

Speaker Mike Johnson and the denial of political freedom

Published: January 12, 2026, 8:43 pm

On 20 January, Mike Johnson, the Speaker of the US Congress, is going to address both Houses of Parliament. This, [I gather](#), is unprecedented. The 'honour' is being awarded to mark the 250th anniversary of US independence.

I object to this.

Johnson has enabled Donald Trump.

He has done all he can to prevent opposition to Trump's actions, including by suspending the sitting of Congress for weeks on end, and by preventing a new Democrat member from taking her seat.

He is guilty, through his actions, of disabling the checks and balances on US Presidential power in the USA at a time when a President has openly sought to abuse those powers in an unprecedented way. His actions have directly paved the way for fascism to take power in the USA.

Johnson, then, is not worthy of this honour. He should, instead, be barred from the UK for having enabled abuse that has led to the establishment of a dictatorship in the USA, and the suspension of the hollow form of democracy it already possessed. There is nothing about what he is doing that makes him worthy of any form of recognition at all, but plenty justifies condemnation of his actions.

So, I have a simple question. Did we invite Hitler's equivalent to the role of Speaker in the Reichstag to enjoy such an honour? I don't think so.

Nor have we afforded such a privilege to Putin's equivalent office holder.

Or Xi's, come to that.

It's not our habit to reward those who hold power, either by force or by subverting the choices of the people they represent. So why are we rewarding Mike Johnson when the denial of political freedom is all he is about?

This might be an occasion to ask your MP what they think the Speaker is doing, with the undoubted approval of the government. Why is it that they want to celebrate the rise of fascist power in a state that has always claimed to be the bastion of democracy? And what do they think comes next?

Taking further action

If you want to write a letter to your MP on the issues raised in this blog post, there is a ChatGPT prompt to assist you in doing so, with full instructions, [**here**](#).

One word of warning, though: please ensure you have the correct MP. ChatGPT can get it wrong.

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