

Charlie Kirk's Most Controversial Comments (Since Founding of TPUSA)

Charlie Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA, built his brand on **provocative and polarizing rhetoric**, often courting backlash for remarks widely denounced as racist, sexist, xenophobic, or otherwise inflammatory. Below we catalog some of his most **controversial comments**, in **his own words**, along with context (where/when he said them) and the reactions they provoked. The examples are grouped by topic for clarity.

Racist and White Nationalist Remarks

- Questioning Black Professionals' Competence: Kirk repeatedly suggested that Black Americans achieve positions of success due to affirmative action rather than merit. For example, in January 2024 he said on his podcast, "If I see a Black pilot, I'm going to be like, boy, I hope he's qualified."

 1 He made this remark in the context of criticizing airline diversity hiring, implying doubt about a Black pilot's abilities. The comment was widely decried as racist, and even Kirk's appearance on Megyn Kelly's show to defend himself ("anybody of any skin color can become a qualified pilot") did little to quell the backlash

 2 Critics argued Kirk was perpetuating a harmful stereotype that Black professionals are inherently less competent

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- "Prowling Blacks" and Crime Tropes: In May 2023, on *The Charlie Kirk Show*, he claimed that "prowling Blacks go around for fun to go target white people, that's a fact. It's happening more and more." ⁴ This false, racially charged trope portraying Black people as predators of whites was condemned by observers as blatant race-baiting. Progressive watchdogs noted it as an example of Kirk pushing the narrative of "Black crime" to stoke fear ⁵. Similarly, in November 2023 he asserted that "Black crime is a major issue in our country," while even complaining that the term "Karen" (a label for entitled white women) is a "slur" against whites ⁵.
- Affirmative Action and Black Women: Kirk often suggested that prominent Black women owed their success to unfair advantages. In a January 2024 episode, he derided a "moronic Black woman" working in customer service, insinuating she might only be there "because of affirmative action" rather than competence 6. He went further in July 2023, naming Black public figures like Joy Reid, Michelle Obama, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as "affirmative action picks." Kirk sneered that these women "had to go steal a white person's slot" and lacked the brainpower to be taken seriously otherwise 7. Such comments were slammed as overtly racist and sexist, essentially dismissing Black women's achievements as unearned.
- **Denigrating Civil Rights Icons and Laws:** In late 2023, Kirk openly turned against the legacy of the civil rights movement. Speaking at TPUSA's AmericaFest conference, he declared, "MLK was awful. He's not a good person" a shocking reversal from his earlier praise of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 8 9. He also proclaimed, "We made a huge mistake when we passed the Civil Rights Act in the 1960s." 10 Kirk argued that the 1964 Civil Rights Act created a "permanent DEI-type bureaucracy" and even claimed it threatens free speech 11 12. These remarks drew **immediate outrage**, with many saying that "if

that isn't racist, I don't know what is," since the Civil Rights Act outlawed segregation 13. Even fellow conservatives voiced discomfort – his stance directly undermined one of the most important legal protections for Black Americans, cementing critics' view that Kirk was hostile to civil rights 14. 15. On Martin Luther King Day 2024, Kirk doubled down on social media, calling King a "mythological" hero and arguing America has worsened by "worshipping" King – claims that political leaders across the spectrum sharply criticized 16. 17.

- **George Floyd and BLM:** Kirk also attacked victims of racial injustice and the Black Lives Matter movement in derogatory terms. During an October 2021 campus tour in Minnesota, he referred to George Floyd the Black man murdered by Minneapolis police as a "scumbag." ¹⁸ He pushed **debunked claims** that Floyd died of a drug overdose and downplayed the outcry over Floyd's killing as an "overreaction" driven by "corrupt voices" ¹⁹ ²⁰. These comments were **widely condemned** as callously racist and insensitive to police brutality. Kirk was equally scathing toward the Black Lives Matter movement, saying "BLM stands for burn, loot, murder" and suggesting it should be legal to burn the BLM flag ²¹ ²². Such rhetoric reinforced critics' accusations that Kirk consistently demonized Black activists and trivialized Black Americans' suffering under systemic racism.
- White Nationalist "Replacement" Theories: Kirk frequently trafficked in the white-nationalist "great replacement" conspiracy theory. He alleged Democrats "love it when America becomes less white" and "wanna see it collapse." ²³ On multiple occasions in 2024, he claimed there is a deliberate strategy to "replace white, rural America with something different" via immigration ²⁴. Kirk warned his followers that "they won't stop until you and your children and your children's children are eliminated." ²⁵ ²⁶ This apocalyptic language painting white Americans as under existential threat was widely denounced. Experts noted it mirrored the rhetoric of far-right extremists; as one policy scholar said, "This is the federal law that ended segregation... if that isn't racist, I don't know what is." regarding Kirk's assault on civil rights law ¹³. Kirk's embrace of "replacement" theory drew sharp criticism from civil rights organizations and mainstream commentators who warned such ideas fuel racial hatred and violence.

