

# Has Keir Starmer watched Groomed: A National Scandal yet?

Brendan O'Neill in the [Spectator](#)

I look forward to Keir Starmer hosting a special summit on the Channel 4 documentary, *Groomed*. And to hearing him gush about it every time a reporter puts a mic anywhere near his mouth. And to seeing his proposals for showing it to teens in schools across the land in order that we might prise open their innocent eyes to the dangers of so-called grooming gangs.

After all, he did all that for *Adolescence*, a Netflix [drama](#) about a made-up crime against a fictional working-class girl. So surely he'll do it for a documentary that lays out in grim, eye-watering detail the industrial-scale horrors that were inflicted on real working-class girls by gangs of mostly Muslim men in towns across England.

*Groomed: A National*

*Scandal* aired on Channel 4 last night. It is a searing piece of journalism, a fearless document of the barbarism of the rape gangs



and the unforgivable nonchalance of officials who looked the other way. Director Anna Hall deserves every accolade for getting this film out there, in the face of a cultural elite that would rather talk about anything else on earth than the brutalisation of white working-class girls by Muslim men.

Watching *Groomed* is an enraging experience. I think Hall intends it to be.

Horrendously, many of the girls were essentially blamed for their own abuse, for their own violent debasement. Social services called them 'promiscuous girls'. They were referred to as 'child prostitutes'. The moral pygmies and shameless cowards of officialdom were so determined to keep a lid on this scandal that they came to see the girls, rather than the men, as the villains, as the authors of their own terrible fates.

And then there was the racism card, the chief means by which discussion of these horrors was suppressed for so long. Local protest groups said the rape-gang members were victims of racism and were only being investigated because they were Muslims. In much of the liberal media and across the left, the cry went up: it's 'Islamophobic' to say there is a specific problem of Muslim grooming gangs.

But there was. In town after town. As *Groomed* documents in chilling detail, there was a 'pattern' of just such abuse: Muslim gangs exploiting what they viewed as the 'slags' of the white working class. There was a gross racial and religious supremacy in this decades-long crusade of misogynistic abuse. The social workers, cops, columnists and politicians who for years ignored or downplayed this scandal were not 'fighting racism' – they were condemning working-class girls to suffering.

What they called 'anti-racism' was in truth classism, a haughty and inhuman lack of concern for the violent subjugation of thousands of girls whose only 'crime' was that they were from the wrong side of the tracks.

Even the *Guardian* now seems to get it. Its review of *Groomed* acknowledges that, for some, avoiding the charge of 'racism' took precedence over stopping girls from 'being

beaten, raped and trafficked’.

This was the grossest accomplishment of identity politics: to depict concern for working-class girls as ‘bigotry’. To damn as ‘Islamophobes’ people whose only concern was to defend white working-class girls from Muslim gangs. These girls were sacrificed at the altar of preserving the ideology of multiculturalism. Their safety, their dignity, their very lives were seen as less important than that political imperative.

It’s this that makes the rape-gang scandal the greatest calamity of the postwar era. Everyone who was involved in this violent outrage against the working class should hang their heads in shame, from the perpetrators who did it, to the cops who ignored it, to the columnists who made excuses for it.

So, Prime Minister, have you watched *Groomed*? Will you be calling for it to be shown in schools and colleges? When will you be meeting with Hall and her heroic colleagues to discuss their work? And when will you be instituting the national inquiry into these horrors that everyone but the most morally blind now knows we need?