More in Common

JUSTICE

Monday 28 September

14:15 to 15:15

Derwent Arena Room, Secure Zone, ACC

Does the ECHR work for today's Britain?



Pieter Snepvangers
The Telegraph
(Chair)



Baroness Shami Chakrabarti
Peer in the House of Lords



Jake Richards MP
Minister for Sentencing, Human Rights and Technology



Zoe Bantleman
JUSTICE



Sophie Stowers
More in Common

Introducing the Seven Segments

The British Seven Segments were developed to move beyond traditional left-right or party-based analysis by exploring the deeper psychological, cultural, and value-driven foundations that shape public opinion.
This approach helps explain why political loyalties have fractured and offers a more nuanced understanding of what drives attitudes on issues like immigration, climate, and the economy—enabling more effective engagement with the public across a fragmented political and social landscape.



Progressive Activists



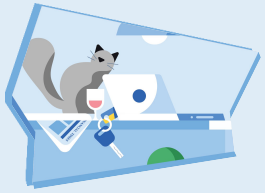
…an outspoken group that is politically engaged and globally minded, championing social justice but feeling alienated from mainstream politics

Incrementalist Left



…a group that leans left and trusts institutions, often stepping back from the news and avoiding politically fraught debates

Established Liberals



… a prosperous group that is confident in institutions, values expertise, and believes the system broadly works

Sceptical Scrollers



…a disengaged group that has lost trust in mainstream institutions and increasingly looks online for sources of truth

Rooted Patriots



…a patriotic group that feels overlooked by elites and wants leaders with common sense to protect local identity

Traditional Conservatives



… a nostalgic group that respects tradition, authority and personal responsibility, while remaining sceptical of rapid change

Dissenting Disruptors

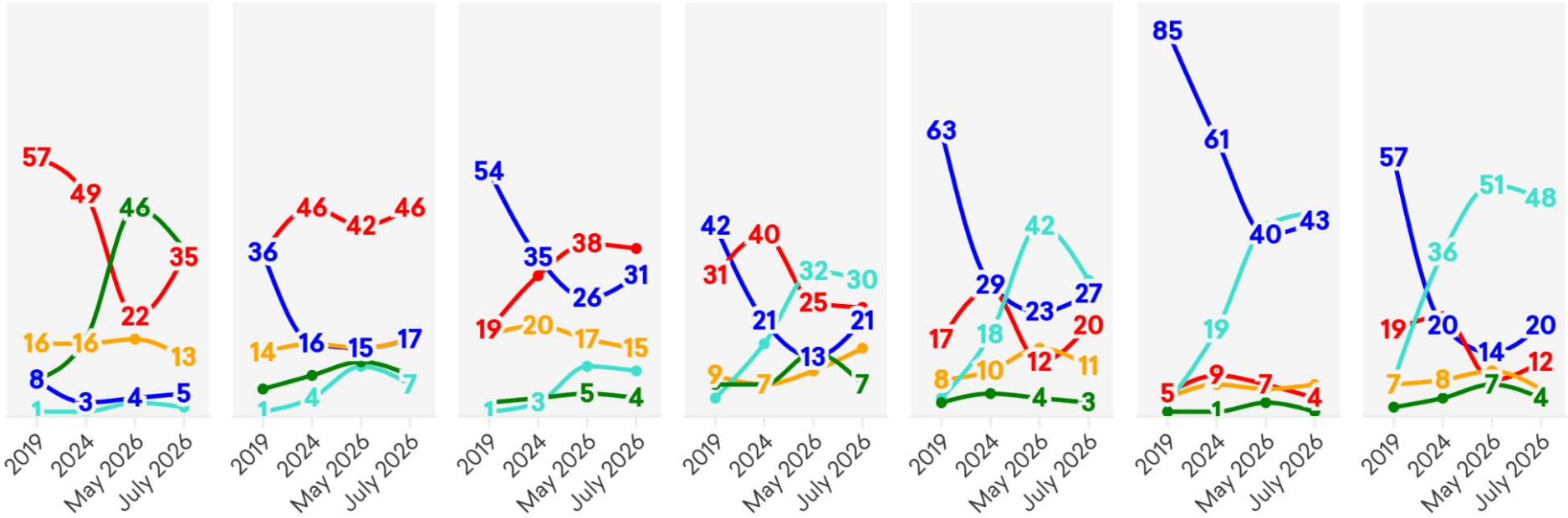


… a frustrated group that craves radical change and backs strong leaders who promise to shake up a broken system

How would the Seven Segments vote today?