Sexist and Misogynistic Remarks (Gender & Reproductive Rights)

- Attacks on Feminists and Female Autonomy: Kirk has made numerous disparaging comments about women, especially those who espouse feminist views. A striking example came in August 2025, when news broke of pop star Taylor Swift's engagement to NFL player Travis Kelce. Instead of offering congratulations, Kirk launched into a misogynistic tirade on his show: "Reject feminism. Submit to your husband, Taylor. You're not in charge." 27 He urged the successful singer to leave "the island of the wokeys" and start having children, effectively telling her to abandon her career for a traditional homemaker role 28. This clip went viral, garnering millions of views and sparking outrage among Swift's fans and women's rights advocates. Swift supporters and commentators lambasted Kirk's remarks as sexist and patronizing, accusing him of treating a accomplished woman as if she should be subservient to a man 29. (Some of Kirk's own followers, however, cheered the message, reflecting the divide in reception 30.)
- **Hardline Anti-Abortion Stances:** On reproductive rights, Kirk espoused extreme positions that shocked even some conservatives. He believes there is "no such thing as an unwanted child" and has equated abortion with genocide. In a September 2024 debate show, he was asked if he'd support his hypothetical 10-year-old daughter getting an abortion after a rape; Kirk answered bluntly, "The

answer is yes, the baby would be delivered." ³¹ This stance – forcing a child rape victim to carry a pregnancy to term – was condemned as **cruel and extreme**, highlighting Kirk's absolutist opposition to abortion even in cases of rape or incest. Kirk also infamously compared abortion to the Holocaust: he argued in 2023 that "45 million babies [aborted]... it's nearly eight times worse than the Holocaust." When pressed if he truly meant that comparison, Kirk doubled down: "It's worse... What's the moral difference between a small baby in the womb and a grown Jew who is killed at Auschwitz?" ³² ³³ . This inflammatory analogy drew **immediate backlash**. Jewish groups and others slammed him for trivializing the Holocaust, and pro-choice advocates noted it demonized women as equivalent to Nazis. Kirk's rhetoric on abortion – invoking Auschwitz and "mass elimination" – exemplified the charged language that made even many Americans who oppose abortion uncomfortable with his approach.

• **General Misogyny:** Beyond specific incidents, Kirk regularly disparaged modern women's equality movements. He urged women to reject feminism and embrace traditional gender roles, often suggesting that society works better when women are homemakers and men lead. For instance, Kirk has insisted that career-focused or feminist women are on the "wrong track" and should instead "have a ton of kids" and serve their husbands ³⁴ ³⁵. Such statements have been criticized as **misogynistic throwbacks**, earning Kirk rebukes for trying to roll back women's rights and autonomy to 1950s-era norms.

Anti-LGBTQ+ and Transphobic Remarks

- "Mental Disease" and Refusal of Trans Identity: Kirk has been an outspoken opponent of LGBTQ+ rights, particularly targeting transgender people with demeaning language. He flatly "rejects the entire premise of transgenderism," as he told his audience, and refuses to use individuals' preferred pronouns. "I will not call a man a woman or a woman a man... I think it's a mental disease," Kirk said, describing gender dysphoria as "a lie that hurts people." ³⁶ ³⁷ He argued there are "two sexes, zero genders," labeling what others call gender identity as merely personality disorders that should be treated psychologically, not affirmed ³⁸. These remarks were condemned by medical experts and LGBTQ advocates, who noted they spread misinformation about transgender people and stigmatized a vulnerable minority.
- Slurs and "Groomer" Smears: Kirk's commentary often descended into outright slurs against LGBTQ individuals. He frequently described the LGBTQ community as an "agenda" out to corrupt society, and he smeared gay and trans people as "groomers" implying they sexualize or prey on children ³⁹. On social media in 2023, he wrote: "A groomer is a person who pushes grossly inappropriate sexual topics onto young children...Turning Point does none of those things," seeking to defend his own organization while using the baseless "groomer" trope against others ⁴⁰. Kirk also resorted to derogatory slurs: he has called transgender people "freaks" and even used the transphobic slur "try" on numerous occasions ³⁹. In fact, Kirk bragged* on one podcast that on alternative platforms like Rumble he could say such slurs freely ⁴¹. These words drew heavy backlash** from LGBTQ+ communities and allies, who condemned his language as hate speech. Even some conservative commentators kept a distance from Kirk's more crude slurs, though they tacitly supported his underlying opposition to trans rights.
- Calls for Punishment and Violence: On multiple occasions, Kirk's anti-trans rhetoric veered into apparent calls for violence or state persecution. He infamously argued on his show in April 2024 that

