

## Farage to Miss Parliament Return for US Conservative Event

August 23, 2025

– Categories: Politics & Government



Download IPFS

Nigel Farage, leader of Reform UK, will be absent when the UK Parliament reconvenes on 1 September, opting instead to travel to Washington, D.C., to speak at the National Conservatism Conference. The two-day gathering, organized by the Edmund Burke Foundation, brings together prominent conservative figures from the United States and Europe. Farage is scheduled to deliver his keynote address on 2 September.

The conference agenda focuses on defending traditional values, national sovereignty, and policy strategies for conservative movements. Alongside Farage, attendees include former Democratic congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, Russell Vought, former director of the Office of Management and Budget under Donald Trump, and Kevin Roberts, president of the Heritage Foundation. The Heritage Foundation has played a central role in developing Project 2025, a policy blueprint outlining reforms in the event of a Trump administration return.

Farage's decision to attend the Washington event has drawn criticism from political opponents in the UK. A spokesperson for the Liberal Democrats said the move suggests Farage prioritizes alignment with U.S. conservatives over his parliamentary responsibilities. "His constituents expect him in Westminster, yet he is choosing international networking instead," the spokesperson added.

Supporters of Farage, however, defend his attendance, arguing it strengthens Reform UK's profile and fosters transatlantic links that could benefit British conservative politics. Farage has maintained a longstanding relationship with U.S. right-wing figures, including former President Donald Trump, and has previously spoken at American political rallies. His presence at the National Conservatism Conference underscores continuing ties between Reform UK and conservative movements abroad.

The National Conservatism Conference itself is regarded as a significant platform for global right-leaning leaders. Organizers describe the event as a venue for exchanging ideas, debating policy, and promoting conservative governance strategies. Farage's keynote is expected to focus on lessons from the UK political landscape and the role of Reform UK in shaping nationalist and populist agendas.

While Farage will be absent from Parliament on 1 September, his party insists that international engagement is part of building a broader strategy for the UK right. Analysts note that his presence in Washington may amplify Reform UK's messaging and foster collaboration with influential conservative figures across the Atlantic.

The timing of the trip coincides with ongoing political debates in the UK about parliamentary accountability and public engagement. Critics contend that elected representatives should prioritize legislative duties, especially amid discussions on domestic policies and national priorities. Farage's allies counter that participating in international conferences provides strategic insight and strengthens Reform UK's influence on global conservative initiatives.

Parliament will proceed as scheduled, with Farage notably missing from the opening session. His speech in Washington is expected to draw attention for its emphasis on transatlantic conservative alignment and policy exchange. Observers in both the UK and U.S. will be monitoring the implications of his attendance, particularly regarding potential impacts on domestic politics and the broader conservative movement.

Farage's absence highlights the balancing act between national duties and international engagement for political leaders. As Reform UK navigates its positioning within the UK political landscape, participation in forums like the National Conservatism Conference may shape its future direction and relationships with global conservative allies.