

## **So Epstein buddies Andrew and Mandelson have been arrested in the UK. And in the US? Zero, zip, nada**

So, in the UK, two guys (Former ambassador to USA Mandelson and ex-Prince Andrew) have been arrested in connection with the Epstein scandal: a famously very clever one and a famously very thick one. What unites them? I have a theory about the many, many friends of Jeffrey. And that is that the more vulnerable the milieu they hail from, the greater the chance that they may feel the not-very-full force of the law. This may be why the only two arrests we have seen – except Epstein himself and his accomplice Ghislaine Maxwell – are from the British monarchy and the upper echelon of establishment British politics. Are either of these institutions in bad health? Erm, answer unnecessary. But if you are one of Jeffrey's big shots in big tech, or a high roller from high finance – well, nothing very bad could happen to you there.

I'm not sure very much bad can happen to you in the US as far as Epstein association is concerned. You hear a lot about the British establishment but the American establishment has covered itself in even less glory. Come on, America – you've got to arrest *someone*. Haven't you? Even just one, for appearances' sake? Maybe pick up one of the little people, the ones who cleaned up after whatever took place with the girls, and book them for being an accessory. Again, just for appearances' sake.

The thing about even conservative estimates of what Jeffrey Epstein was up to for literally decades is that an awful lot of people would logically have to be involved. Even those right at the top of the Trump administration say so.

It would be good if this supposedly fearless US administration, or the FBI, or any of America's hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers or 1.3 million active lawyers(!) could produce a single name and state them an active person of interest – and even better if they formally decided to bring them in for questioning for so much as five minutes. And yet, nothing and no one has been brought even near justice except for Jeffrey and Ghislaine. For what we have long been assured was a huge criminal enterprise, Epstein Inc seems to have been a real mom-and-pop business.

Not to the women and girls who were victims of it, of course. When the last batch of files was released earlier this month, almost 100 survivors noted their identities had been compromised in thousands of documents and photos, while they claimed that many of those who were their abusers remained protected. The Department of Justice later said that revealing victims' names and addresses and bank details was due to "technical or human error". No doubt, no doubt.

Alas, with infinite reluctance, I also have another theory on the Epstein scandal. No one else is going to be convicted for the sex stuff. No one at all. All those women, girls – children? – unavenged. No one, but the dead man and the incarcerated woman, is ever going to get convicted, nor almost certainly ever even get charged, either here or in the US.

It may even be – indeed, is likely to be – that the biggest names from whom the public would really, really like to hear more are never even questioned. They will continue to be big shots, or under the radar, or people who simply don't fear a knock at the door, because they understand perfectly well how the system works. And they always did.

By Marina Hyde, The Guardian, 24 February 2026