"We need to have a Nuremberg-style trial for every gender-affirming clinic doctor... We need it immediately." 42 By invoking Nuremberg, he likened doctors providing gender-affirming care to war criminals, implying they should be tried and potentially executed. Healthcare professionals, LGBTO organizations, and many others expressed horror at this statement, noting it could incite violence against doctors and transgender patients. Additionally, Kirk praised the June 2023 Supreme Court ruling (303 Creative v. Elenis) that allowed businesses to refuse service to LGBTQ people, calling it a victory for "the ability to say no" and urging more rollbacks of LGBTQ protections 43 44 . Perhaps most disturbingly, Kirk appeared to **endorse mob justice** against trans people. In one 2022 event, referencing transgender athlete Lia Thomas, Kirk fantasized that in the 1950s "the fathers of every other competitor would've... formed a line" to physically prevent a trans woman from competing, asking "tough guy, you want to get in the pool? 'Cause you're going to have to come through us." 45. In February 2023 he went even further, suggesting that men in the past "dealt with" such people, implying violence akin to lynching 46. These remarks were widely denounced in the media as incitements to anti-trans hate. Trans activists pointed out that Kirk's rhetoric normalized the idea of vigilante attacks on transgender individuals 46. The public outcry over these comments was significant - for example, a clip of Kirk's "fathers line up" comment went viral on social media, with users across the political spectrum expressing disgust and alarm.

• "Middle Finger to God" and Other Smears: Kirk often couched his anti-LGBTQ views in religious terms. He characterized LGBTQ people's existence as an affront to Christianity, at one point calling transgender people a "throbbing middle finger to God." ⁴⁷ He also wrote that the "Democrat Party is advancing a culture marked by sexual anarchy," blaming LGBTQ acceptance for societal ills ⁴⁸. Kirk's framing of queer identities as sinful or rebellious acts against divine order resonated with some religious right followers, but it alienated others. Progressives and many religious leaders alike criticized him for using faith as a cover to demean and **dehumanize** LGBTQ citizens.

Anti-Immigrant and Xenophobic Remarks

 Great Replacement and Anti-Immigrant Campaigning: Much of Kirk's commentary on immigration intertwined with white nationalist themes. He frequently argued that America should severely restrict or stop immigration to preserve its cultural makeup. "America was at its peak when we halted immigration for 40 years... We should be unafraid to do that," he said in August 2025, praising the period between 1925–1965 when U.S. immigration was minimal 49. In Kirk's view, immigrants (especially from non-European countries) threaten American stability. He asserted that "The American Democrat party... love it when America becomes less white," claiming without evidence that Democrats want to "see [America] collapse" through demographic change 23. Kirk became a loud proponent of the "great replacement" conspiracy theory - the false notion that elites are replacing white Americans with immigrants. In March 2024 he warned that "the great replacement strategy... is well under way every single day at our southern border" to "replace white, rural America with something different." 24 He depicted rural white conservatives as the target: "They hate those of you that live in small America... and they have a plan to get rid of you," Kirk said, insisting "they won't stop until you and your children... are eliminated." 50 51. Such rhetoric provoked strong reactions. Democrats and pro-immigration groups blasted Kirk for spreading a racist conspiracy linked to past terrorist attacks (like the Christchurch shooter's manifesto). Even some Republicans distanced themselves, as Kirk's comments drew attention for echoing extremist propaganda.

