



List of speakers at the Citizens' Assembly on Democracy in the UK

Professor Catherine Barnard

Catherine Barnard is Professor of European and Employment Law at the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow in Law at Trinity College. She researches European Union law, labour and discrimination law, and competition law. Catherine is also Deputy Director of UK in a Changing Europe, an award-winning academic initiative that conducts research into the relationship between the UK and the European Union. She has appeared on *Question Time* and *Any Questions*, and regularly appears on news outlets explaining different aspects of the Brexit agreement. Catherine spoke at Weekend 5 of the Assembly.



Dr Farrah Bhatti

Farrah Bhatti is Principal Clerk of Select Committees in the House of Commons. In this role she oversees eight Select Committees as well as the Select Committee media and digital services. A senior clerk in the House, she is an expert in how parliament works and regularly advises the Speaker and other Members. Prior to this role, Farrah spent a few years as Parliamentary Adviser in the Cabinet Office, where she advised Ministers and senior officials on parliamentary procedure and handling. Farrah has also helped backbench MPs introduce, amend and pass legislation, having previously worked in the Public Bill Office. She spoke at Weekend 3 of the Assembly.



Baroness (Shami) Chakrabarti

Shami Chakrabarti rose to national prominence as Director of Liberty (2003–16), an advocacy group that seeks to defend people’s rights and liberties in the United Kingdom. In this role, she repeatedly clashed with various governments over issues such as anti-terrorism legislation and ID cards. She was a member of the Labour Shadow Cabinet between 2016 and 2020, as Shadow Attorney General for England and Wales. She now sits as a Labour peer in the House of Lords as Baroness Chakrabarti of Kennington. Shami spoke at Weekend 1 of the Assembly.



Professor Richard Ekins

Richard Ekins is Professor of Law and Constitutional Government at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of St John’s College. He studied law and politics in his native New Zealand before coming to Oxford for graduate study in legal philosophy. His research interests lie in constitutional law and theory, especially law-making, statutory interpretation and self-government. Richard is Head of Policy Exchange’s Judicial Power Project, which considers the proper role of the judiciary within the UK’s constitution. He also leads the University of Oxford’s Programme for the Foundations of Law and Constitutional Government. Richard spoke at Weekend 5 of the Assembly.



Frances Foley

Frances Foley is Deputy Director of Compass, a progressive pressure group and campaigning organisation that advocates a more equal, democratic and sustainable society. She was previously Project Director at the Citizens' Convention on UK Democracy - a year-long project to design and campaign for a citizens' assembly on democracy in the UK. She has a background in political organising and deliberative democracy, with a particular focus on democratic participation. Frances spoke at Weekend 4 of the Assembly.



Baroness (Claire) Fox

Claire Fox has long been one of Britain's most incisive journalists. An advocate of democratic accountability and free speech issues, she is the Director of the Academy of Ideas, a think tank committed to hosting free and open public debates. She was a Member of the European Parliament for the Brexit Party in 2019–20, and now sits as a peer in the House of Lords as Baroness Fox of Buckley. Claire spoke at Weekend 1 of the Assembly.



Sir Stephen Laws QC

Stephen Laws is a lawyer and former civil servant. Most of his career was spent drafting legislation in the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel. That Office provides a drafting and advisory service to government departments regarding the laws they ask Parliament to pass. Between 2006 and 2012, Stephen headed the Office, one of the most senior legal positions in the civil service. His responsibilities included the production and passage of the government's annual legislative programme and constitutional advice during a period in which devolved government was restored in Northern Ireland and a coalition government was formed in the UK. Stephen is now a Senior Research Fellow with Policy Exchange and a member on the government-appointed Independent Human Rights Act Review. He spoke at Weekend 3 of the Assembly.



Dr Jane Martin

Jane Martin was an independent member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life from 2017 to 2021. The Committee is a body that advises the Prime Minister on arrangements for upholding ethical standards across public life in England. Jane brings a wealth of knowledge about public service and its regulation, having previously been the Local Government Ombudsman and Chair of the Commission for Local Administration in England. She is also currently a non-executive member of the Board of the Legal Ombudsman. Jane spoke at Weekend 5 of the Assembly.



Dr Chris McCorkindale

Chris McCorkindale is a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Strathclyde. Chris has published widely on a variety of topics, including on the UK's constitution and on the law and politics of devolution, Brexit and Scottish independence. Chris is an adviser to the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee of the Scottish Parliament. He is also Public Law Analysis Editor at *Edinburgh Law Review* and a steering group member of the Scottish Public Law Group. Chris spoke at Weekend 5 of the Assembly.



Professor Nicola McEwen

Nicola McEwen is Professor of Territorial Politics at the University of Edinburgh. She has published work on a variety of topics relating to democracy in the UK today, including on devolution, independence, inter-governmental relations and elections. A frequent commentator on contemporary political debates, she has acted as an adviser on intergovernmental relations to the Scottish government and the Scottish Parliament. Nicola is the founding Co-Director of the Centre on Constitutional Change. She is also a Senior Research Fellow at UK in a Changing Europe, and a Fellow of the Constitution Unit. Nicola spoke at Weekend 2 of the Assembly.



