

# Funding the Future

Article URL

Published: January 12, 2026, 5:12 pm

---

As the [FT notes this morning](#), in an article by a couple of their senior political journalists:

*The “demonising” of asylum seekers, immigrants and the legal profession by Conservative ministers helped prepare the ground for the far-right riots currently gripping the country, critics including senior politicians have warned.*

They added:

*They say that years of scapegoating by senior Tory figures helped stoke and normalise anti-immigrant feeling that in part fuelled the violence that has spread across England in the past week.*

Amongst the issues that they highlighted was Rishi Sunak's pledge to “Stop the Boats”, which was chanted by rioters last week. They also note former home secretary Suella Braverman describing the flow of asylum seekers to England's coast as an “invasion”.

Language matters. Tory politicians, with their allies at the Mail and Express, ably supported by the BBC with its persistent platforming of the far-right, created the narrative that is now being played out on some streets in England.

Labour is little better. They keep talking about the legitimate concerns of those rioting, but rioters do not have such concerns. Rioting and legitimate concerns are incompatible, as a matter of fact. And given that the concerns of rioters appear to be solely focused upon racist and Islamophobic intimidation and hatred, coupled with the deliberate spreading of fear, to suggest that they have legitimate concerns is to condone them.

What is true is that people do have concerns about poor housing, the lack of availability of opportunity in many parts of the country, low pay and the failure of public services. These are real grievances, but they are not the issues that those rioting are highlighting.

Worse, Labour is quite clearly promising to do nothing about any of these proper concerns in many communities. With its "We can only do what we can afford" austerity

mantra, and its indifference to redistribution, coupled with Wes Streeting's obvious aggressive cluelessness when it comes to the NHS, the one thing we can be sure it will deliver will be the status quo, or worse.

What this means is that the legitimate concerns of millions in society are not being addressed, and as a result, they will become increasingly willing to tolerate the behaviour of those who riot because many will eventually come to the conclusion that this might be the only way to effect change.

The Tories used language to create tension.

Labour appears to not comprehend the meaning of the language they are using.

Neither seems to have any interest in actually solving the problems in this country, which their major corporate donors want to get worse as the prelude for privatisation, as a result of which they think they will benefit from this current unrest.

So, we do not have is action to actually improve lives, which is the one thing that is quite emphatically required.