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Progressive Activists	Incrementalist Left	Established Liberals	Sceptical Scrollers	Rooted Patriots	Traditional Conservatives	Dissenting Disruptors



Labour's 2024 coalition

The Seven Segments' views on the ECHR

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 **Progressive Activists**	The least likely to think Britain should leave the ECHR, and the only segment with a majority who say the UK shouldn't leave the ECHR even if it cannot be reformed
 **Incrementalist Left**	One of the groups most strongly opposed to leaving the ECHR, and also one of the most likely to think leaving would weaken rights and freedoms in the UK
 **Established Liberals**	A significant majority of this segment wishes to remain within the ECHR. The most likely to be concerned about cooperation on information sharing and security being impacted by leaving
 **Sceptical Scrollers**	This group is more divided on the ECHR but still tend to think we should remain a member, though they are the most likely to think leaving would have no impact on free speech in the UK
 **Rooted Patriots**	Rooted Patriots are divided but are slightly more likely to think Britain should leave the ECHR than remain. Support for remaining in falls if the ECHR cannot be reformed by the government.
 **Traditional Conservatives**	This group registers majority support for leaving, with a majority of Traditional Conservatives also thinking leaving would strengthen rights and freedoms within the United Kingdom
 **Dissenting Disruptors**	This group registers strong but not quite majority support for leaving the ECHR and is significantly more likely than average want to leave due to concerns over sovereignty.

Overview of Attitudes towards The ECHR

The more socially liberal segments tend to be more supportive of ECHR membership

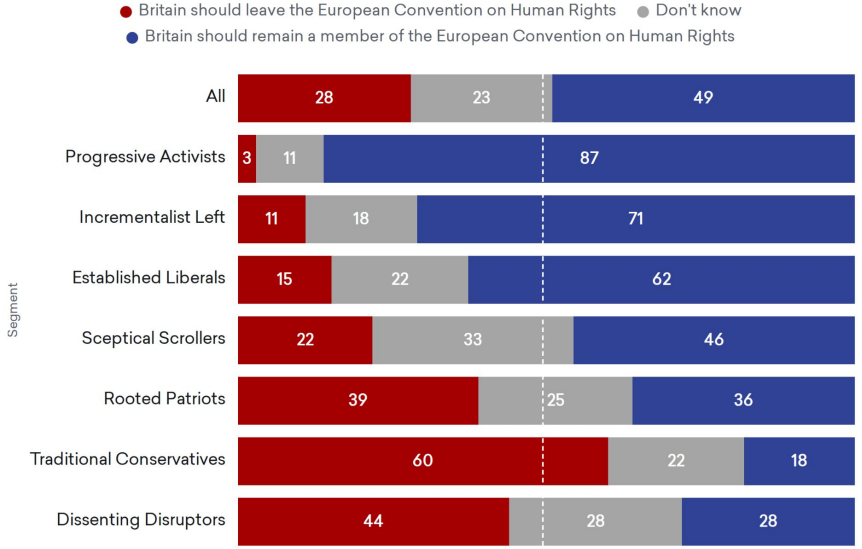
Overall, almost half of Britons want the UK to remain a member of the ECHR (49 per cent), while 28 per cent believe Britain should leave.

Traditional Conservatives, a segment that has historically been the backbone of the Conservative's support but has began to shift over to backing Reform UK since 2024, is the only segment that shows a majority in favour of leaving. Among Dissenting Disruptors, the segment at the core of Reform UK's support, 44 per cent believe we should leave, but over a quarter remain undecided.

The more progressive segments that make up much of Labour's voter coalition show majority support for remaining in the ECHR. However, the more socially conservative element of Labour's coalition, the 'Rooted Patriots' are split on the issue. Many of these voters are the ones that have been considering switching to Reform from Labour since 2024.

