

That interview makes it clear that time for constitutio...

Published: January 13, 2026, 1:44 am

Can I avoid the topic of the moment? I fear not. I watched over an hour of the Megan and Harry interview last night. And I believed they were credible witnesses, with real fears for their own well-being and that of their family, whose fears went unheard by the organisation they worked for, which meant they quit.

Of course, they are also two highly privileged people. And yes, of course, in some sense the hype is media inflated. But that does not mean that I doubt the trauma that they faced is real. Nor do I doubt the suggestion of racism.

Candidly, what they do now is not of much interest to me. But I do wish them well. They look like survivors of a pretty traumatic experience. Privileged or not, they are still human. And trauma is trauma. Of course I wish for their recovery.

But I wish more for real change in our society. And I happen to think that this requires that the role of the royal family must change.

It is hardly surprising that the institution and practices of royalty are so impossible for those given the task of trying to fulfil them. Royalty requires that this family believe that it has a literal God given right to rule, and to head the Church of England. Whether many have an actual faith is open to doubt. But they still have to believe in that right.

Then they have to believe that their genes, alone, give them a right to rule. And that what happens to their family determines that God given outcome, without their having free will on the issue.

They have too, in that case, to believe that they are naturally different, superior, and preferred.

They also have to believe they have a duty to reproduce, and to deliver the heir. The possibility of being gay, lesbian or of other orientation that might suggest a desire to live in a manner inconsistent with the establishment view of the heterosexual relationship is not permitted. No wonder they feel an impossible demand.

And none of this is compatible with any sincere belief in the values that now underpin our society. The stereotype that this family must uphold whilst simultaneously supposedly projecting itself as modern, caring, integrated and embracing is almost entirely incompatible with having any chance of good mental health. Simultaneously having to believe you are superior and 'of the people' would be a demand too much for almost anyone, and quite reasonably so. And any sane person would feel trapped by it.

Worse though, any sane person in this role would realise that they are being used as the embodiment of privilege that perpetuates a system based on the eugenic belief that there is a class system - which surrounds and supports all that the royals do and are - that is intended by its very existence to make clear that this is an unequal, unfair and profoundly anti-meritocratic and deeply misogynistic as well as racist society, of which they, through no choice of their own, are representatives. Of course that sane person would want to quit.

And what should a rational reaction to this be? There is but one answer, and that is that the role of the royal family should be completely changed, and with it our constitution.

It is incompatible with the twenty first century that we have a monarchy, and all that it implies.

Nor can we have a hereditary head of state.

And I do not believe it in any way acceptable that the pretence that royalty have a constitutional role be perpetuated any longer. The idea that some have a natural right to rule that the role embodies should have no continuing place in our society.

Necessarily that requires a new head of state, and I am quite sure that role needs to separate from the role of prime minister. But this in turn would require a constitution, checks, balances, and safeguards, which are of course all the things the current government wants none of.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can achieve these goals by leaving the Union. Sane people would think it the right thing that they do that. The system of government that England perpetuates is at the very heart of its problems, and the demise of its influence.

But for England, what is there? Only a choice, I suggest. It may continue to tug the forelock. Or it is time to break free from the shackles of an absurd institution and all that they represent, and move on to become a modern state fit to face the challenges we have. That is not a choice really, but England could still flunk it.

As for the royal family? Leave them with their money. Allow them their patronages. But more than that? I am not sure. And I bet they would be mightily relieved.

The time for change had arrived. Let's get on with it. Long live the republic and its

citizens, who will no longer be subjects.