- **Demonizing Haitian and Third World Migrants:** Kirk at times singled out specific immigrant groups for fearmongering. In 2024, amid news of Haitian refugees, he claimed Haiti is "legitimately infested with demonic voodoo" and warned that Haitian migrants would "become your masters" if allowed into the U.S. ⁵². He even amplified a grotesque **false rumor** that Haitian immigrants in Ohio were "eating people's pets" ⁵² a claim that was debunked but notably repeated by Donald Trump during a rally. These statements were condemned as **racist and xenophobic**, painting impoverished Black migrants as subhuman or evil. Haitian-American advocacy groups rebuked Kirk and pointed out the dangerous ignorance in his words (Haitian vodou is a religion, not "demonic" sorcery). Likewise, immigration experts noted Kirk's rhetoric seemed aimed at dehumanizing migrants to justify harsh treatment.
- Encouraging Violence at the Border: Kirk didn't shy away from endorsing brutal tactics against those he labeled "invaders." In a March 2024 episode, discussing stopping migrants at the southern border, Kirk said: "You can start with firing [warning shots] next to them... We have weapons, we're willing to use them." He further added, "Of course you should be able to use whips against foreigners that are coming into your country. Why is that controversial?" 53 54. This shocking advocacy of physical harm effectively suggesting armed agents shoot near unarmed migrants and use whips on them drew intense criticism from human rights organizations. Kirk's words came not long after real images of mounted U.S. Border Patrol agents swinging horse reins at Haitian migrants caused public outrage, making his "why is that controversial?" quip especially inflammatory. Democrats and civil liberties groups blasted Kirk for these comments, some likening them to apartheid-era tactics. Even moderate commentators expressed alarm that a mainstream conservative figure would so openly condone violence against vulnerable asylum-seekers.
- "Less-White" America Comments: Kirk's through-line in immigration discussions was that immigration is a plot to dilute white influence. He claimed that "the left literally needs endless... migration from the Third World" because native-born Americans are turning against leftist policies 55. "Endless migration," "Third World" such phrases signaled Kirk's belief that immigrants (often people of color) are a political weapon. These comments were part of what made Kirk highly controversial on college campuses: student groups often protested his events, citing his anti-immigrant and racist statements as antithetical to their campus values. In turn, Kirk would accuse critics of silencing him, even as his own words fueled the protests.

Anti-Muslim and Islamophobic Statements

- "Islam is Not Compatible with Western Civilization": Kirk often targeted Islam as fundamentally at odds with American values. On his June 24, 2025 show, he bragged, "We've been warning about the rise of Islam on the show, to [a] great amount of backlash. We don't care... Islam is not compatible with Western civilization." ⁵⁶ This sweeping denunciation of an entire religion prompted **significant backlash** indeed. Muslim-American groups and interfaith organizations condemned Kirk's statement as Islamophobic hate. Many pointed out that millions of Muslims are themselves part of Western civilization (including the U.S.) and serve in all walks of life. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and others cited Kirk's quote as an example of the dangerous normalization of anti-Muslim bigotry in right-wing media.
- **Portraying Islam as an Existential Threat:** Kirk escalated his rhetoric just days before his death. On September 8, 2025, he posted on social media: "Islam is the sword the left is using to slit the throat of

- America." 57 This metaphor depicted Islam as a weapon to destroy the United States, effectively casting Muslims as enemies within. The comment was **widely denounced**. Even some conservatives voiced discomfort, worried that such extreme vilification of a religion of 1.8 billion people was **incendiary**. Progressive commentators noted the irony that Kirk claimed to defend religious freedom while suggesting an entire faith should be feared and suppressed. Indeed, Kirk's own framing was that America is a "Christian nation" and that secularists (or "the left") were using Islam as a tool of chaos. His followers often cheered these statements, but the **public response** outside his base was harsh #Islamophobia trended on X (Twitter) as users condemned Kirk's post, and some Muslim activists argued that comments like these contribute to real-world anti-Muslim violence.
- **Calls for Muslim Surveillance:** While not as publicized as his other quotes, Kirk also insinuated support for policies singling out Muslim communities. For instance, he lamented the existence of "large dedicated Islamic areas" in the West, calling them "a threat to America" ⁵⁸. Such remarks hinted at the Muslim "no-go zone" myth and were criticized for encouraging profiling. Civil liberties groups often cited Kirk's Muslim-bashing statements when warning against him being given platforms; some universities that invited Kirk faced petitions demanding cancellation, partly due to his anti-Islam comments.

