

Boris Johnson will not apologise for burka comments

From the [in an article for The Telegraph](#) that women who wear face veils looked like bank robbers, prompting accusations he was stoking Islamophobia. Mr Lewis, the chairman of the Conservative Party, has called for him to apologise.

However an ally of Mr Johnson made clear that he would not be apologising, warning: "If we fail to speak up for liberal values then we are simply yielding ground to reactionaries and extremists. It is ridiculous that these views are being attacked – we must not fall into the trap of shutting down the debate on difficult issues."

Mr Johnson argued that Britain should not follow Denmark and other nations in banning women from wearing burkas, but warned that they are "oppressive" and that there is no "scriptural authority" for the practice in the Koran. Writing in the Telegraph,