



Young Königswinter Alumni Conference 2026
22 and 23 October 2026

at
The House of Lords, London

Draft Programme

Conference Location



Palace of Westminster

Address: London, SW1A 0AA

Directions:

Most visitors to UK Parliament will come to the Palace of Westminster (postcode SW1A 0AA). The main visitor entrance, Cromwell Green. Further information: [Visitor's Map](#)

Getting there:

Underground and Rail

Visitors travelling on the London Underground can use the District, Circle or Jubilee lines to get to Westminster station, which is fully wheelchair accessible.

Victoria, Charing Cross and Waterloo mainline stations are about 20 minutes away by foot and have connecting buses.

Bus

Buses stop near Parliament Square in Victoria Street and towards Trafalgar Square in Whitehall. All buses in London are now wheelchair accessible

Cycling

Visitors cannot bring bicycles into UK Parliament. Public bicycle racks are a short distance away outside 7 Millbank. There are cycle hire docking stations in Smith Square and on Abingdon Green.

Please do not bring large items to the House of Lords. Luggage needs to be stored elsewhere.

Organizing Team

Michael Sturrock
Joe Dancey

Birgit Bujard
Mari Mittelhaus

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PROGRAMME

THEME: Challenges & Change: how do Britain and Germany respond?

This conference is held under the Chatham House Rule.

Please note that the conference schedule is still subject to change.

Thursday, 22 October 2026

- 11.00 – **AGM of the YKWA e.V.**
12.00 at the office of DMA
1st floor, Rapier House, 40 Lamb's Conduit Street, C1N 3LB
- 13.00 – **Arrival at the House of Lords**
14.00
- 14.00 – **Opening of the Young Königswinter Alumni Conference 2026**
14.30 Introduction by Julie Smith, Baroness Smith of Newnham
- 14.30 – **Break for Tee & Coffee**
15.00
- 15.00 – **AI between questions of sovereignty & regulation, the future of work and the end of humanity?**
17.00 Callum Anderson MP (tbc), Prof Andreas Busch, University of Göttingen & tbc
Chair: Michael Sturrock
- From **Reception at the German Embassy London: *Oktoberfest der politischen Abteilung der Deutschen Botschaft London***
18.00

Friday, 23 October 2026

- 9.00 – **Two years of the Trinity House Agreement: Where are we at with defence & security?**
10.30 Julie Smith, Baroness Smith of Newnham & tbc
Chair: Joe Dancey
- 10.30 – **Break**
11.00
- 11.00 – **Devolution as an engine for economic growth in the UK**
12.30 Seb Dance, Deputy Mayor of London (tbc) & Henri Murison, The Northern Powerhouse Partnership (tbc)
Chair: Dr Birgit Bujard

12.30 – **Lunch**
14.30

14.30 – **Political instability in our two countries: are they becoming ungovernable?**
16.00 Dr Jan Eichhorn, University of Edinburgh & Anneliese Dodds MP (tbc)
Chair: Mari Mittelhaus

16.00 – **Closing Session: UK and Germany - where do we go from here?**
17.00

17.00 – Transfer to evening venue
18.00

From **Young Königswinter Alumni Get-Together**
18.00 Venue tbc

Supported by:



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
London

Young Königswinter is a conference series of the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft e.V., Berlin. In keeping with the Young Königswinter tradition, the Young Königswinter Alumni meet at regular and independent alumni conferences organized by alumni volunteers.



Background

Under the patronage of the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft, the Young Königswinter Conferences today look back on a tradition of more than 60 years of fostering German-British friendship. They aim to foster the intercultural exchange between young Germans and Britons, who at the conferences discuss social and political issues over several days. For many years, the conferences have generated a high level of cohesion between the participants and have become one of the key events in the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft's portfolio. In 2009, participants of the YKW conferences founded the Young Königswinter Alumni Association (Verein).

The Association is a registered charity in Germany and has its office in Berlin. The alumni's decentralised organisational structure is maintained, however, and they are encouraged to conduct regional activities under the auspices of the Young Königswinter Alumni Association. Enabling meetings and friendships with regard to German-British relations is the Association's central rationale.

First and foremost, the Association aims at institutionalising the alumni network, maintaining and deepening the exchange and creating new points of contact. To this end, it has already initiated a range of activities (event series, lectures and receptions).

Secondly, the Association wants to contribute to the public political debate, with the YKW Alumni representing a group with a great interest in German-British relations. They are highly motivated and work in various professional areas, bound together by the common desire to contribute to society and the democratic development of the body politic. The Association wants to promote and actively use the alumni's potential in order to generate an interdisciplinary discourse on current socio-political issues and to encourage common engagement. In doing so, the Association not only considers itself a link between former and future YKW participants, but also as an intermediary between its members and society. In this spirit, it is a particular concern of the Association to stimulate and contribute to a sustained engagement in and with civil society.

The YKW Alumni Association offers a vibrant and active network in the German-British context. The Association bundles its members' activities and creates a persistent bond, founded in the YKW conferences. The Association offers access to more than 65 years of Young Königswinter Conferences with hundreds of alumni, and the opportunity to engage ambitious and successful people interested equally in cultural and business exchanges. The Association's expanding interdisciplinary network provides an inexhaustible pool for institutionalised civic involvement across party lines.