

SNP Moves to Force UK Recognition of Palestinian Statehood Amid Starmer Resistance

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The Scottish National Party (SNP) is stepping up its campaign for the formal recognition of Palestinian statehood, warning that it intends to bring the issue to a parliamentary vote unless the government acts. The move puts further pressure on Labour Party leader and

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, whose continued reluctance to support recognition is drawing criticism from across the political spectrum.

SNP Westminster leader Stephen Flynn made the party's position clear this week, stating, "Unless Keir Starmer stops blocking UK recognition of Palestine, the SNP will bring forward a vote in the House of Commons."

The growing push for recognition comes as international momentum builds. French President Emmanuel Macron has already backed Palestine's recognition, and similar calls are being echoed throughout Europe. Despite this, Starmer's government has held back, offering only vague commitments to support a two-state solution "when the time is right." Critics say that the stance lacks clarity and moral leadership.

Recognition of statehood is not merely symbolic; it's a formal declaration by a government that it views a particular entity as a sovereign nation. In the case of Palestine, such recognition by the United Kingdom would represent a major shift in foreign policy and could carry significant diplomatic consequences.

While Labour has historically been divided on the issue, Starmer's current leadership has taken a more cautious approach. That caution, however, is increasingly at odds with public sentiment and political pressure from parties like the SNP, Liberal Democrats, and even some backbenchers within Labour itself.

In a recent Commons session, Flynn accused Starmer of dragging his feet, stating that "now is the time for leadership, not hesitation." His comments reflect growing frustration among those who believe the UK should align with its allies in Europe and play a more active role in promoting peace and justice in the Middle East.

Despite calls for clarity, the government has not provided a timeline or firm position, instead deferring the matter to future diplomatic developments. Meanwhile, grassroots support for recognition has been building, with frequent demonstrations in major UK cities and increasing pressure from human rights organisations.

With the SNP now pledging to bring the matter to a vote, the issue is likely to become a flashpoint in Parliament. Should a vote proceed, it would force MPs from all parties to publicly declare their stance, potentially exposing further division within Labour ranks and putting Starmer's leadership under scrutiny once again.