

24 October 2022

*Rebuilding citizens' trust in our democracy-a Proposal.*

Many congratulations on your appointment to the Prime Ministership.

This is a unique moment and opportunity for you to lay down a clear marker that our democracy needs thoughtful and coherent renewal. Recent events reinforce the widely accepted view that our political system is unhealthily distant from the people it is meant to serve and that we should do something about that. To help find the answers to this difficulty requires our citizens themselves to be meaningfully engaged in the journey of discovery. *We can help deliver that for you.*

Almost two years ago we offered the then Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Duchy a practical Proposal [enclosed] on how to engage our citizens in a dialogue about our democracy. We renew that offer today so that *you and the British people can start a healing national conversation* in order that our UK citizens can feel properly connected to this process of strengthening of our democracy.

By doing this, we will all have a greater sense of being united as a British community and have renewed confidence that we have participated in regenerating a democracy which can again be the envy of the world.

This opportunity to deliberate and think about how to renew our democracy [and many other policy areas] is one which Governments and citizens the world over are taking advantage of. Over 600 successful Citizens' Assemblies - according to OECD reports - have in recent years produced solutions to allegedly intractable problems such as abortion law in Ireland.

We hope that this Proposal demonstrates that we have thought out how Government and citizens can work together to deliver mutually beneficial change. Our focus is how to *enable people to deliberate, think and talk about our democracy then contribute practical, achievable recommendations to Government for consideration.*

The key element that we contribute to this process is to get sensible, independent and legitimate citizens' engagement by the creation of *a Citizens' Convention which meets the most demanding tests of impartiality* that you and we can set.

Our detailed 30-page Proposal explains how we can do that but is just the start of a discussion with HMG to create an engagement process trusted by and helpful to all concerned.

We fully understand that if it is to have credibility it is essential that the final Proposal works for Government and is not viewed or used in any way as an oppositionist project. HMG must be completely engaged with its creation, comfortable with its balance, expertise and agenda, and confident on how it fits into the work of the Governmental and legislative process.

We have interacted informally with Number 10 and the Cabinet Office over the past two years, sharing with them among other things our well-researched June 2019 methodological study on how to do this. We are ready to engage more formally [but confidentially] with whomever you nominate.

We believe it is vital for citizens and Government to work together on this, amending draft designs and developing a trusted partnership. With our global network we can bring together the world's best designers of successful citizens' engagement which we are confident will assist your team in feeling comfortable in standing behind this initiative.

**We hope that you will welcome in principle this concept of co-operation and authorise Ministers and Civil Servants to explore with us in confidence how we will make it work.**

We hope to discuss this with your nominees and in due course agree the detail that will make citizens' engagement and therefore the renewal of our precious democracy a success.

We are at your disposal and look forward to hearing from you,

Graham Allen  
Convener of The Citizens' Convention on UK  
Democracy  
Chair of the Parliamentary Select Committee on  
Political and Constitutional Reform 2010-2015  
Co-creator of the Summit for Democracy's Cohort  
on Deliberative Democracy 2022.  
M:07802 210 179

Prof Andrew Blick  
Project Director, Citizens' Convention on UK  
Democracy  
Head of Department of Political Economy  
King's College London

Other CCUKDemocracy Board members are listed in the Proposal.

GIVE US A SAY    BRING OUR COUNTRY TOGETHER    STRENGTHEN OUR DEMOCRACY