

What's happening  
in the news?



Let's have a look at the poster

Voices





**Should we always be allowed  
to speak our minds?**

*Peter MacDiarmid / Shutterstock*



## Let's look at the story



The football programme, Match of the Day, was without a presenter last weekend as the main presenter, Gary Lineker, had a disagreement with the show's producers, the BBC.

The BBC expressed it was unhappy with some of his recent public social media posts. The comments he shared criticised the Government's new immigration plans. A few days later, the BBC apologised for the episode and said that Gary Lineker would be back to presenting. It also announced an 'independent review into its social media usage guidelines'.



Learn more about this story [here](#).

Watch the useful video [here](#).





Look at the information below to learn more about why Gary Lineker has been in the news.

## Why was Gary Lineker taken off air?

Gary Lineker tweeted criticism of the language used by some politicians in the Government. He said that the words used were similar to those 'used by Germany in the 30s'. Lineker refers to a time when the Nazi Party were in power in Germany. The BBC said it considered the presenter's 'recent social media activity to be a breach of our guidelines'.

Pictured below: Gary Lineker



Source: a\_marga

## What do people think?

Some people believe that Gary Lineker should be allowed to say whatever he chooses, particularly as the topic of immigration is something that is very important to him. On the other hand, others - including government politicians - feel that the language he used was not appropriate.

The BBC says it has told Gary that, 'He should keep well away from taking sides on party political issues or political controversies'. However, the corporation reiterated that it never said Gary should not be allowed to share his opinions, or that he can't have a view on issues that matter to him.





Read through the information below to learn more about the new refugee policies and what others think.

## What is the new government policy ?

Last week, the UK government announced a new plan to stop people, who arrive in the UK illegally, from being able to claim asylum and be given permission to stay. This has been done because of a significant increase in the number of people making the dangerous journey across the English Channel in small boats. If it becomes law, the bill will give the Home Secretary greater powers to send people arriving illegally back home, or to a safe country. It would also make it easier to prosecute people smugglers. However, many charities, other politicians and public figures, including Gary Lineker, disagree with these policies.

## What have people said about the new policy?

An immeasurably cruel policy directed at the most vulnerable people.

**Gary Lineker, Twitter**

It cannot be right that thousands of people are paying... organised criminals to make a... dangerous journey across the Channel.

**Home secretary, Suella Braverman**

The new law will not stop small boats crossing the English Channel, the way to stop the boats is to tackle the criminals who are driving the trade, which requires the establishment of a cross-border police unit.

**Keir Starmer, leader of UK Labour party**



## Main question

Should we always be allowed to speak our minds?

 **Listen**  **Think**  **Share**

- > Look at the poster image and talk about what we know about the BBC presenter, Gary Lineker. Does anyone know why he was taken off air from his usual Match of the Day presenting role?
- > Read through the news story and share your initial thoughts. Do you feel he should have been allowed to share his thoughts on the changes to the asylum policy?
- > Read the information found on Resource 1 and watch the useful video, which provides further details about Gary Lineker and why he was temporarily stopped from presenting. The BBC has said that its presenters should be 'impartial', meaning they shouldn't share their own opinion publicly.
- > Do you believe Gary Lineker and other TV presenters should be allowed to say whatever they like? Why?
- > Why do you think the BBC reversed its decision and said that Gary Lineker can go back to his role?
- > Resource 2 provides information about the new refugee policies and shares some people's opinions. Share your final thoughts on the big question. Do you agree that people should always be allowed to say what they think or do you feel that there are times when we should keep opinions private? In your view, does someone's fame make a difference, like Gary Lineker as a public figure?

## Useful Weblinks

- > **News story:**  
<https://news.sky.com/story/gary-lineker-to-return-to-hosting-sport-for-the-bbc-following-row-over-migration-tweets-12832734>
- > **Useful video:**  
[www.youtube.com/shorts/8COyJT8p8h4](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/8COyJT8p8h4)