

ANDREW MARR SHOW, 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016

SADIQ KHAN, MAYOR OF LONDON

AM: Welcome, Sadiq Khan. Congratulations on your victory. As you were going through that campaign did it feel to you like it was a racist campaign directed at you?

SK: Well, it was a divisive and nasty campaign and others have commented on that. What was quite clear for me –

AM: Did you think it was racist?

SK: Well look, it's for others to you know, describe what they thought the campaign was like. I personally thought that the contest should be fought in relation to alternatives. I had a positive vision for our city, how are we going to tackle the housing crisis? What are the challenges facing Londoners in relation to fares going through the roof? How do we support businesses to grow and expand, to flourish and thrive, so more Londoners can get a living wage, more Londoners can get a good quality of pro... How do we bring back neighbourhood police and address issues of security? And I was disappointed that the Conservative Party chose to have a campaign that was nasty, that was negative and that was divisive.

AM: Did you feel that in effect they were saying, Sadiq Khan is a Muslim and therefore we can't trust him with Londoner's safety?

SK: Well, people were approaching me during the campaign, dozens and dozens and dozens of parents, uncles and aunties, grandparents saying look, we've done well in business or in accountancy or in law and we're encouraging our children and nephews and nieces, our grandchildren to get involved in politics. But you know, after we've seen the way you've been treated why should we? After we see what you've gone through why should

we? And I've spent my entire life encouraging minority communities, encouraging those under incentive to get involved in civic society, to get involved in mainstream politics. I've been fighting extremism and radicalisation all my life. And I think, you know, when you conduct politics you should conduct it in a positive way to energise, to enthuse people to get involved in politics.

AM: The Labour Party's now got an inquiry into anti-Semitism inside the party which I think you felt damaged your campaign to certain extent in the final stages. My question is, do you think the Conservatives now have a question to answer? Do you think they ought to be investigating racism in the Conservative Party?

SK: Well can I say, it's not about my campaign. Look, I've suffered hate crime. I know what it's like to be different. As a Londoner, as a human being I don't feel right that people are the victims of hate crime because of their faith or ethnicity, and that's why as soon I heard appalling and disgusting comments I spoke about them. There should be no place in our party for people with appalling and disgusting views. And my point is this. We live in the greatest city in the world. I'm humbled and proud that my city has chosen me to be the Mayor of London. You know when I was growing up I couldn't have imagined being the Mayor of London. Now the great thing about London is this. Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sheiks, Buddhists – those who aren't a member of an organised faith, don't simply tolerate each other, we respect, we embrace and we celebrate each other, and that's why we're the beacon to the rest of the world.

AM: London is probably the world's greatest melting pot experiment in terms of whether people of very conservative religious views can live alongside people of very liberal, non-religious views. How are you going to kind of steer this city in that regard over the next four years?

SK: Well look, throughout my life I've been tackling inequality and injustice. When I first stood for parliament in 2005 there were people who were protesting against me taking part in manmade law and other experiences during the course of my life. You know the great thing about my campaign is we brought people together. We brought people together from different backgrounds, rich, poor, old, young, black, white, gay, lesbian, from different faiths and yesterday's signing in ceremony I think spoke about the best of our city in Southwark Cathedral with leaders of all faiths and those who aren't members of an organised faith, coming together to celebrate, not just the great weather, but the Mayor of our great city.

AM: The one person who wasn't there, the Leader who wasn't there celebrating was Jeremy Corbyn himself. And you have written what appears to be a not terribly coded attack on the direction of the Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn. Can I ask you, the way the Labour Party is facing now nationally, not simply in London, do you think you're well placed to win a general election in 2020?

SK: The short point I'd make is this. Look, we in Labour, our mission is to improve people's lives and change people's lives for the better. We only do that by winning elections. By having a mandate to improve people's lives. What are the challenges facing Londoners? How do you tackle the housing crisis? How do you ensure we have a modern and affordable transport system? How do young people get skills of tomorrow? How to do keep our city safety, how do we tackle air quality? And my point is this. We only do that by speaking to those people who previously haven't voted Labour. By speaking to Tory voters, by speaking to those outside of our tent. And my point is we've got to stop talking about ourselves. We've got stop talking about process and we're talking about the issues that matter to citizens.

AM: If I was Jeremy Corbyn I might be saying, but hold on a second, I talk about all those issues, I talk about transport, I talk about housing, what is the problem? And actually I would be saying and with my face all over posters we have done rather well, the Labour Party in the south east and Sadiq Khan owes some of his success to me.

SK: Well look, success has many parents and I think what's important is the victory on Thursday was a victory for London, because what it showed was that you know, London chose you know hope of a fair and unity over division. My point is very simple. We've got to stop talking about ourselves and start talking to citizens about the issues that matter to them. How we support small businesses to expand and grow? How do we encourage entrepreneurs to do well? How do we tackle the housing crisis? How do we skill up our youngsters for the jobs of tomorrow and I'm looking forward to being a mayor of a great city and can I just say this and it's really important I start as I mean to go along, I can't promise great weather during my entire Mayoralty, but I'll try myself.

AM: That's outrageous and very upset to hear that. Now you said in your article in the Observer today that your slogan has been a Mayor for all Londoners. You've just explained that. 'It should never be about picking sides, a them or us attitude.' Was that reference to – I'm going to show you a poster now that the Labour Party ran during the campaign. 'Elections are about taking sides.' You were directly attacking Jeremy Corbyn's campaign there weren't you?

SK: My point is this. I want a big tent, you know, whether you're a Conservative trying to be the Mayor of London, or a Labour Party trying to form the next government, we've got to speak to

everyone. There's no point in us just speaking to Labour voters, our core vote.

AM: And do you think that's what's been going on?

SK: What we need to do is speak to everyone. That means me speaking to chief executives, means speaking to people who voted Conservative last time, UKIP or stayed at home. Us speaking and listening to everyone and having the solution to the challenges people face, but also fulfilling the aspirations people have as well.

AM: Looking through the papers it's almost comic. We can't work out whether Jeremy Corbyn's been trying to get hold of you for a press conference and a photo call or you've been trying to get hold of him. Anyway, you keep missing each other in the night. Are you going to meet each other today?

SK: I think we're seeing each other tomorrow. But I've been really busy. Look, I got into work yesterday in City Hall at 8 o'clock in the morning. I've had six hours sleep since Wednesday. I've got a full day today, I'm going to the National Holocaust Commemoration today. I'm going to be a full time mayor with the political will to fix the problems Londoners face.

AM: Do you understand and do you welcome the fact that you are going to be as it were, a sort of centre of attention for the Labour Party nationally? People are going to be looking at how you run London and trying to find lessons for the rest of the UK in that.

SK: You know my mandate is to be the mayor for all Londoners and I want to do the best job I can. You know, it's not a trite point but you know I couldn't dream of being the mayor of that great city and I want all Londoners to have their potential fulfilled. I want all Londoners to have the chance to do whatever they want to do. Whether it's to be a chief executive, whether it's to be a

youth worker, whether it's to be a preacher. And what I want to do is make sure that I make our city better. And if others want to you know, learn from that, how to campaign and win elections or how to run a successful administration, I'm happy to talk to them.

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