%	20%	14%
No difference between now and then	31%	25%	20%
Slightly less free to say what they think	8%	11%	10%
Much less free to say what they think	4%	8%	13%
Don't know	7%	7%	8%

Base: All respondents (n=2,119)

- While around half of Brits feel that at each time period, people in the UK were freer to say what they thought – twice as many Brits feel that they were less free to say what they thought 20 years ago as opposed to 5 (23% vs. 12%).
- 2019 Conservative (53%) and 2016 Leave (58%) voters are more likely to say they felt freer to say what they thought 5 years ago than their Labour (46%) and Remain (43%) counterparts.

Q. To what extent do you believe that people in the UK are afraid or unafraid to speak their minds about each of the following issues or topics?

	Sum: Afraid	Sum: Unafraid	Very afraid	Somewhat afraid	Neither afraid nor unafraid	Somewhat unafraid	Very unafraid	Don't know
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Racial equality	<b>43%</b>	<b>27%</b>	14%	29%	24%	15%	12%	6%
Immigration	<b>43%</b>	<b>28%</b>	14%	29%	24%	16%	12%	6%
Transgender rights	<b>42%</b>	<b>25%</b>	14%	28%	26%	14%	11%	7%
Gay rights	<b>36%</b>	<b>30%</b>	10%	26%	27%	17%	13%	7%
Sexual activity	<b>33%</b>	<b>28%</b>	9%	24%	31%	16%	12%	8%
The #MeToo movement	<b>28%</b>	<b>24%</b>	9%	20%	31%	14%	11%	16%
Vaccinations	<b>25%</b>	<b>42%</b>	8%	17%	28%	19%	23%	5%
Government Coronavirus policies	<b>24%</b>	<b>43%</b>	7%	17%	28%	20%	23%	5%
Brexit	<b>24%</b>	<b>43%</b>	8%	16%	27%	19%	24%	5%
Climate change	<b>24%</b>	<b>43%</b>	8%	15%	28%	19%	24%	6%

Base: All respondents (n=2,119)

- A quarter of 2019 Labour voters feel afraid to speak their minds about climate change, as opposed to just a fifth of Conservative voters (25% vs. 20%).
- Twice as many 18-34 year olds feel afraid to speak their minds about government Coronavirus policies than adults aged 55+ (34% vs. 16%).
- Over a third of Londoners feel afraid to speak their minds over vaccinations in comparison to just a quarter of England overall (36% vs. 25%)
- 2019 Conservative (54%) and 2016 Leave (52%) voters are more likely to say they feel afraid to speak their minds about immigration than their Labour (36%) and Remain (37%) counterparts.
- 2019 Labour (27%) and 2016 Remain (26%) voters are more likely to say they feel afraid to speak their minds about Brexit than their Conservative (19%) and Leave (19%) counterparts.

Q. To what extent do you believe that people in the UK are afraid or unafraid to speak their minds when in each of the following situations?

	<b>Sum: Afraid</b>	<b>Sum: Unafraid</b>	Very afraid	Somewhat afraid	Neither afraid nor unafraid	Somewhat unafraid	Very unafraid	Don't know
When dealing with the police	<b>43%</b>	<b>23%</b>	13%	31%	26%	14%	9%	8%
When at work	<b>38%</b>	<b>24%</b>	9%	29%	28%	15%	9%	9%
When dealing with social workers	<b>38%</b>	<b>23%</b>	11%	27%	28%	14%	9%	11%
When dealing with teachers	<b>30%</b>	<b>29%</b>	8%	22%	32%	18%	11%	9%
When dealing with local councils	<b>29%</b>	<b>30%</b>	8%	22%	32%	18%	12%	8%
When dealing with doctors or nurses	<b>29%</b>	<b>34%</b>	6%	23%	30%	22%	12%	7%
When posting on social media	<b>23%</b>	<b>43%</b>	8%	15%	27%	20%	23%	8%
When talking with friends or family in public	<b>22%</b>	<b>45%</b>	5%	16%	28%	26%	19%	6%

When talking with friends or family at home	<b>12%</b>	<b>56%</b>	4%	8%	25%	23%	33%	6%
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Base: All respondents (n=2,119)

- 2019 Labour voters are significantly more likely than their Conservative peers to believe that people in the UK are afraid to speak their minds when at work (42% vs. 36%).

Q. To what extent do you have a favourable or unfavourable opinion of the Black Lives Matter movement?

<b>Sum: Favourable</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Sum: Unfavourable</b>	<b>31%</b>
Very favourable	18%
Somewhat favourable	19%
Neither favourable nor unfavourable	28%
Somewhat unfavourable	14%
Very unfavourable	17%
Don't know	5%

Base: All respondents (n=2,119)

- Half of young adults aged 18-34 have a favourable opinion of the BLM movement (51%) as opposed to just over a quarter of adults aged 55+ (27%).
- 2019 Labour (63%) and 2016 Remain (55%) voters are more likely to have a favourable opinion of the BLM movement than their Conservative (21%) and Leave (22%) counterparts.

Q. Some sports people are kneeling before matches and events to show solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. The gesture is sometimes referred to as 'Taking a knee'. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of this?