Advocacy of Violence and Other Extremist Statements

- "Worth It" Defending Gun Deaths: One of Kirk's most notorious statements concerned gun violence. At an April 2023 event organized by TPUSA's faith-based arm, Kirk admitted that an armed society does incur casualties but argued "I think it's worth it to have a cost of, unfortunately, some gun deaths every single year so that we can have the Second Amendment to protect our other God-given rights. That is a prudent deal. It is rational." ⁵⁹ . In other words, he called the annual toll of U.S. gun deaths an acceptable trade-off for gun ownership rights. This remark was highly controversial. Gun control advocates and many survivors of shootings expressed outrage at Kirk's calculus, saying it was callous to declare thousands of lost lives "worth it." The comment received renewed attention in September 2025 after Kirk himself was shot and killed while speaking on a campus. Critics on social media grimly referenced his quote, with one viral post noting that Kirk once deemed such deaths a "prudent deal" ⁶⁰ . (Some right-wing allies tried to contextualize his point that freedom isn't free but the blunt phrase "it's worth it" continued to haunt his reputation ⁶⁰ .)
- No Separation of Church and State: A self-described Christian nationalist, Kirk rejected the constitutional principle of church-state separation. In July 2022 he stated flatly, "There is no separation of church and state. It's a fabrication... not in the Constitution. It's made up by secular humanists." 61 This view historically inaccurate, as the First Amendment establishes religious freedom alarmed many observers. Religious liberty watchdogs and secular organizations criticized Kirk for promoting a theocratic interpretation of U.S. law. His comment became a flashpoint especially as he championed the "Seven Mountains Mandate" calling for Christians to dominate key societal sectors 62. By denying church-state separation, Kirk signaled support for entangling religion with government, a stance that drew pushback from those who see it as undermining pluralism and minority faith rights.
- **Election Denial and Jan 6th:** Kirk also made contentious comments related to the 2020 election and the January 6, 2021 Capitol attack. He was an avid promoter of the false claim that the 2020 election was stolen. Famously, two days before the January 6 riot, Kirk tweeted that he was "sending 80+ buses"

full of patriots to DC to fight for this president" and hyped what would happen as "one of the largest and most consequential events in American history." ⁶³ After the violence, that boastful tweet was deleted, but it cemented Kirk's role in stoking the event. He later told a student group that if Trump had lost in 2024, "I don't know if civilization would have continued as we grew up" ⁶⁴ – a hyperbolic statement framing Democratic governance as the end of America. Such rhetoric fed into the **extremist narrative** that political opponents are existential threats, justifying extraordinary resistance.

- Suggesting Execution of Political Opponents: In summer 2023, Kirk went so far as to suggest that President Joe Biden deserved capital punishment. On a July 2023 episode of his show, Kirk raged about Biden's policies and declared the President should "either go to prison or face the death penalty for crimes against America." (65) Calling for the death penalty for the sitting U.S. President is virtually unheard-of in modern political discourse, and this statement was met with **shock and condemnation**. Democrats and even some Republicans warned that Kirk's rhetoric was dangerously irresponsible, potentially inciting violence. Legal experts noted that such comments toe the line of threatening a public official. Kirk defended his stance by pointing to what he considered treasonous actions by the administration, but the extreme nature of his remark stood out as emblematic of the escalating violent tone in some right-wing circles. It underscored why Kirk was often labeled a farright extremist by his critics.
- "Use a Sword" Rhetoric: Kirk occasionally invoked violent metaphors for himself as well. In his 2024 book *Right Wing Revolution*, he quoted a Bible verse: "To quote Christ, I come not to bring peace, but a sword," presenting himself as a warrior against the left 66. While perhaps figurative, this combative posture in combination with his other comments fed the perception that Kirk courted violence. Indeed, Kirk often claimed that if open debate was shut down, the alternative would be civil war "When people stop talking... that's when you get violence... that's when civil war happens," he said, positioning his own aggressive speech as a pressure valve 67. Critics, however, argued that Kirk's own words frequently crossed a line into hate speech and provocation, fostering an atmosphere that encourages real-world conflict.

In summary, Charlie Kirk's public statements over the years have touched nearly every flashpoint of America's culture wars – and often inflamed them. From racist stereotypes and misogynistic jabs to anti-LGBTQ slurs, anti-immigrant fearmongering, and even suggestions of political violence, Kirk consistently pressed the boundaries of acceptable discourse. These comments, directly from his mouth or keyboard, have triggered intense reactions: condemnation from liberals, civil rights groups, and many in the mainstream, even as a segment of right-wing America cheered him on as a truth-teller. Kirk's controversial legacy, marked by these polarizing quotes, ensures that the social fallout – both the public outrage and the institutional responses (like universities distancing themselves, advertisers reconsidering support, etc.) – will be debated for years to come. His own words, cited above, provide a stark record of the charged and divisive ideology he promoted ⁶⁸ ⁶⁹ .

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