Slug

The Contract: **purpleslug for Lord Speaker**

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Real change. Serious deliverance.

Dear friends,

This is my manifesto to make this community and /r/MHoL even better than what my predecessor Ghoulishbulld0g began and managed to achieve.

This means making sure that everybody's voice is heard. It means making sure that every action is transparent and justified. Making sure that our community improves and gets bigger. This manifesto outlines my plans, my beliefs and my hopes for the future. I invite you to read it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to private message me, reply to me or approach me on Discord. I truly believe that I am the most knowledgeable, suitable and ready candidate.

Thank you.

purpleslug

His Excellency, the Rt Hon. purpleslug, MP QPC MBE PC

Incumbent Deputy Lord Speaker and incumbent Chairman of the Grand Committee

Who am I?

I am the incumbent Chairman of the Grand Committee in the House of Lords, making me senior, and I am the true second-in-command of the outgoing Lord Speaker. I am an active, diligent and experienced member, with a long-standing commitment to both the upper house's moderation and the simulation as a whole. Since becoming a Deputy Lord Speaker, I have been very active and dedicated to the operation of our simulation through being a member of the Speakership. I have been a Deputy Lord Speaker since the 3rd of November 2015. I am ready to serve.

I have had a distinguished history as a peer, Deputy Lord Speaker, government and opposition parliamentarian, party leader and Cabinet minister. I was appointed as a Member of the British Empire for services to the simulation in May 2016. I know the ins and outs of MHoC, having been in various Governments, their Leadership rooms and in the Speakership moderation team.

This is just part of why I am the best candidate to succeed my predecessor, Ghoulishbulld0g.

Why should I be elected?

<u>I am a person who strongly believes that moderators should not inhibit the will of the "collective" or "community". I will always put the view of the community above my personal opinions. I will not betray your trust.</u>

I am a very active moderator. ([Proof](#)) I am both dedicated to the simulation and the Houses of Parliament - I have been since I first joined, and I will be in the future. If I am elected, you would get a reliable triumvir who will work hard for this community.

I am very active when it comes to other aspects of the MHoC/L, recently being the current Home Secretary, Deputy Lord Speaker, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats and former Justice Secretary and Lord Chancellor. Internationally I have been the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which has provided insight into how to be diplomatic as a moderator.

I am **Chairman of the Grand Committee** in the House of Lords, as well as fulfilling my duties as a Deputy Lord Speaker. In this role, I have reported to the Lord Speaker regarding meta issues. This is crucial. I am acutely aware of meta issues, and have worked with the rest of the Speakership to deal with them. This puts me in a good position to succeed Ghoulishbulld0g.

> *"Purpleslug is a fantastic member of the Lord Speakership; an experienced and well organised individual."*
>
> Ghoulishbulld0g, His Grace the Duke of Manchester AL PC: Incumbent Lord Speaker

As Secretary-General of the United Nations, I have dealt with meta issues in the past. I am incredibly experienced when it comes to such meta issues, with experience arbitrating in moderation chats when it came to issues that caused moderator conflict, such as *Nuchacho v. the United States.* My knowledge in this field is superior to every other candidate. I would be a strong successor to Ghoulishbulld0g and member of the Triumvirate due to my abilities in dealing with meta problems, small or large.

I have very strong connections to the House of Lords, having been one of the most active Party Lords in the chamber, and being a member from the outset of its creation. I am also one of the longest serving Deputy Lord Speaker incumbents (the second longest, I believe). I also have strong connections to the rest of the simulation, being Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats, and - most recently - the MP for Central Scotland.

Unlike some of the other people running for Lord Speaker, I am not an opportunist. I am experienced, I have the support of my predecessor, and as my manifesto will show you, it is clear that I am the candidate with the credentials for the job.

Some of what I will achieve if I am elected:

These will happen - no false promises.
Real change. <u>Serious deliverance.</u>

I **will** begin work on reforming the constitution of the House of Lords, having input from everyone in the community. This will begin immediately after my election. The current constitution is unwieldy, and far too much up for personal interpretation. For example, the Lord Speaker can "delegate" any and all power to a deputy, with impunity. This contrasts with the Speaker of the House of Commons, who cannot delegate such significant responsibility to any of their deputies. The disparity between the two houses needs to be sorted out. Under my tenure, the Lords constitution will be separated into multiple sections and rewritten entirely by a constitution team. The community will then be able to vote on the final product.

I **will** be spearheading devolution on the Triumvirate. We will have a devolved assembly in the frameworks within three months after my election if it has the expressed support of the community. There is a large demand for such an assembly, and I feel that it is integral for an assembly - perhaps Stormont - to exist in order to stimulate activity in the community. Whilst this is not inherently something related to the House of Lords, I believe it is important for me to state my vested interest in such a thing, as being a Triumvir means that I must actively decide decisions as impacting as this in tandem with the Speaker and Head Moderator.

I **will,** as a Triumvir, push that we have a voted Queen's Speech at the start of every Government in which they set out their legislative agenda. This will solve the confidence issue **<u>once and for all.</u>**

I **will** make sure that any legislation passed about the House of Lords is implemented, wherever it is reasonable, as I feel that moderators clinging to MHoCMeta referenda when the "collective" and House of Commons want to change things *in-game* is wrong. **I do not support meta red tape over being able to simulate change.**

I **pledge** a review into our current party lord system, in order to decrease how partisan the chamber is, as well as address chronic inactivity. This will be headed by a senior, non-partisan and non-Speakership figure.