Britons tend to think we should remain an ECHR member

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?



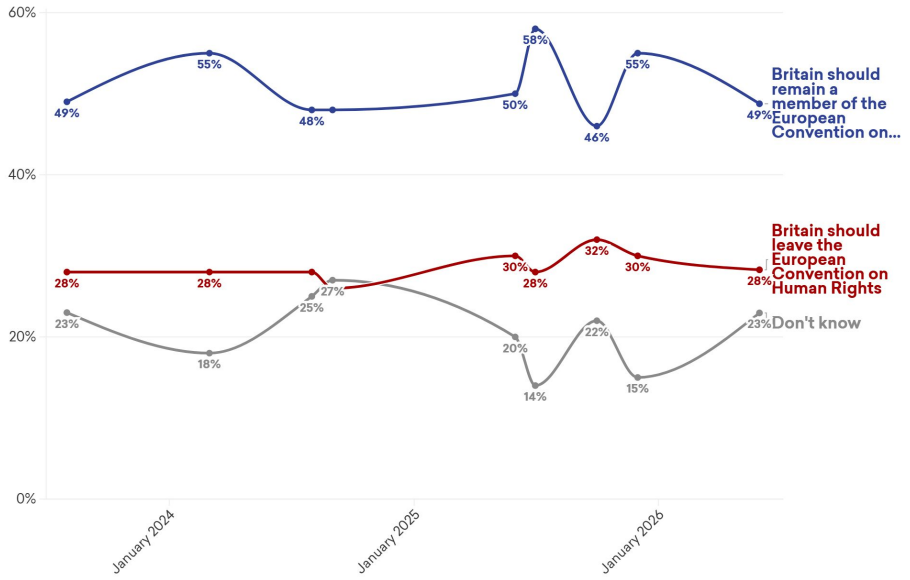
Support for remaining in the ECHR has not been static

The number of Britons saying the UK should remain a member of the ECHR – while always larger than the number saying Britain should leave since More in Common's tracking began – has been subject to change over time, fluctuating between 46 per cent to 58 per cent over the last two years. It reached its lowest point in October of last year, around the time that the Conservatives adopted the policy of leaving the ECHR. However even then, the growth in those who were unsure was larger than the growth in those believing Britain should leave.

In contrast the proportion of those who feel the UK should leave has stayed relatively stable over time, in spite of national conversations around migration.

Support for remaining in the European Convention on Human Rights over time

Which of the following come closest to your view?



Source: More in Common • Last fieldwork: June 2026

For those that do want to leave the ECHR, concerns over sovereignty and deportations dominate

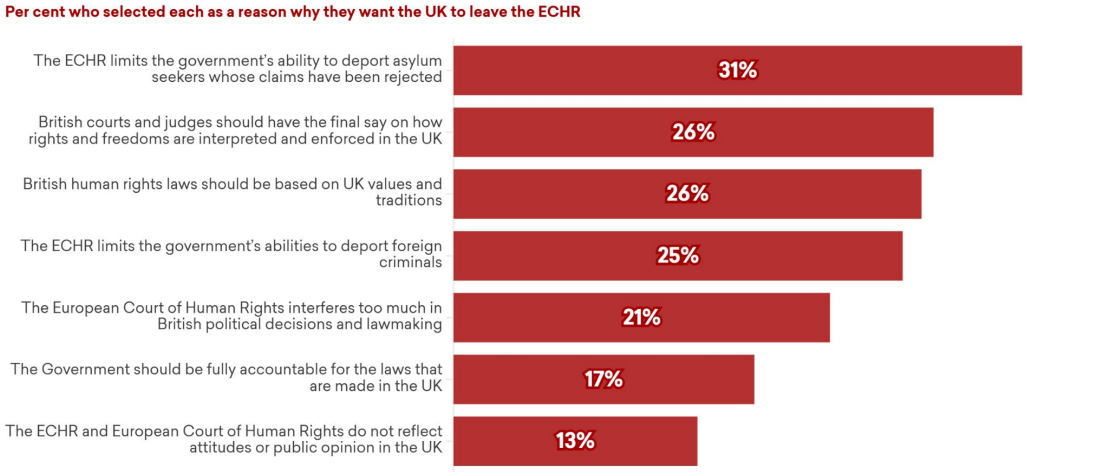
For the nearly one in three Britons that do want to leave the ECHR, their main reasons for wanting to do so are tied to sovereignty and deportations.