<b>Sum: Approve</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Sum: Disapprove</b>	<b>30%</b>
Strongly approve	19%
Somewhat approve	18%
Neither approve nor disapprove	28%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	19%
Don't know	4%

Base: All respondents (n=2,119)

- Over half of young adults aged 18-34 approve of athletes taking a knee in comparison to just a quarter of adults aged 55+ (55% vs. 25%).
- 2019 Labour (57%) and 2016 Remain (50%) voters are more likely to approve of athletes taking a knee than their Conservative (20%) and Leave (21%) counterparts.

Q. Imagining that you were a professional sportsperson, do you think you would, or would not 'take the knee'?

<b>Sum: Would</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Sum: Would not</b>	<b>42%</b>
Definitely would	20%
Probably would	24%

Probably would not	18%
Definitely would not	23%
Don't know	14%

Base: All respondents (n=2,119)

- Three in five young adults aged 18-34 would take the knee, as opposed to just a third of adults aged 55+ (59% vs. 34%).

Q. Some people have called for statues and paintings of historical figures to be removed from public spaces because of their past associations with colonialism, the slave trade and other historic events. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the removal of such statues and paintings of historical figures?

<b>Sum: Approve</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Sum: Disapprove</b>	<b>49%</b>
Strongly approve	12%
Somewhat approve	15%
Neither approve nor disapprove	19%
Somewhat disapprove	15%
Strongly disapprove	34%
Don't know	5%

Base: All respondents (n=2,119)

- Just a quarter of young adults aged 18-34 disapprove of removing statues and paintings of contested historical figures, in comparison to nearly three quarters of adults aged 55+ (23% vs. 72%).
- Whereas among 2019 Labour voters, there is greater approval than disapproval of removing statues and paintings of contested historical figures (43% vs. 32%), among their Conservative counterparts approval is heavily outweighed by disapproval (12% vs. 74%).

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? 'People should aspire to be politically correct.'

<b>Sum: Agree</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Sum: Disagree</b>	<b>33%</b>
Strongly agree	10%
Somewhat agree	21%
Neither agree nor disagree	30%
Somewhat disagree	18%
Strongly disagree	15%
Don't know	5%

Base: All respondents (n=2,119)

- 2019 Labour (44%) and 2016 Remain (39%) voters are more likely to agree that people should be aspire to be politically correct than their Conservative (26%) and Leave (24%) counterparts.

Q. Imagine that someone was found at work to have said something that is not politically correct. To what extent do you think that each of the following would have been a fair or unfair punishment?

	<b>Sum: Fair</b>	<b>Sum: Unfair</b>	Very fair	Somewhat fair	Somewhat here in	Somewhat unfair	Very unfair	Don't know
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					the middle			
An informal warning	<b>41%</b>	<b>24%</b>	9%	32%	29%	16%	8%	7%
No punishment at all	<b>31%</b>	<b>24%</b>	16%	15%	37%	17%	7%	9%
A formal warning	<b>29%</b>	<b>38%</b>	8%	21%	26%	23%	16%	7%
Dismissal	<b>14%</b>	<b>60%</b>	5%	9%	19%	20%	40%	7%

Base: All respondents (n=2,119)

- Men are significantly more likely than women to think that receiving no punishment at all for saying something that is deemed not politically correct at work is fair (37% vs. 25%).
- A quarter of 18-34 year olds (25%) believe that it is fair to dismiss a colleague for saying something that is deemed not politically correct at work, in comparison to just five per cent of adults aged 55+.

Q. To what extent do you, or do you not, consider each of the following a threat to freedom of speech?

	<b>Sum: A threat</b>	<b>Sum: Not a threat</b>	A serious threat	A moder- ate threat	Somew- here in the middle	Not much of a threat	Not a threat at all	Don't know
Social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram	<b>38%</b>	<b>28%</b>	17%	21%	26%	17%	11%	8%
The government	<b>34%</b>	<b>26%</b>	14%	20%	31%	18%	8%	9%
The BBC	<b>33%</b>	<b>31%</b>	14%	18%	27%	20%	11%	9%
The Labour Party in general	<b>31%</b>	<b>29%</b>	14%	17%	30%	19%	10%	11%
The police	<b>31%</b>	<b>28%</b>	11%	21%	32%	19%	9%	9%
The Conservative Party in general	<b>30%</b>	<b>29%</b>	12%	18%	31%	19%	10%	11%
Newspapers and magazines	<b>28%</b>	<b>31%</b>	10%	18%	32%	21%	11%	9%
Local councils	<b>27%</b>	<b>30%</b>	8%	19%	32%	21%	9%	10%
The private sector	<b>25%</b>	<b>29%</b>	7%	17%	35%	21%	8%	11%

Base: All respondents (n=2,119)

- Two in five young adults aged 18-34 believe that the government is a threat to freedom of speech in comparison to just over a quarter of adults aged 55+ (42% vs. 28%).
- Approaching half of 2019 Labour voters believe that the Conservative Party in general is a threat to freedom of speech, in comparison to just around one in seven Conservative voters (45% vs. 15%). In reverse, two in five 2019 Conservative voters consider the Labour Party a threat, in comparison to just a fifth of Labour voters (41% vs. 18%).