Professor Anand Menon

Anand Menon is Professor of European Politics and Foreign Affairs at King's College London (KCL). He is also Director of UK in a Changing Europe, an award-winning academic initiative that conducts research into the relationship between the UK and the European Union. A regular on our screens and radios, with appearances on shows such as *Question Time* and the *Today* programme, he brings a wealth of knowledge on a wide range of topics regarding democracy in the United Kingdom today. Anand spoke at Weekends 1 and 2 of the Assembly.



Abiodun Michael Olatokun

Abiodun Michael Olatokun is Research Leader in Citizenship and the Rule of Law, and Head of Public and Youth Engagement at the Bingham Centre. The Bingham Centre aims to advance the rule of law across the world. Abiodun also leads 'Citizenship and the Rule of Law', a nationwide programme teaching young people about the rule of law and human rights that has engaged over 10,000 people. In addition to his charity and citizenship work, Abiodun has frequently contributed to House of Lords and House of Commons committees which make recommendations to the government. He spoke at Weekend 2 of the Assembly.



Parmjeet Plummer

Parm Plummer has been a teacher since 1997, having taught History and Politics in secondary schools across London, in the South West and in the Channel Islands. Currently found in Jersey, she says: 'I revel in engaging young people in the political process and jumped at the opportunity to take part in translating politics into plain English for the Citizens' Assembly.' Parm also tweets @parmplummer, where she campaigns for WomenEd, a global grassroots organisation which seeks greater representation in leadership in education, more flexible working and action on the gender pay gap. She spoke at Weekend 1 of the Assembly.



Dr Jamie Pow

Jamie Pow is Lecturer in Political Science at Queen's University Belfast, where he researches the ways citizens interact with democratic decision-making, including through elections, deliberative mini-publics and referendums. His PhD thesis used surveys and experiments to investigate the perceived legitimacy of citizens' assemblies. Jamie served on the advisory group of the first Citizens' Assembly for Northern Ireland, in 2018. He is also the Political Editor of Northern Slant, a not-for-profit independent media organisation which seeks to improve political and civic discourse in Northern Ireland. Jamie spoke at Weekend 4 of the Assembly.



Professor Alan Renwick

Alan Renwick is the head of the project that the Citizens' Assembly on Democracy in the UK is part of. This project is investigating what kinds of democracy people in the UK want, and is called Democracy in the UK after Brexit. He is Deputy Director of the Constitution Unit and Associate Professor in British Politics at University College London (UCL). He carries out research into how citizens can take part in democratic politics and policy-making, particularly elections, referendums, and citizens' assemblies. He also led the Citizens' Assembly on Brexit, which was held in 2017.



Professor Meg Russell

Meg Russell is one of the organisers of the Democracy in the UK after Brexit project. She is also Director of the Constitution Unit and Professor of British and Comparative Politics at UCL. An expert on all things to do with the UK Parliament, her wide-ranging research interests also include the role of referendums and citizens' assemblies, the organisation of political parties, and female representation in politics. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and a Senior Fellow at UK in a Changing Europe. As well as her academic work, Meg has worked as a researcher in parliament itself, and as an adviser to a previous Leader of the House of Commons.



Jill Rutter

Jill Rutter is a Senior Research Fellow at UK in a Changing Europe, based at King's College, London, and a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Government, a leading think tank that aims to make government more effective. She possesses extensive experience of working for government, having been a senior civil servant in 10 Downing Street, the Treasury and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Jill writes and broadcasts extensively on the civil service, government and Brexit. Jill spoke at Weekends 2, 3, and 5 of the Assembly.



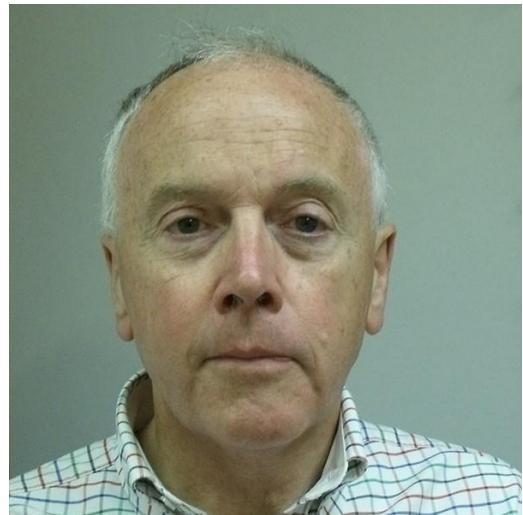
Jess Sargeant

Jess Sargeant is a senior researcher at the Institute for Government, a leading think tank that aims to make government more effective. Her research interests there primarily revolve around the topics of Brexit, devolution, and the constitution. Before joining the Institute for Government, Jess worked in the House of Lords Library, producing impartial research briefings for members, and at the Constitution Unit at University College London, where she was Research Assistant to the Independent Commission on Referendums. She spoke at Weekend 4 of the Assembly.