31 per cent say they want to leave the ECHR because it limits the government's ability to deport asylum seekers whose claims have been rejected, while 25 per cent say that the ECHR gets in the way of deporting foreign criminals.

Desires for more domestic control over rights, freedoms and lawmaking, and for decisions on rights and freedoms to be made in line with 'British values' are other live concerns among those who wish to leave the ECHR.

The most convincing arguments for leaving revolve around deportations and control over decision and rule making

You said you would like Britain to leave the European Convention on Human Rights. What are the main reasons why? (select up to three)



Source: More in Common, December 2025 • [those who wish to leave the ECHR]

Britons see leaving the ECHR as a possible way to regain control over borders

Britons tend to think that if Britain were no longer a member of the ECHR, the UK's ability to control legal and illegal immigration would be enhanced..

Britons tend to be more likely to think that leaving would be positive for the UK's ability to control migration than for its sovereignty, freedom of speech, or national security.

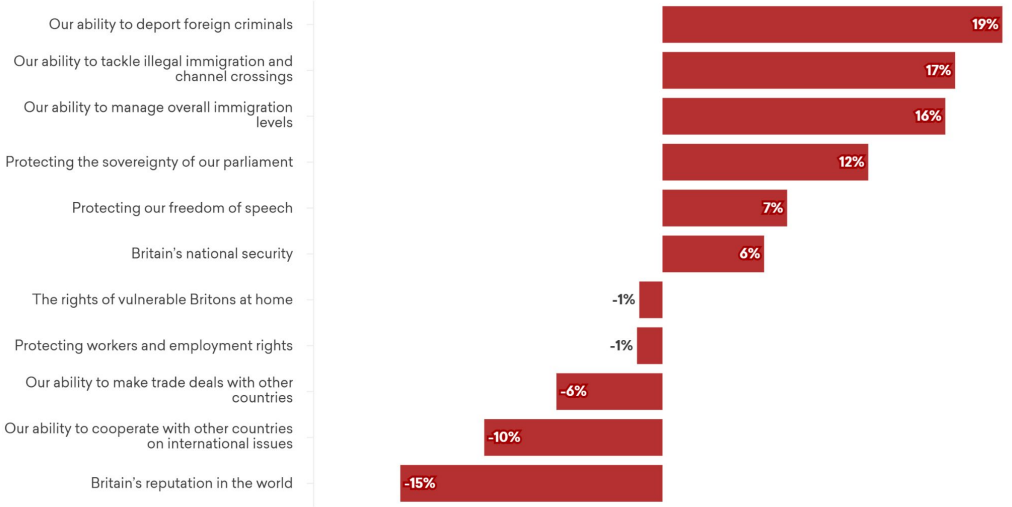
However, Britons tend to think leaving would overall damage the UK's international reputation and global relationships.

> *I think you probably may as well still leave because then you can put your own rules and laws and regulations in... Take a bit of control back*
>
> **Lucy, beauty therapist, Erewash, Rooted Patriot**

The public thinks leaving the ECHR would be a positive thing for the UK's ability to control legal and illegal immigration

On each of the following issues, do you think that leaving the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) would have a positive impact, a negative impact or no impact at all?

(Net positive %)



Source: More in Common, March 2025

And the public aren't completely convinced leaving would weaken rights in the United Kingdom

Britons are split on whether leaving the ECHR would worsen rights and freedoms in the UK. Half think they would get worse, while a quarter think they would stay the same, and another quarter think they would actually get better.

