



Lord Aamer Sarfraz

Member of the House of Lords, UK Parliament

Lord Sarfraz of Kensington is a British parliamentarian, businessman, and philanthropist. Born in London, he grew up in New York and Islamabad. He began his career in venture capital at 3i Group plc, later serving as Managing Director of The Electrum Group, a private equity firm. In 2018, motivated by a commitment to public service, he became a Treasurer of the Conservative Party and an advisor to its leadership. Elevated to the House of Lords in 2020 at age 38, he has served on the AI in Weapon Systems Committee, the Science and Technology Committee, and the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy. From 2022 to 2024, he was the UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Singapore, advancing trade and innovation ties. In 2025, Lord Sarfraz was appointed as the 4th Chancellor of the University of East London, a public university with a body of over 40,000 students



Lord Ross Kempzell

Member of the House of Lords, UK Parliament

Lord Ross Kempzell served as a Senior Special Adviser to the Prime Minister in the No10 Policy Unit. Specialising in public sector reform, he delivered cross-government projects to improve the use of evidence and data in policymaking. He created the Evaluation Task Force, a unit in His Majesty's Treasury and Cabinet Office to improve the use of objective measures of impact in the design of government policy. He contributed to a number of Policy Exchange reports and cross-party programmes on the topic of Whitehall reform, and has regularly appeared on PX panels. He also worked as Political Director of the Conservative Party and Director of the Conservative Research Department under two Prime Ministers. He was elevated to the House of Lords in July 2023.



Emma Edhem

Alderman of the City of London Cooperation

Emma Edhem is an Alderman of the City of London Corporation, Professor in Practice at Durham University in the Space Research Centre and the Durham University Law School. Emma was previously Professor in Practice of Economics & Finance at Durham University. She is Chairman of the OpenUK Space Advisory Board and Defence & Security Advisor to the Strategic Board of Space Aye. From 2023 to 2024, she served as the Lord Mayor's Aldermanic Envoy for Space Technology and Innovation. More recently Emma gave evidence at the House of Lords Select Committee for the UK Engagement on Space with a particular look at how the UK can engage on Space internationally and diplomatically in a volatile geopolitical world.



Rehman Chishti

Former MP, UK Parliament; Former Foreign Office Minister

Rehman Chishti is a former UK Member of Parliament from 2010–2024, he served in Government as a Foreign Office Minister covering North America & Sanctions, UK Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Religious Freedom, and PM Trade Envoy. Prior to being elected to Parliament, he was a lawyer practicing in London, and is currently a visiting Professor of Practice at the LSE in London.



Sir Liam Fox

Chairman Abraham Accords UK, UK Abraham Accords group

Sir Liam Fox qualified as a medical doctor from the University of Glasgow, he served as the Member of Parliament for North Somerset from 1992 to 2024. During his time in government he served as the Secretary of State for Defence between 2010 and 2011, and as the first Secretary of State for International Trade and the President of the Board of Trade between 2016 and 2019. He also served as a Minister in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and as Chairman of the Conservative Party. In 2013 he published *Rising Tides*, a book analysing the challenges of the era of globalisation. He was the UK's nominee to be the Director-General of the World Trade Organisation in 2020. In 2021 he was invited by the Ambassadors of UAE, Israel, Bahrain and Morocco to set up and chair the UK Abraham Accords group to promote and support the international peace agreement. He now chairs the international Abraham Accords Prosperity group.



Matthew Offord

Independent observer; Former MP, UK Parliament

Former Member of the British Parliament (2010-2024), Matthew was an active member of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Azerbaijan. In addition, he was also Chairman of the APPG on Explosive Weapons and visited the Land of Fire to speak at conferences organised by the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action. He completed his PhD at Kings College, London, focussing on Economic Development and Social Exclusion in peripheral rural areas of the UK. Before being elected, Matthew worked as a senior advisor at the BBC and was Deputy Leader of Barnet Council, London's largest local authority. He is a Yachtmaster Ocean sailor and keen longest distance walker, recently completing a solo trek along the entire Jordan National Trail.



David Duguid

Former MP, UK Parliament

David Duguid was a UK Government's Minister in Scotland Office from June 2020 to September 2022, and again in September to October 2023. David also served as a Government Whip (Junior Lord of the Treasury) between June 2020 and September 2022. Mr. Duguid was Vice Chair of the APPG for Azerbaijan, as well as Vice Chair for the Offshore Oil & Gas, and the Carbon Capture & Storage APPGs. Before politics, He worked for 25 years in the international oil and gas sector, including 2 years in Azerbaijan (2006 - 2008). Currently, Mr. Duguid provides freelance policy advice for the energy sector.



