

# Ken Livingstone

## Quotes

*People, Thinking, Needs, War, Years, Issues, London, Running, Country,  
World, Cities, Government, Giving, Rights, Trying, Views, Three, Gay, Mistake,  
Office*

There is now a desperate need for a London-wide left caucus of those interested in the GLC and local councils so that we can compare and discuss what is happening in each borough.

~Ken Livingstone

World wide capitalism kills more people everyday then Hitler did. And he was crazy.

~Ken Livingstone

The world is run by monsters and you have to deal with them. Some of them run countries, some of them run banks, some of them run news corporations.

~Ken Livingstone

Consultation is a good thing when people agree with you, and a waste of time when people don't agree with you

~Ken Livingstone

To tackle climate change you don't have to reduce your quality of life, but you do have to change the way you live

~Ken Livingstone

I fear that within 10 years gays, trade union activists and left wing politicians will be led off to the gas chambers.

~Ken Livingstone

If Voting Changed Anything They'd Abolish It

~Ken Livingstone

If I blew my nose the Daily Express and the Daily Mail would say that I am trying to spread germ warfare.

~Ken Livingstone

Every year the international finance system kills more people than the

Second World War. But at least Hitler was mad, you know.

~Ken Livingstone

I liked it when we had ugly politicians who droned on about issues.

~Ken Livingstone

I am a socialist, a believer in rational thought and the rule of law.

~Ken Livingstone

I think democracy's undermined when those who own newspapers fill them with trivia rather than real issues.

~Ken Livingstone

I have opened newspapers and read incredible lies.

~Ken Livingstone

You can't expect to work for the Daily Mail group and have the rest of society treat with you respect as a useful member of society, because you are not.

~Ken Livingstone

I've met serial killers and professional assassins and nobody scared me as much as MrsT.

~Ken Livingstone

I employed my wife for three years to sit in the attic and type up my autobiography, 700 pages, organise everywhere I go. I'm paying the normal rate of tax on the money I take out for myself.

~Ken Livingstone

I just long for the day when I wake up and find that the Saudi royal family are swinging from lamp-posts.

~Ken Livingstone

I became a councillor back in 1971, so if by this stage in politics I'm making lots of big mistakes, then I shouldn't be here.

~Ken Livingstone

My administration will tackle these issues in consultation with the black communities of London.

~Ken Livingstone

It is all very well for people with fine arts degrees, but for ordinary people like myself, we want a statue to look like the person.

~Ken Livingstone

I was a weedy kid, not like one of those working-class men who can accommodate not being academically clever by physical strength and prowess.

~Ken Livingstone

I grew up in a house with very few books.

~Ken Livingstone

I loathe and detest all this trivialisation of politics.

~Ken Livingstone

The American agenda is sweeping everything before it, and although it's not perfect, the EU is better on environmental issues. It's a less rapacious form of capitalism.

~Ken Livingstone

Global warming could be solved by shifting three to four per cent of global GDP to pay for it.

~Ken Livingstone

I have met the people who run the world, and I am not in awe of them.

~Ken Livingstone

Racism serves as the cutting edge of the most reactionary movements. An ideology that starts by declaring one human being inferior to another is the slope whose end is at Auschwitz.

~Ken Livingstone

Anybody who enjoys being in the House of Commons probably needs psychiatric help.

~Ken Livingstone

Polling in a general election is pretty accurate, because turnout is usually high.

~Ken Livingstone

The problem is that many MPs never see the London that exists beyond the wine bars and brothels of Westminster.

~Ken Livingstone

I would like to sound like James Mason. I reckon if I'd had a better voice I could have been prime minister. It is the most irritating voice in public life.

~Ken Livingstone

There needs to be radical development in equality law to create the environment to allow women to stay in work.

~Ken Livingstone

I feel like Galileo going before the Inquisition to explain that the Sun doesn't revolve around the Earth. I hope I have more success.

~Ken Livingstone

You lose power in Britain and you are just Joe Public again.

~Ken Livingstone

You cannot just have a socialist revolution in Norwood and nowhere

else.

~Ken Livingstone

Ed Miliband doesn't give a damn about what he looks like, how he dresses. He came into politics to change society.

~Ken Livingstone

Just because I am critical of the coalition doesn't mean I am anti-English. I am just anti-scumbags.

~Ken Livingstone

One thing that Chairman Mao did was to end the appalling foot binding of women. That alone justifies the Mao Tse-tung era.

~Ken Livingstone

Politics is not a game. Thousands of people's jobs and services depended on what the GLC did, and they expected us to do the best we could.

~Ken Livingstone

Everyone is bisexual. Almost everyone has the sexual potential for anything.

~Ken Livingstone

I feel a degree of regret that Marshall did not push on and say 'abolish the GLC' because I think it would have been a major saving and would have released massive resources for productive use.