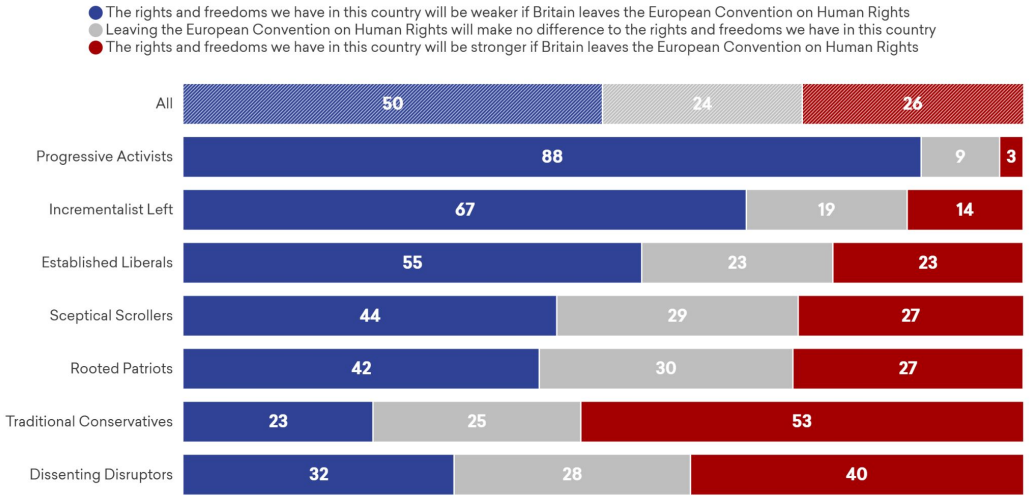
Most left-leaning segments feel rights would worsen, but many other groups are not convinced, with a majority of Traditional Conservatives thinking rights would be stronger.

EU regulation is actually not as good as the English one. So we pretty much disregard the EU anyway. So for me I think our own UK human rights are strong enough that I don't believe that the EU regulation is actually something which I think is even needed or required

Hadleigh, sales rep, Arundel and South Downs, Traditional Conservative

Half of Britons think leaving the ECHR would weaken rights and freedoms, while half think they would stay the same of get better

Which of the following comes closest to your view?



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Source: More in Common, December 2025

Channel crossings are Briton's dominant concern when it comes to migration

The segments most concerned about migration – and particularly those most concerned about small boats – also tend to be the most open to leaving the ECHR.

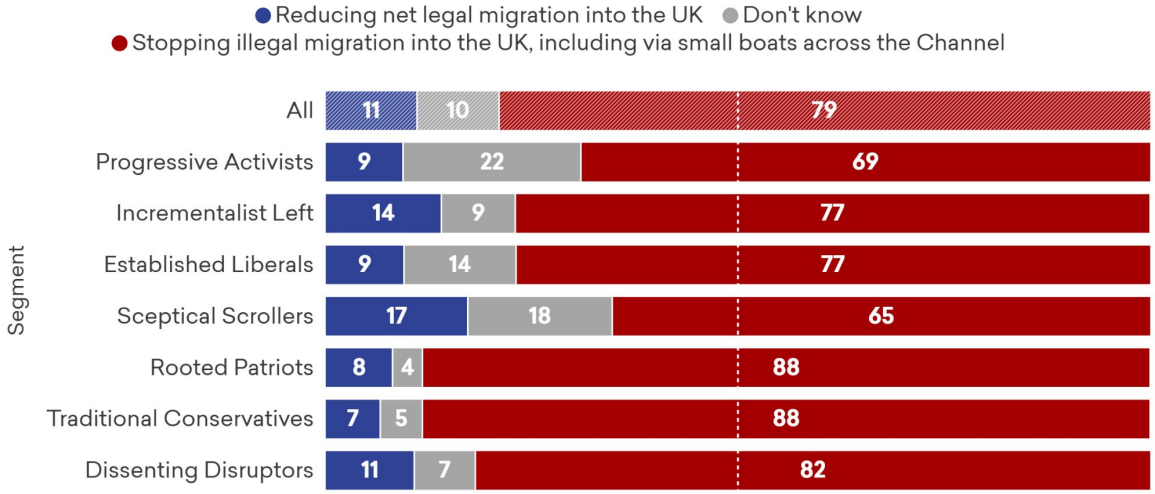
Small boats are the top migration concern for every segment, but what sets the more socially conservative groups apart is their willingness to see leaving the Convention as the answer to the small boats crisis.

