



The Centre pays tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II



Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

(Photo by Jacob King/PA Wire/PA Images)

The Fellows and Trustees of the Centre share the nation's grief following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022. They offer their sincere condolences to the Centre's Patron and all the Royal Family.

The United Kingdom's longest reigning monarch, Her late Majesty was admired and respected around the world. Over the course of her 70-year reign, she was steadfastly devoted to public service, and remained a symbol of constancy, strength and stability – throughout an era that saw extraordinary change both nationally and globally.

Her role as a unifying force was felt across communities in the United Kingdom and in the

Commonwealth. As the UK has transformed over the past seven decades into a society of many cultures, faiths and traditions, Queen Elizabeth reigned with a sensitivity to this cultural and religious diversity, and with an appreciation for the value that it brings to modern Britain. She was also deeply dedicated to international cooperation – speaking often of the strength born of collaboration between Commonwealth nations.

The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies remains profoundly grateful that Her Majesty recognised the Centre's own commitment to promoting deeper cultural awareness and stronger international dialogue – through her grant of a Royal Charter to the Centre in 2012.

*“Through exchanging ideas,
and seeing life from other
perspectives, we grow in
understanding and work more
collaboratively towards
a common future.”*

HM Queen Elizabeth II
2018 Commonwealth Day message

As the Centre’s Patron, HRH The Prince of Wales, now HM King Charles III, delivered two memorable lectures on ‘Islam and the West’, in 1993, and later on ‘Islam and the Environment’; both were appeals to recognize what we have in common, rather than what may be seen as dividing us.

He also generously hosted a reception at St James’s Palace for friends and supporters of the Centre from the United Kingdom and around the world, to celebrate the award of the Royal Charter to the Centre, in May 2012.

In his speech on that occasion he warmly welcomed this first grant of a charter to an academic institution of Muslim inspiration, dedicated to encouraging a more informed understanding of Islamic culture and civilization – describing it as a truly historic moment.



HM King Charles III (then HRH The Prince of Wales) giving a speech on the occasion of the grant of the Royal Charter



The Union Flag flying at half-mast at the Centre, following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II

As the Centre’s Patron for 29 years, the leadership and encouragement which King Charles III has provided will be of enduring value to the Centre as it continues to promote dialogue, respect and tolerance, which he described as underpinning essential British national values.

His recognition and celebration of the UK’s diverse historical heritage, and of the commonalities which bring its communities together, will continue to inspire respect and appreciation, and indeed maintain the legacy of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

*“promoting diversity is not just
tolerating difference. Living
together as neighbours needs more
than that. The true celebration
of diversity involves reaching
out, recognising and embracing
difference, and in so doing
enriching our lives.”*

HM Queen Elizabeth II
2002 Commonwealth Day message