Nigel Adams

CEO, Better Earth Limited; Former MP, UK Parliament

The Right Honourable Nigel Adams is Chief Executive Officer of Better Earth Limited, a company focused on investing in and operating assets contributing to the energy transition and decarbonisation. Nigel served as a UK government minister in six departments under two Prime Ministers. His ministerial roles included the Foreign Office as Minister for Asia, Minister for Sport, Culture and Media; latterly in Boris Johnson's cabinet as Minister without Portfolio. Before entering politics in 2010, Nigel was an entrepreneur and founded companies in the technology sector; he has served on private PLC boards. He also advises companies and organisations in the oil and gas sector, professional football and medical aesthetic industry.



Malini Mehra

CEO, GLOBE Legislators; Curator, Baku Climate Action Week

Malini Mehra is Chief Executive of GLOBE Legislators, a role she has held since 2014. During that time, GLOBE has become the UNFCCC Focal Point for the Parliamentary Group, leading on Parliamentary engagement at COPs. Among numerous prominent roles, she served as a Commissioner on Sustainable Development to the Mayor of London for 7 years and advised the UN Secretary General on UN reform. She has served as an adviser to the head of UNDRR and the Global Assessment of Risk (GAR), the UN's flagship report on risk reduction since 2016. Malini is also an Ambassador and founding organiser of London Climate Action Week and curated the inaugural Baku & Rio Climate Action Weeks. The ENDS Report Power List 2025 listed her as one of the UK's 100 most influential environment professionals, and her honors include Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.



Kasim Ali

Leader of the Labour Group, The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council

Councillor Kasim Ali is the Leader of the Labour Group on Kensington and Chelsea Council, elected in March 2019 for the Dalgarno ward. He chaired the Council's Housing and Communities Select Committee from 2019 to 2023. In 2022, he was long-listed as a Labour Party parliamentary candidate for Kensington and Bayswater. Mr. Ali also chairs the Board of Trustees at Al-Manaar, the largest Islamic centre in the borough. Internationally, Mr. Ali served as a Presidential Advisor on a National Development Programme in Somalia from 2016 to 2017. A professional educational consultant, Councillor Kasim Ali was a Student Ambassador at University College London (UCL) and later became part of its fundraising team led by the Vice-Provost for Advancement. He is also the Founder and CEO of Kensington Sauce, a premium London-based condiment brand inspired by Somali flavours.



Andrew Mennear

Senior Director, Government Affairs, bp

Andrew Mennear is Senior Director of UK Government Affairs at bp. After studying Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at Oxford University, he joined bp as a commercial graduate in the manufacturing and supply department of bp oil UK. Andrew was then seconded to the European Petroleum Industry Association (now Fuels Europe) in Brussels. He returned to bp's external affairs team working on trade issues, before joining the UK government affairs team. Following roles in group policy and group strategy, Andrew returned to government affairs, heading up the UK team at bp's headquarters in London. Andrew has twice stood for Parliament and spent 20 years as a member of Camden Council in London.



Markus Gehring

Professor of European and International Law, University of Cambridge

Prof Dr Markus Gehring, J.S.D. (Yale), MA (Cantab), LL.M (Yale), Dr iur (Hamburg), is a Member of the Centre for European Legal Studies (CELS), Fellow and Director of Studies in Law at Hughes and a Fellow of the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law. Before joining the Law Faculty, he served as a Fellow in Law at Robinson College 2005-2012. He has been a Visiting Professor in several law faculties around the world, most recently at the Yale Law School (Spring 2023), and held a Jean Monnet Research Chair and personam in Sustainable Development Law at the University of Ottawa Law Faculty in Canada. He holds a J.S.D. and LL.M from Yale and a Dr iur from Hamburg. A member of the Frankfurt/Main and Ontario Bars, he practiced European and international trade law. He serves as Lead Counsel for Sustainable Trade, Investment and Finance Law with the Centre of International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL), based at McGill University.



David Moran

Senior Adviser (UK and Europe), Caspian Policy Centre

David Moran is Senior Adviser (UK and Europe) to the Caspian Policy Centre, a policy think tank covering relations with Central Asia, the South Caucasus and Türkiye. He was a British diplomat for more than 38 years and Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Switzerland and Liechtenstein as well as Chargé d'affaires in Georgia and Armenia. Other postings included Nairobi, Moscow and Paris. Earlier in his career he worked for the State of Oregon, and as a professional blues pianist. His final British Government role was UK COP26 Regional Ambassador for Europe, Central Asia, Türkiye and Iran. In that capacity he led the UK Delegation to the 2023 Southern Gas Corridor Conference in Baku. He subsequently represented the Caspian Policy Centre at COP29.