Sir Paul Silk

Paul Silk is a former clerk in the House of Commons, where he advised MPs on procedure and acted as secretary to a number of select committees. Over the course of his career, he was also Clerk of the National Assembly for Wales, a civil servant in the Northern Ireland Office, and Chair of the Commission on Devolution to Wales. He now advises parliaments around the world and is an Honorary Professor at Cardiff University. In 2015 he was knighted for services to the parliaments of, and devolution in, the UK. Paul spoke at Weekend 3 of the Assembly.



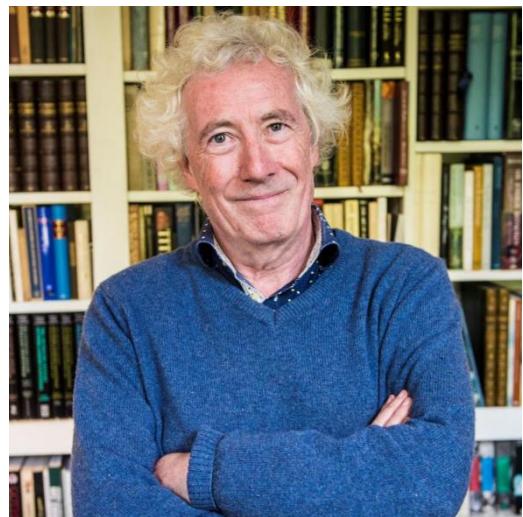
Willie Sullivan

Willie Sullivan is the Senior Director of the Electoral Reform Society (ERS) and Director of ERS Scotland. The ERS campaigns for reform to the electoral system and other aspects of democracy in the UK. A committed supporter of democratic reform and of increasing public involvement in politics, he was Head of Field Operations for the 'Yes' campaign in the 2011 Alternative Vote referendum and has advised politicians in both the UK and Scottish governments. Willie spoke at Weekend 1 of the Assembly.



Lord (Jonathan) Sumption

Jonathan Sumption is one of Britain's foremost public intellectuals. A medieval historian by training, he worked as a barrister in some of the most high-profile legal cases of the past three decades, before sitting as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom between 2012 and 2018. He remains a prolific contributor and author on the subjects of the judiciary, law and politics. He delivered the 2019 BBC Reith Lectures on *Law and the Decline of Politics* and authored *Law in a Time of Crisis*. Jonathan spoke at Weekend 1 of the Assembly.



Dr Paula Surridge

Paula Surridge is Deputy Director of the UK in a Changing Europe, an award-winning academic initiative that conducts research into the relationship between the UK and the European Union. She is also Senior Lecturer at the University of Bristol's School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies. She has studied elections and voting behaviour for almost 30 years and has written extensively on the effect of social and political values on voting behaviour and political engagement. In addition to political values, Paula is also particularly interested in the effects of class and national identity on political behaviour. She spoke at Weekend 4 of the Assembly.



Gráinne Walsh

Gráinne Walsh is Director of Stratagem, a consultancy firm based in Northern Ireland that aims to connect companies with politics. She has extensive experience of working at various levels of government across the United Kingdom and Ireland, having worked in local government, with all political parties in Belfast, and at Westminster and Whitehall in London. Originally from Dublin, Gráinne has a particular interest in citizen engagement, having trained hundreds of voluntary and community groups in campaigning, policy development and engaging with political parties. She spoke at Weekend 1 of the Assembly.



Professor Albert Weale

Albert Weale is Emeritus Professor of Political Theory and Public Policy in the Department of Political Science, University College London, where he still teaches and researches. His research and writing have concentrated on issues of political theory and public policy, especially health policy, environmental policy, the theory of justice and democratic theory. In addition to over one hundred papers and chapters, he has authored, co-authored or co-edited nineteen books. In 2013 he was awarded a CBE for services to Political Science. Albert spoke at Weekend 1 of the Assembly.



Dr Hannah White

Hannah White is the Deputy Director of the Institute for Government, a leading think tank that aims to make government more effective. An expert in all things to do with Westminster and Whitehall, she previously worked in the House of Commons and ran the Committee on Standards in Public Life, an advisory body that advises the Prime Minister on how to ensure ethical standards of conduct across public life in England. She is Deputy Director of the Board of Trustees of Involve, the charity that delivered the Assembly. Hannah spoke at Weekends 1 and 3 of the Assembly.



Jeremy Wright QC MP

Jeremy Wright has been the Conservative MP for Kenilworth and Southam (previously Rugby and Kenilworth) since 2005. He possesses a wealth of experience about government, having been a whip (responsible for encouraging MPs to follow the party line), then Minister of State for Prisons (2012–14), Attorney General for England and Wales (2014–18) and Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (2018–19). He is now a member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. Jeremy spoke at Weekend 1 of the Assembly.

