

If only I was reasonable

Published: January 16, 2026, 7:46 am

I have lost count of the number of times over the last twelve years that I have been told that if only I was more reasonable I would be so much more successful.

Big firms of accountants have told me that.

So have accounting and other institutes.

As have tax havens and their governments.

Let alone big businesses.

And countless commentators, all, it seems to me, of a right-wing persuasion, have said the same.

It happened again yesterday.

Despite which I'll continue to take the risk of being unreasonable. As George Bernard Shaw said (and I apologise for the gender specific language):

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man.

Which is precisely why I will continue to be unreasonable. Seeking to change the world to make it a more just place for those with little requires nothing less.

And that is also why, of course, those who would rather I did not progress beseech me to change my ways with the suggestion that I really should be a reasonable chap. That's not going to happen precisely because nothing would have happened if I was. And so those who do not like what I am seeking to do will continue to be upset. So be it.