James Sharp

Former British Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Advisory Board Member, Caspian Policy Centre

James Sharp was a member of the British diplomatic service from 1987 to 2022, including roles as Ambassador to Azerbaijan (2019-22), and to Kazakhstan and (nonresident) Kyrgyzstan. He has had a number of other roles dealing with former Soviet countries, including at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna. He is currently a member of the Caspian Policy Centre Advisory Board. He also spent several years specialising in legal and illegal migration issues, including in Hong Kong as the UK Border Agency's Asia Pacific Director. This involved running an international customer service business, with 300 staff in 20 countries, 500,000 customers and around \$90m in annual revenues. Prior to joining the UK Foreign Office, he worked in the commercial sphere for British Aerospace in Saudi Arabia, building on his Modern Middle Eastern Studies degree from university.



Christine Özden

Global Director for Climate Education, Cambridge University Press & Assessment

Christine Özden is the Global Director for Climate Education at Cambridge University Press & Assessment. Appointed in 2022, she leads initiatives to integrate climate literacy into education systems worldwide. As the former Chief Executive of Cambridge Assessment International Education, she brings extensive leadership experience in international education. Christine champions sustainability through curriculum innovation, strategic partnerships, and policy engagement. She also plays a prominent role in global forums such as COP28 and COP29, advocating for education as a vital tool in addressing the climate crisis.



Craig Oliphant

Senior Adviser, Foreign Policy Centre

Craig Oliphant is Senior Adviser at the Foreign Policy Centre in London. A former British diplomat (FCDO), from 1990s to 2011, Craig focused in his career on Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. He held senior posts at NATO in Brussels, at the OSCE HCNM in The Hague, and at the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg. From 2011-present Craig has also worked in the NGO sector (Saferworld) as a policy adviser, with a focus on protracted conflicts. Graduated from the University of St Andrews in Scotland (MA Hons in modern languages), and worked at the Conflict Studies Research, RMA Sandhurst in the 1980s. A Trustee for the John Smith fellowship Trust, Craig was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2011.



Nigel Gould-Davies

Senior Fellow, International Institute for Strategic Studies

Nigel Gould-Davies is Senior Fellow for Russia and Eurasia at The International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. He writes on the politics, economics, and diplomacy of the post-Soviet region, and is completing a book on Western economic statecraft. He earlier served in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, where his roles included Ambassador to Belarus, head of the Economic Section in Moscow, and project director in the Strategy Unit. He has also held senior government relations roles in the private sector in Asia, and taught politics and international relations at Oxford University.



Charlie Day

Head of The New Forum

Charlie Day is the founder and host of The New Forum, a social media-based interview show featuring leaders in politics, business, and current affairs. Through in-depth conversations with these leaders, The New Forum encourages audiences to engage with key issues shaping society today. Aimed at a broad cultural demographic, his audience is multigenerational and targets leading opinion and thought leaders as well as policy and newsmakers. His interviews are hosted at Dartmouth House in London where he has a partnership with the English-Speaking Union, an international relations and oracy organisation that promotes public speaking, communication, and cross-cultural understanding globally. Charlie attended St Paul's School in London before receiving his degree from University College London.



Yıldız Tuğba Kurtuluş Kara

Lecturer, Regent's University London

Dr. Kara is the founder and managing director of the Society 5.0 Institute, located in London. In addition to running the Society 5.0 Institute, Dr. Kara is acting as Türkiye Working Group Chair at the Institute of Directors (IoD) and a visiting lecturer at Regent's University London, where she teaches international political economy, geopolitical business trends and sustainability. Dr. Kara studied international political economy at the London School of Economics as a British Council Chevening Scholar. She then completed her PhD in the same field at Ankara University. After serving as a senior foreign trade specialist in the Turkish Ministry of Economy for 12 years, she moved to the private sector, where she held senior managerial positions in strategy and business development.



Michael Ritchie

Editor, Energy Intelligence

Michael Ritchie is the Editor of *Nefte Compass*, Energy Intelligence's publication on energy issues in Russia, the Caspian region, Central Asia and Eastern Europe. He works with a team of writers in Energy Intelligence's Moscow bureau. His own writing is focused on the Caspian and Central Asian region, and he has spoken widely on the area's energy issues at international conferences. He previously worked for Reuters and before that for Middle East Economic Digest, as well as writing articles for leading news publications and appearing as a commentator on international broadcasting channels. He has a degree in Oriental Studies, majoring in modern Arabic language, from the University of Durham in the UK.



