

GOVERNMENT

Boris Johnson resigns as UK prime minister

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UK Prime Minister resigns. Image credit: Instagram

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has resigned as Conservative party leader in a speech delivered in Downing Street on July 7.

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His announcement comes after a slew of resignations from other Parliamentary leaders, many of whom condemned the prime minister for his scandalous history and suggested he step down from his position. This marks the end of a tumultuous era for the prime minister, who, throughout his term, faced major criticism over sexual misconduct allegations, inappropriate use of funds and his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is now clearly the will of the parliamentary Conservative party that there should be a new leader of that party and therefore a new Prime Minister," Mr. Johnson said in his resignation speech. "I have agreed with Sir Graham Brady, the chairman of our backbench MPs that the process of choosing that new leader should begin now and the timetable will be announced next week.

"I have today appointed a cabinet to serve, as I will, until a new leader is in place."

End of term

Most recently, the Prime Minister garnered criticism over his reaction to an allegation of sexual misconduct made by a government official last week.

It was also **reported** that Mr. Johnson used donor money to fund the redecoration of his home at Downing Street, as well as protecting colleagues who had breached regulations.

A number of opposition leaders have commented on his resignation, suggesting he fully and gracefully step away.

Boris Johnson is unfit to govern and he needs to go now.

He cannot cling on for months.

If the Conservative party do not get rid of him, then Labour will act in the national interest and bring a vote of no confidence.

One of the main architects of the Brexit referendum, Mr. Johnson cultivated a reputation for controversy and has been accused of bigotry. He has been known for his ambition, rowdiness and a disheveled head of hair, which was once the subject of a Harvey Nichols campaign ([see story](#)).

While discussions regarding the news and its implications are ongoing, and will likely continue for some time, Parliament must immediately look to fill the position.

The process for selecting a new Conservative party leader begins with the support of at least eight lawmakers. If there are more than two initial candidates, lawmakers host rounds of votes to bring the number down to two.

Once two candidates are chosen, Conservative Party members nationwide vote by mail. Whoever has the most votes becomes prime minister.

According to [CNN](#), the shortlist of potential candidates includes former chancellor Rishi Sunak, former health secretary Sajid Javid, U.K. foreign secretary Liz Truss, trade minister Penny Mordaunt, committee chairman Tom Tugendhat, chancellor of the exchequer Nadhim Zahawi and Conservative MP Jeremy Hunt.

Mr. Johnson is the third consecutive prime minister to resign at least in part due to dissatisfaction over Brexit.

He had succeeded Theresa May in 2019, after she resigned after being unable to get a Brexit deal passed ([see story](#)). Her predecessor, David Cameron, had campaigned to stay in the E.U. and resigned in 2016, saying that he did not feel he could lead the country in this new direction following the referendum ([see story](#)).

The British economy has taken a hit since officially leaving the E.U., making Brexit increasingly unpopular ([see story](#)).