

ABOUT THIS MANIFESTO

*The Manifesto is a wholly democratic initiative, drawn up by **Reform the Monarchy** – a group of democrats with no party-political affiliations. It reflects their increasing concern about the harm being done to the vitality of our democracy by an unreformed monarchy – and the almost complete inactivity of Parliamentarians on this important issue.*

The initial purpose of the Manifesto is to stimulate discussion and debate among the electorate, in the media and at Westminster about the items being raised.

However, its ultimate aim is to obtain a democratic mandate for action to be taken on the Manifesto's Six Points – and thereby provide the country with both a modern monarchy and a revitalised democracy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AS AN ELECTOR

First of all, please read the Six Points carefully and reflect on the really beneficial impact that these changes would bring to our democracy. Discuss the points in the Manifesto with your friends, family, work colleagues, fellow students or whomever.

If you agree with any or all of the Six Points, then contact your MP and ask them where they stand on these issues. If they agree to the need for change, then ask them what they're going to do about it. But don't accept as an explanation 'there are more pressing matters at the moment'. That's merely an excuse for doing nothing.

Remember that no legislation is required for action to be taken on the points in the Manifesto, only changes in practice and procedure, changes in public attitudes and, in the case of Point 6 of the Manifesto, action by the Prime Minister.

*You can download further copies of this Manifesto from the **Reform the Monarchy** website:
www.reformthemonarchy.org.uk*

*If you wish to send comments or suggestions to **Reform the Monarchy** you may contact us by e-mail:
mail@reformthemonarchy.org.uk*

“If we want things to stay as they are, then things have got to change.”

A MANIFESTO FOR A MODERN MONARCHY



Our monarchy needs to change as part of the process of national renewal, which is essential if Britain is to meet the challenges of the new world order.

Henceforth it must reflect and support the values of our modern, more meritocratic society, where birth and privilege are subordinate to individual effort and ability - and where both rewards and respect are earned, not received as of right.

In conjunction with this, there is a requirement for the monarchy to be more accountable to Parliament and the people – and for it to be more open in its dealings.



The Six Points overleaf constitute a Manifesto for achieving the above objectives

The Six Points

1

AN END TO EXCESSIVE DEFERENCE

British citizens should not be expected to show excessive deference or observe demeaning protocol when meeting members of the royal family. Such outdated practices perpetuate the delusion of their inherent superiority to the rest of us, which is both insulting in principle and manifestly untrue in reality. When the Queen moves in the public sphere, it should be as 'first among equals', not as 'first among inferiors' as currently. As head of state she should be accorded respect, but not servility.

2

NO INAPPROPRIATE MILITARY UNIFORMS

No members of the royal family should wear military uniforms in public, unless they are currently full-time members of the armed service concerned and have achieved by their own efforts the ranks being displayed. Their outdated practice of dressing in the military uniforms of the most senior ranks, bedecked with medals of dubious worth, is an insult to the professionalism and bravery of our modern armed services. Members of the royal family who are full-time members of the armed services should be subject to exactly the same terms and conditions of service as their peers.

3

LIMITATION OF ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Members of the royal family shun NHS medical services and state education for their children. It is therefore the height of hypocrisy for them to participate in engagements involving either NHS hospitals (which are sometimes named after them) or state schools: royal events of this kind should cease. Although much is made of the numerous engagements carried out by the extended Windsor family, many of these events are of questionable worth and thus a poor use of vital police resources and taxpayers' money. In general, apart from the Queen, members of the royal family should be occupied in real jobs or left to live off their considerable private wealth – not spending their time patronising the rest of us.

4

NO MORE POLITICAL INTERFERENCE

No members of the royal family should be permitted to interfere in the political arena. Prince Charles's practice of making regular public pronouncements and actively seeking to influence public debate on such highly politicised areas as GM crops, organic farming, climate change, education, nano-technology, alternative medicine, etc, skews the political process. It is a blatant abuse of his unelected position, is unconstitutional

and should cease. He should either end his political interference, or he should relinquish his claim to the throne.

5

PROPER ACCOUNTABILITY

The present convention that neither House of Parliament is permitted to debate the monarchy or any of the activities of members of the royal family is unacceptable. As it is, British citizens have never been given the right to determine whether they wish to have a monarchy. It is an insult to our system of representative democracy to make our monarchy virtually unaccountable, as well as a gross infringement of the rights of free expression.

6

OPENNESS REGARDING TAXES

The Prime Minister should provide an assurance to the British people that, in respect of all their private income, assets and benefits, the Queen and all other members of the royal family pay all taxes at the same rates and subject to the same regulations as every other UK citizen. Where this is not the case, the details should be made public. The resolution of the current economic crisis will impose an enormous burden on UK taxpayers, both now and especially into the future. There can be no special treatment for royal family members.