

Governing Without Consensus: Labour Under Keir Starmer

Introduction : “Labour keeps repainting the walls but the foundations are crumbling.” This assessment from *The Conversation* captures the shared concern running through the dossier at hand which examines the growing crisis surrounding Keir Starmer’s leadership only a year after Labour’s landslide victory in 2024. The dossier explores how Starmer’s authority has been progressively weakened and how a combination of political missteps, ideological divisions, and strategic uncertainty is threatening his grip on leadership, thus forcing Labour to confront fundamental questions about its direction and identity.

Part 1 : Starmer’s U-turns on welfare and taxation, combined with damaging personnel controversies, have undermined his original promise of stable and competent government.

Transition : Because these choices increasingly depart from traditional Labour positions, they have intensified ideological discomfort inside the party.

Part 2 : Backlash over hardline asylum measures and welfare changes demonstrates how far parts of the parliamentary party feel the leadership has drifted from Labour’s core principles.

Transition : Precisely because this disagreement concerns Labour’s identity rather than individual policies, critics argue that piecemeal adjustments can no longer address the problem.

Part 3 : Brand strategists, internal opponents, and potential rivals suggest that without a clearer vision and narrative, Labour cannot rebuild public trust—regardless of who occupies ministerial posts.

Conclusion : Across all five documents, worries about Starmer’s performance, divisions within Labour, and proposals for a wholesale reorientation converge into a single issue: the party is debating not only how to govern in the present, but who should define its purpose for the future.