Harriet Shoosmith

Senior Parliamentary Assistant, UK Parliament

Harriet Shoosmith is a dedicated public servant whose political journey began at Royal Holloway, where she studied Politics with Philosophy. Her passion for civic engagement quickly grew, leading to her role as Chairman of the ASDCA Young Conservatives. Since joining Parliament in 2020, she has served as Senior Parliamentary Assistant to Bob Blackman CBE MP, gaining deep insights into policymaking and legislative processes. She played a key role in developing the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023, reflecting her commitment to social justice. Ms. Shoosmith supports Bob Blackman across a wide range of parliamentary responsibilities, including his work on the 1922 Committee and international affairs. She has also been closely involved in the organisation and coordination of all recent Conservative Party leadership contests, ensuring the smooth running of these high-profile internal elections



Damian Etone

Senior Lecturer and UNITAR Partnership Director, University of Stirling

Dr. Damian Etone is a Senior Lecturer in Law and Partnership Director for the partnership between the University of Stirling and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. He also serves as the Director of the MSc Programme in Human Rights and Diplomacy, a program offered in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Dr. Etone is a co-founding coordinator of the Universal Periodic Review Academic Network (UPRAN), an international network of scholars focused on the UN's Universal Periodic Review mechanism. In 2023, Dr. Etone was appointed as an Academic Adviser to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC).



John Roberts

Energy Security Specialist, Methinks, Oxford Institute of Energy Studies

John M. Roberts is an energy security specialist with Methinks, focusing on the inter-relationship between energy, economic development, and politics. He is a member of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Group of Experts on Gas; a Senior Research Fellow with the Institute of Energy for South-East Europe (IENE) in Athens; and a Senior Fellow with the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Centre in Washington, DC. Roberts has testified to UK parliamentary committees on Mideast, Russian, Caspian, Turkish and Kurdish energy security issues. He has a particular expertise in the development of energy in Central Asia and the Caucasus and the pipelines designed to connect the Caspian to Europe, Russia, China and India. Publications include: Azerbaijan's energy transition in light of COP 29 (with Julian Bowden); Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, October 2024.



Nina Lutterjohann

Research Associate (MECACs), School of International Relations, University of St Andrews

Dr. Nina Lutterjohann has worked as a Lecturer at the University of St Andrews, for the EU Delegation to the UK, and most recently as an advisor to the CEO and project manager at the Bertelsmann Foundation in Germany. She has also been a Visiting Scholar at the Harriman Institute, funded with a DAAD short-term post-doctoral scholarship. Before that, she was a Guest Researcher at the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) in Berlin in 2020 and held a position as Project Coordinator and Research Fellow in the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence at Bielefeld University. She is a Research Associate at MECACS at the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews, where she also received her PhD on post-Soviet conflicts and international organizations. After her Bachelor's in European Studies at Maastricht University and an MA in Euroculture at Göttingen/Groningen Universities, she expanded her geographic scope to the Black Sea region and EU policy-related work through various work placements.



Jamie Kerr

Partner, Burness Paull LLP

Jamie Kerr is a lawyer who is dual qualified in Scotland, England, and Wales. He is a Partner at Burness Paull LLP and an internationally recognised expert in immigration, global mobility, and international talent. He advises governments, multinational businesses, and international organisations on the movement of people across borders, bringing his specialist expertise to the intersection of law, policy, and trade. Mr. Kerr has held senior advisory roles within the UK, including as Co-Convenor of the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association in Scotland and as a member of the Law Society of Scotland's Immigration; Asylum Committee. He has also contributed to the Scottish Government's Strategic Labour Market Review Group, shaping policy on skills, labour mobility and investment.



Nichola Hutson

Market Leader - Sustainability, Bureau Veritas

Nichola Hutson has international experience working with financial institutions and investors, multinationals, governmental and non-governmental organisations, universities and think tanks- with a drive to accelerate collaboration. Dr. Hutson focuses on driving growth through a relationship-based approach and ensuring high-quality execution in every aspect of the process to help clients navigate the complexities of sustainability, while driving growth and achieving their long-term ESG goals. Her technical expertise spans from Climate Diplomacy, Second Party Opinions (SPOs), Debt Capital Markets Advisory, Sustainable Finance Regulations (including CSRD, SFDR, SDR, EU GBS), and Double Materiality. Niki holds a PhD (A1 pass) in Sustainable Innovation from The Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MlIR) and the Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI), from The University of Manchester (UoM).



Parvina Huseynova

Founder, Realstrategik Consultancy

Parvina Huseynova is the founder of London based Realstrategik Consultancy, a firm specialising in public affairs, political strategy, business consulting, and investment advisory. She served as Deputy Head of Candidates Department for the UK Conservative Party, managing the selection and training of political candidates under four Prime Ministers and contributing to several election campaigns. Previously, she was Head of Policy Relations at the Henry Jackson Society think tank, focusing on international affairs. Parvina holds a BA in Finance, an MSc in Business Economics, and an MRes in Politics from UCL.