

The time has come to move on from this offensive farce

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I have never been an enthusiast for the continued involvement of the royal family in the constitutional affairs of the UK, or any other country come to that. Everything about that involvement is inappropriate.

The claim of divine entitlement should be offensive to anyone with or without faith.

The concept of a hereditary right to govern is eugenic.

The privilege afforded to wealth and class represents an establishment much of whose wealth has been secured by the theft of the liberty and property of others.

The so called royal prerogative, granted to the prime minister to use, is an abuse of democracy.

The pageantry of royalty is used to uphold a system of patronage to which we are meant to defer when no such deference is either required, or appropriate.

The perpetuation of an honours system with which royalty is intimately involved, and which maintains reference to an Empire and the symbolism of oppression, is profoundly offensive to many.

The myth that those granted royal status have superior human qualities that justify their exceptional status has long been questioned. And now it has been trashed. Whether it likes it or not, the royal family shelters a member who will forever be associated with paedophilia. Supposedly royal resources are being used to make a settlement with a person who has been abused. And those resources did, undoubtedly, at some point emanate from the populace of this country and others. There was no other way in which the royal family secured them.

So, yes by all means allow the platinum jubilee celebrations this year.

But then the Queen should smell the coffee. At 96, which she will be when they are done, it will be time for her to retire from a job which it is no longer reasonable to think

she should do. And the opportunity should then be taken to institute a constitutional review that should, amongst many other things, remove the constitutional role of the monarchy in its entirety, including the suggestion that a person might inherit the role of head of state.

The time has come to move on from this farce, but I very much doubt that the political will to do so exists.