

How do we stop the coup? That is the question now

Published: January 13, 2026, 11:48 am

The last pretence that we live in a democracy in the UK collapsed yesterday. Johnson and Sunak received fines for attending a party that they always denied had taken place. They then immediately admitted their guilt, thereby confirming that a criminal act had been committed by them in contravention of the laws they were daily telling the country to comply with, and then they did not resign.

They lied to parliament.

They lied to the media.

They treated us with contempt.

They believe that they can do so again.

They ignored all the hurt of those who could not visit dying relatives of those who were dying, including in my own family, during this period as a result of those grieving people's compliance with the law.

They ignored parliamentary convention.

They ignored our unwritten constitution.

They ignore the ministerial code.

They pretend that they can carry on.

Carry on that is with their elected dictatorship, put in place with Russian support and Russian money that always had the objective of supporting the destruction of democratic systems and accountability, which is exactly what it is succeeding in doing.

What are the excuses for this descent into this fascist power grab in contempt of all accepted process? There are just two.

According to the Mail, echoing a Tory Party line, it is that we are at war and a party leader cannot be changed. Ignore that we habitually change party leaders in the UK during wars (WW1, WW2, the first Gulf War, and many more) there is another slight problem with this claim, which is we are not at war. There has been no such announcement. There is no engagement. We are, at best a bystander in the Ukraine war. In that case only war being pursued by Downing Street right now is on British democracy and the British people. And that, no doubt, is the war that the Mail is referring to in its headline today, which it says must continue uninterrupted.

And then there is the other problem for the Tories. With Sunak conveniently discredited by some strange coincidence in the days before this announcement by the Met and Truss revealing herself to be more mad by the day, there is literally no one the Tories can think of who can replace Johnson.

And that is why this crisis is so dangerous. Not only are we obviously facing a coup as all the accepted procedures of our democracy are trashed, we are facing it to sustain three things.

One is Boris Johnson's premiership, to which there is no apparent alternative.

Second, it is to defend the right of the Tory party to govern when it is clear it is absent of all the talents required to do so, and there are no heirs apparent, making quite clear that it has ceased to be a credible political party.

And third, it is to defend the rights of those who put the Tories in power, by which I meant their sponsors and not those who were gullible enough to vote for them. In other words, this is about maintaining Russian influence.

So three questions.

First, if Johnson will not go now does he ever accept that he might have to do so? After all, Trump did not?

Second, what will his policy be now to secure his entrenchment in office, knowing utterly incompetent and compromised Tory MPs now have almost no choice but vote for anything he suggests?

Third, is there any remote chance that Labour might step up to the mark and drop its tribalism with the intention of defending democracy now, because that is required?

I could have some hope if I know the answer to the last question, but to be candid I have very little expectation that Labour will do what is required now.

In that case I guess there is a fourth question, which is what next?

I will give Labour a chance to act responsibly in the national interest. After that, the

issue is on the table.