And I think as a country, as a government, we are not doing enough... People are just pouring on beaches and just running up and going into the country and we don't know who they are, what they're doing.

Harrison, crane operator, Loughborough

Eight in ten Britons think the government should prioritise stopping small boat crossings

Which do you think should be the higher priority for the UK government?



A large majority of Britons want to be able to deport those crossing the channel by small boat

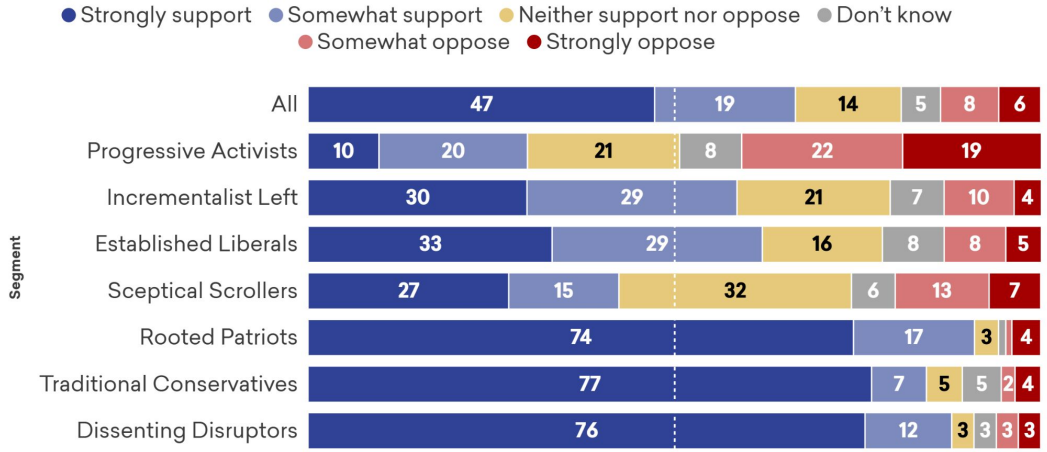
Two thirds of Britons support the deportation of anyone who enters the UK via a small boat crossing, compared to fewer than 15 per cent who oppose it.

The segments most supportive of deporting small boat arrivals also show the strongest desire to leave the ECHR. In focus groups, it is clear that many see the Convention as standing in the way of deportations, and this fuels their belief that Britain has to leave.

However, support for deportation in these circumstances is not confined to these groups. It reaches a majority even among the more socially liberal segments that were a key part of Labour's 2024 base, such as Established Liberals and the Incrementalist Left.

Support for deportation of channel migrants is significant even among socially progressive segments

To what extent would you support or oppose a policy to deport anyone who has entered the UK illegally such as by crossing the channel in small boats?



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The public sees small boats as an issue that is getting worse

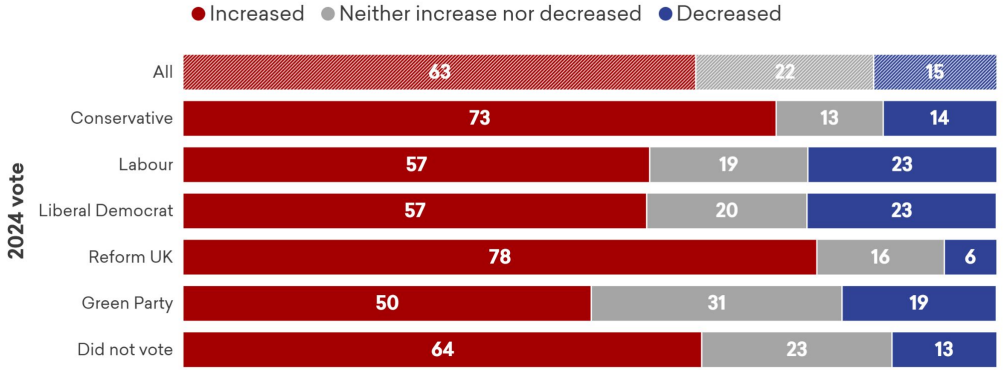
Two thirds of Britons, and a majority of voters across all party groups, believe the number of small boat crossings to the UK has increased this year.

