

Prejudice cannot be compatible with high office

Published: January 13, 2026, 12:57 am

I watched this interview by Ciaran Jenkins of Channel 4 News of Scottish finance minister and SNP leadership hopeful Kate Forbes with dismay.

https://twitter.com/c4ciaran/status/1627745647356006400?s=61&t=T9K5jTkIFHy_mRBqQGTi-A

The longest relationship in my life is with a gay man. He is my twin brother: my womb mate as I like to call him.

For as long as I have known about sexuality I have known that we have not shared ours. He was born gay. He is gay. I am proud he is my brother, that he is who he is. And his experience has been formative in my life.

As a result I am shocked and dismayed that anyone seeking to lead a political party anywhere in the UK, but most especially in Scotland, which is more liberal than average, can hold and promote the beliefs that Kate Forbes has and think they might be acceptable in 2023.

I accept Kate Forbes has been honest.

I also think she is wholly unsuited to lead the SNP. I would even question whether she is suited for the office she now holds. Prejudice cannot be compatible with high office, in my opinion.

Thos was a sorry moment in Scottish politics. I hope Kate Forbes is now persuaded to withdraw from the leadership race. She should.