~Ken Livingstone

Most kids dont get to go their parents wedding.

~Ken Livingstone

I don't just denounce suicide bombers. I denounce those governments which use indiscriminate slaughter to advance their foreign policy.

~Ken Livingstone

If transport, housing and Olympic projects do not work, I will crawl away under a stone.

~Ken Livingstone

Only some ghastly dehumanised moron would want to get rid of the Routemaster.

~Ken Livingstone

The idea that the GLC should be abolished at a stroke is ill thought out, undemocratic and will cost the people of London dear.

~Ken Livingstone

When you see someone trying to manoeuvre it round the school gates, you have to think, 'You are a complete idiot.'

~Ken Livingstone

I can easily lose myself emotionally in absolute Hollywood garbage.

~Ken Livingstone

I've always been a workaholic. I reckon, on average, I've had less than one day a year off in my working career.

~Ken Livingstone

I'm more interested in politicians who deal with human rights in their own country rather than lecture the rest of the world.

~Ken Livingstone

What defines someone's music taste is their teens and early 20s. It's that combination of your sexual awakening and the music of the time, it fixes you forever.

~Ken Livingstone

I'd love to write about my growing sexual awareness, but the press would turn it into something squalid.

~Ken Livingstone

The British judiciary is one of the most corrupt in the world because of politically active judges.

~Ken Livingstone

I never came into life with any favours or privileges.

~Ken Livingstone

I have only ever borrowed money for investment. I have been sound money all my life.

~Ken Livingstone

I have no interest in managing my financial affairs.

~Ken Livingstone

Boris [Johnson] and Dave [Cameron] gnawed each other's testicles [during the Tory civil war which blighted the EU referendum].

~Ken Livingstone

I spent the 1960s and 1970s seeking myself - the working-class tradition of self-education.

~Ken Livingstone

I swim three times a week.

~Ken Livingstone

I think I have gone through my entire public career never telling a lie. I have made mistakes but I never knowingly lied.

~Ken Livingstone

I think it's much more important to keep people in work than have pay

rises.

~Ken Livingstone

I've never declined to do an interview.

~Ken Livingstone

Yes, there are lots of individual exceptions. But no one has ever done a study about voting intention without ascertaining that the biggest determining factor is your income and your wealth.

~Ken Livingstone

When I was leader of the GLC, by the time I had been in control for three years, the difference in pay between the cleaner and the director general was a four-to-one ratio. I find that attractive.

~Ken Livingstone

If you are running a city you must focus on day-to-day problems.

~Ken Livingstone

If women had never been given the right to vote, then Labour would have won every election after the war.

~Ken Livingstone

I refuse not to have a sense of humour.

~Ken Livingstone

I'm never going to take the view that I should say whatever I need to say in order to achieve something. Because that implies a level of dishonesty.

~Ken Livingstone

Every budget I have ever prepared has been balanced.

~Ken Livingstone

Everyone changes all the time.

~Ken Livingstone

Give me the whole world to run and then I'll be happy. If tomorrow I was told I had to sort out the whole world's problems I'd sleep like a baby.

~Ken Livingstone

I can only admire people who I have never met and are dead - because you know so much about anyone who is alive.

~Ken Livingstone

What do we do about climate change bearing down upon us?

~Ken Livingstone

I go all around London advocating lesbian and gay rights.

~Ken Livingstone

If I was courting the Muslim vote, I wouldn't have put establishing the partnership ceremony at the forefront of my first term, would I? I go all around London advocating lesbian and gay rights.

~Ken Livingstone

I've always told the truth. I've often been wrong - but I've never knowingly lied. Not in public life. Because I don't see the need to.

~Ken Livingstone

I'm in exactly the same position as everybody else who has a small business.

~Ken Livingstone

I am not against Israel, I am against Zionists.

~Ken Livingstone

[Pigeons are] rats with wings.

~Ken Livingstone

We look to the left and to the right And we need help but nobody's in sight Where is the man that we all need Tell him he's to come and rescue me.

~Ken Livingstone

I've got people handling the media. I employ at the moment two people. No-one is paying income tax on the money they use to employ people.

~Ken Livingstone

The people I really most admire are Robert Kennedy and Franklin Roosevelt. If you know someone, it is very hard to revere them.

~Ken Livingstone

I grew up in Lambeth, I went to normal schools and I've grown up in a city where people say what they think.

~Ken Livingstone

I don't work hard enough. If I had worked harder I might have been prime minister.

~Ken Livingstone

The truth is, no one pays more tax than they have to.

~Ken Livingstone

I take a much more pragmatic view than many people on the Left about working with Neil Kinnock. Kinnock represents the best vehicle possible for achieving socialism now.

~Ken Livingstone

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