In part, this may be fueled by lack of trust, with research from May 2026 suggesting 58 per cent of Britons simply do not believe government migration statistics.

Much of the concern about the ECHR stems from small boat crossings and a sense that those arriving cannot be removed. If the problem is not seen to be easing, support for leaving the Convention could keep growing.

Most Britons of all voter groups tend to think small boat crossings are up this year

In the past year, do you think the number of people arriving in the UK on small boats has...



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We've had another thousand illegal arrivals this week on 14 boats. That's every single week, and it can't continue. It's going to create civil unrest. It already is creating civil unrest. It's creating a huge economic burden on the public purse

Ray, motorcycle instructor, Cambridgeshire, Rooted Patriot

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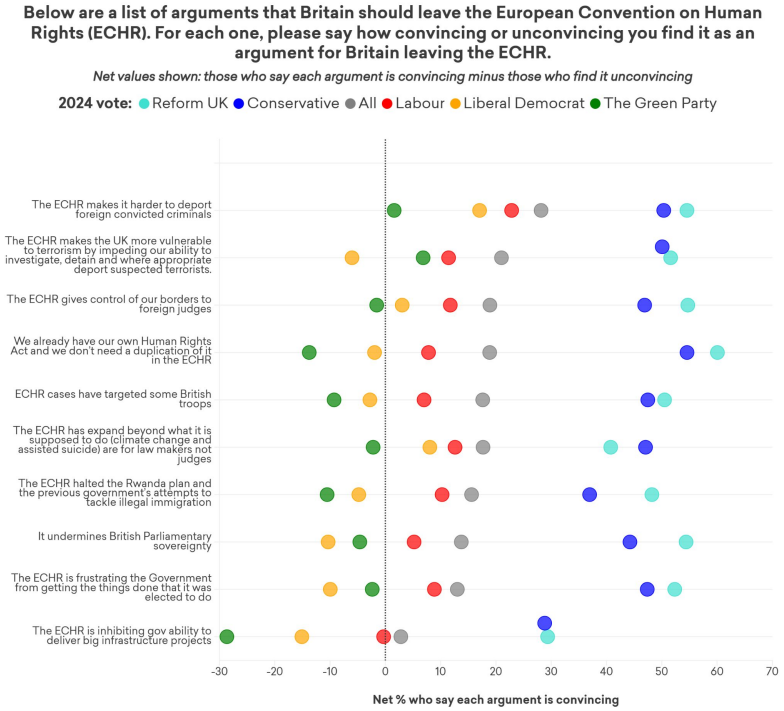
The most convincing arguments for leaving revolve around the deportation of foreign criminals and terrorists

For the public, the most convincing argument for leaving the ECHR is that it makes it harder to deport foreign criminals.

This is followed by the argument that the ECHR makes the UK more vulnerable to terrorism through impeding investigative process and the UK's ability to detain suspected terrorists.

Labour's 2024 voters are less likely than the average Briton to find various arguments for leaving convincing, but for every argument more of them find it convincing than not.

Even more progressive voters do not reject the case against the ECHR outright. On some sovereignty and migration arguments, 2024 Liberal Democrat and Labour voters are split on whether the anti-ECHR arguments are convincing.



Many who want to leave the ECHR think it's only worth it if this stops the boats

Across the three largest parties, those who do want to leave the ECHR are split on whether it would be worth it if the boats didn't stop.

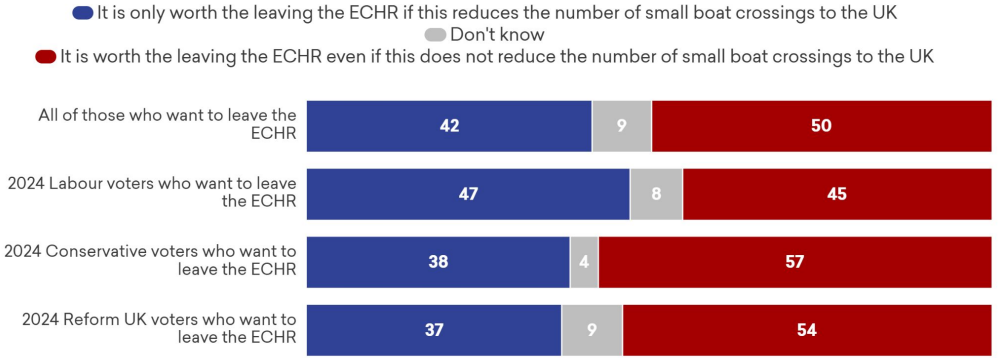
2024 Conservative and Reform UK voters are more likely to say it would be worth it regardless, however two in five of them think it wouldn't be worth it if small boats keep coming to the UK.

