

NEWS IN BRIEF 4

October 18th – November 7th, 2025

THE ECONOMIST

Catherine Connolly won Ireland's presidential election. Ms Connolly ran as an independent but was backed by Sinn Féin and other parties of the left. Although the presidency is a mostly ceremonial role, Ms Connolly is a fierce defender of Irish neutrality at a time when the European Union is seeking greater commitments to collective defence.

BBC

It's official: New York City will have its first Muslim and first South Asian mayor. Since democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani first entered the New York City's mayoral race, the 34-year-old state assemblyman from Queens has had a meteoric rise from near-total obscurity into the national spotlight. His bold, left-wing platform has energised progressives, shaken up the Democratic party, and drawn harsh criticism from President Donald Trump and Republicans.

CBS

"No Kings" protests express fear, frustration with Trump administration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKbdAtNysE>



The E'conomist is a British weekly magazine that leans right on economic matters but left on social issues.

Ireland /'aɪələnd/ = the Republic of Ireland (see map)

to run (for) : être candidat (au poste de)

to back sb = soutenir / appuyer qn

Sinn Féin /ʃɪn 'feɪn/ = a political movement and party seeking a united republican Ireland.

cere'monial = having no real power or influence

fierce /fɪəs/ : farouche / fervent

co'mmitment : engagement



mayor /'meɪr/ (UK) – /'meɪər/ (US) : maire

mayoral race : la course à la mairie

a'ssemblyman : a person who is a member of a legislative assembly

to have a mete'oric rise : connaître une ascension fulgurante

spotlight = intense scrutiny or public attention

bold [əʊ] = daring / audacious

a 'platform = the declared policy of a political party or group

to draw harsh criticism /'krɪtɪsɪz(ə)m/ : susciter de vives critiques

0:02 – **7 million Ø Americans** ▲ *noter que 'hundred, thousand, million, billion" sont invariables quand ils sont précédés d'un chiffre.*

0:03 – **to take to the streets** : descendre dans la rue (pour manifester)

0:05 – **to pro'test Ø sth** : protester contre qch

0:06 – **abuse** (N) /ə'bjʊ:s/ ≠ **to abuse** (V) /ə'bjʊ:z/

0:29 – **a monarch** /'mɒnək/

0:35 – **to lead off** = to begin

0:39 – **to turn up** : venir / arriver

1:01 – **a 'crackdown on sth** : des mesures sévères contre qch

1:24 – **the Hill** = a metonymy for U.S. Congress. It refers to Capitol Hill, where the Capitol building is located.

1:25 – **House Speaker** = the Speaker of the House of Representatives: le président de la Chambre des représentants.

1:26 – **to frame sth as** = to present / to describe sth as

1:28 – **atten'dees** = participant(s)

1:43 – **to attend Ø** (an event) : assister à

1:55 – **'forefather** = ancêtre

2:00 – **to come full circle** = boucler la boucle

2:45 – **un'rest** = troubles / agitation



US Congress

Britain's Parliament goes after Prince Andrew

MPs want to question the disgraced prince. The prime minister seems unenthused

The Economist, Oct 23rd 2025

The question was simple. Should Prince Andrew be hailed before a parliamentary select committee? The prime minister's answer was delivered in a mumble so fast the precise words were revealed only some hours later in Hansard, the official transcript. "It is important, in relation to all Crown properties, that there is proper scrutiny," he told the House of Commons. British history has been forged in the titanic struggles between monarch and Parliament. Yet Sir Keir Starmer is treating the matter with the haste of an insurance salesman reading out the small print.

On October 17th Prince Andrew, the eldest brother of King Charles III, had agreed to no longer use his titles (among them the Duke of York and the Earl of Inverness), prompted by the publication of a posthumous book by Virginia Giuffre, who had accused him of sexual abuse when she was 17 years old. The *Mail on Sunday*, a newspaper, also alleged that he had asked his police bodyguard to dig up dirt on his accuser; the Metropolitan Police is "actively looking into the claims". Andrew has always denied any wrongdoing.

Amid all this muck, MPs want to know why the prince should continue to live in Royal Lodge, a mansion in Windsor Great Park, on which he pays a peppercorn rent. The scandal of the prince's relationship with Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted paedophile, has dogged the monarchy for over a decade. Time, some MPs conclude, for Parliament to step in.

Sir Keir would like nothing less. Here lies the contradiction in his government. He promised to govern as an insurgent, upending failing institutions on behalf of a public itching for change. Prince Andrew looks like just another rotten public body, ripe for abolition. Yet Labour's path to power required it to show an unusual veneration for the royals, in order to demonstrate that it could be trusted with one of Britons' most treasured institutions after the tenure of Jeremy Corbyn, a republican socialist. But Sir Keir's mute approach to the Andrew affair has left his colleagues fuming. "Everyone thinks he should be castrated by elected politicians," says one frustrated minister about the prince.

Walter Bagehot, an editor of this newspaper in the 19th century, would recognise Sir Keir's predicament. While Britons thought of the crown as the "head of our morality", the royals were a sleazy lot, he wrote in "The English Constitution". George IV was a "model of family demerit" and few princes, he said, "have ever felt the anomalous impulse for real work". But it was better if politicians kept their distance. "When there is a select committee on the Queen, the charm of royalty will be gone."

In reality there is not much that MPs can easily do. Parliament can argue over whether Andrew should be stripped of his princship, but that requires a "letters patent" from the king or an act of Parliament. Politicians have no power over royal rent-setting: the Crown Estate is independent. The ultimate sanction would be for Parliament to pass an act, removing Andrew from the line of succession. (He sits eighth.) But to tinker with the hereditary principle would be to fiddle with the idea of monarchy itself.

UPDATE : Prince Andrew, the brother of King Charles III, was stripped of his title. He will now be known as Andrew Mountbatten Windsor and must leave the Royal Lodge. (*The Economist*, Oct.31,2025)

to go after sb: s'en prendre à qn

unenthused /ʌnɪn'θju:zd/ = unenthusiastic

to haul sb = to force sb to appear for reprimand or trial

to mumble: marmonner

Yet Sir Keir Starmer is treating the matter with the haste of an insurance salesman reading out the small print : Pourtant, Sir Keir Starmer traite cette affaire avec la précipitation d'un représentant en assurances lisant les petits caractères d'un contrat.

to allege /ə'ledʒ/ = to claim / to assert

muck : saleté / boue

peppercorn rent : loyer symbolique

it has dogged the monarchy for over a decade: il hante la monarchie depuis plus de dix ans

he would like nothing less: rien ne lui ferait moins plaisir

to up'end = to turn upside down

on behalf of / br'ha:f/: au nom de

to be ripe for sth: être mûr / prêt pour

pre'dicament = difficult situation

sleazy: louche / scabreux

letters patent = a formal, public legal document issued by the Monarch

to tinker with: toucher à / modifier

to fiddle with: jouer avec / trafiquer