2024 Labour voters who want to leave the ECHR are more likely to say this is only worthwhile if it reduces small boat crossings than to say it is worthwhile either way.

This suggests that for many of the 'leavers' in Labour's 2024 voter coalition, their support for leaving the Convention is predicated on the assumption that doing so would impact small boat crossings.

Those who do want to leave are split on whether it would be worth it if the boats didn't stop

Which of the following statements about the European Convention on Human Rights comes closest to your view?



Source: More in Common, December 2025

Almost a quarter say Britain should only leave the ECHR if it cannot reform it

Although Britons tend to want to remain in the ECHR rather than exit it, this does not mean that they are content with the ECHR as it currently stands.

Only one in three Britons are content to remain in an unreformed ECHR. Just under a quarter either want to leave the ECHR if it cannot be reformed, or take the most hardline view of leaving even if it can.

Only Progressive Activists, the most liberal element of Labour's support, show majority support for remaining in the ECHR even if it cannot be changed.

Support for remaining in the ECHR drops to 1 in 3 if it cannot be reformed

Which of the following comes closest to your view?



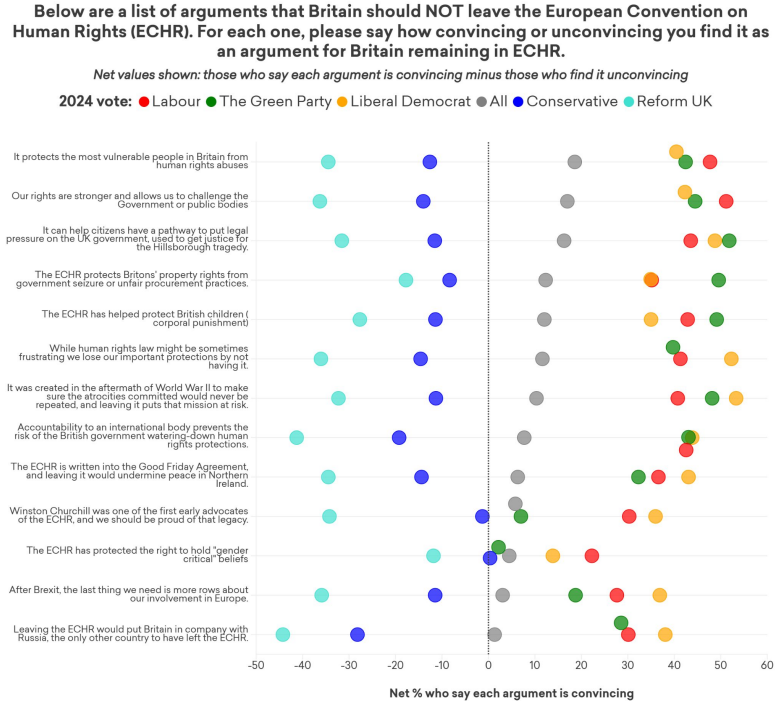
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The most convincing arguments for staying in the ECHR link to protecting human rights and challenging the government

Those who voted Liberal Democrat, Green or Labour in 2024 are much more likely than Reform or Conservative voters to be convinced by the positive arguments for staying in the ECHR.

However, a large part of Labour's 2024 base is made up of Rooted Patriots. This segment is more socially conservative and concerned about migration and less strongly committed to remaining in the ECHR. They are also more persuadable than other anti-Convention segments.

This suggests that arguments about the Convention strengthening our rights and allowing us to challenge the government and public bodies could be effective ways of making the case for the ECHR, particularly among those yet to form a firm view. Even so, the migration question is likely to loom large.



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Source: More in Common • March 2025