I **pledge** a review of Achievement Peerages; the system should be for those who deserve it. Unlike the previous Lord Speaker, this will happen within my first two months in office. It will be run by members across the community, as to ensure the lowest amount of partisan bias possible. The report will then be discussed on /r/MHoCMeta and will go to a community referendum. **Nobody will be left behind under my mandate.**

I **will** ensure that the House of Commons will get a say in the amendment of bills, as well as streamline the legislative process further. I want the House of Commons and the House of Lords to be on the same page if the upper house is to exist.

I **will** enforce a code of conduct on my deputies, so that we can regain your trust.

I **will** reopen the Lords Chat as a high-quality chat, and if the community votes for it I **will** allow MPs to talk in the upper house. As Lord Speaker I am going to accommodate both aisles.

I **pledge** that we will have a codified subreddit ban system under my tenure. We must have consistency and we must have fairness. I will also support the creation of a "Bans and Abuse Log" spreadsheet, which will detail subreddit and chat bans, their lengths and justifications for said bans. This will be publicly available and continually updated. As Lord Speaker, I will be a strong advocate of openness, instead of being a supporter of concealed moderator decisions

I **pledge** to hold a independent review on our electoral boundaries and electoral system, and I will make sure that our elections are held to be the best in the Model World by minimising election-time glitches through ensuring that we use the newest, most proofed and most automated technologies possible. As Lord Speaker I will closely liaise with /u/zhantongz on this issue.

I **will** introduce a Convenor of the Crossbench peers to MHoL. This will ensure that we get a Crossbench - not partisan - view presented in the House of Lords, and it will also provide a non-partisan contact for the Lord Speakership about the opinions of the House. **This is part of my strong plan to make the House of Lords less partisan.**

Crucially, **I know when I'm wrong.** I'm not going to put my personal opinion above that of the community for no reason whatsoever. You - the people of this community - can put trust in me to be a Lord Speaker that **will** listen to your concerns, a Lord Speaker that will always regard alternative opinions.

Following on from this, I will always be **fully non-partisan** in my duties, and I will make sure to have friendly relations with all parties. This means no public or private support for any party whatsoever. I will never abuse my capacity for personal gain. I am completely committed to being **your** Lord Speaker, and my duties will always trump the idea of having political interests.

Detailed opinions on Lordships can be found here.

All of these policies will be put on a to-do list. I am a completionist: I will not let down the community as Lord Speaker.

Transparency and accountability

Transparency is a major issue for me. I am fervently of the belief that a transparent and more accountable Speakership is a better Speakership. This is because an attitude of transparent moderation fosters moderator-community cohesion, and it means that people are more "in the loop" instead of being unaware and hostile.

The current drama in /r/CMHoC is one strong reason why I believe that moderator openness is so important. If we don't have a transparent system, inevitably there will be a major dramatic episode that will decrease confidence in the simulation. As Lord Speaker, you can trust that I will actively work towards transparency, and will operate transparently. I have a strong and truthful conviction.

I will inform the community of the executive actions that I take, whether that be through Discord or /r/MHoCMeta. Under my tenure, you will be informed of the progress *of* reforms, the Achievement Lord nomination system and my intentions to progress the House through these months. This is something that I **will not** back down on: a transparent Speakership is integral.

The Lord Speakership needs a radical overhaul in order to adapt to the changing needs of the simulation. I am the candidate that can provide that. I will create a Lord Speakership to-do list, which will be available either through reddit or a Google Spreadsheet. I will continually update the community about my progress on the issues in this document, and anything that pops up. I am the candidate dedicated to openness.

The last Lord Speakership also had a chronic lack of accountability. People were appointed willy-nilly. Actions were unorganised - people didn't know the remit of the Lord Speakership either. As Lord Speaker, I will introduce personal votes of confidence for all of my Deputy Lord Speaker appointments. I will explicitly delineate what Deputy Lord Speakers can and cannot do. Crucially, as Lord Speaker I will make a solemn pledge to cut down the team and provide a more concentrated one, by lowering the team down to at most five Deputy Lord Speakers. I will make all Deputy Lord Speaker positions vacant so that everybody can apply, and I will also reshuffle our Chairman positions as an issue of meritocracy. As Lord Speaker I will be committed to appointing the people with the most knowledge and potential, not just experience.

I will enforce a code of conduct on my deputies. This will affect how they present themselves both on reddit and on Discord. It also means that they will need to affirm that they won't abuse their powers, through actions like partisan moderation, or adding roles to themselves in order to gain access to chats that they shouldn't be in.

To summarise: the Speakership in its current form is not transparent. I promise to be transparent with my actions, and work towards further transparency for the Speakership as a whole. In the past, the Lord Speakership has had lax standards. With me as your Lord Speaker, I promise to have a team who can work with you - courteously. **I am the candidate who can restore your trust in the moderation of our community.**

The Crossbenches, Party Lordships and Achievement Lordships: my plans to improve the House of Lords

The Crossbenches

As Lord Speaker, I will reintroduce Crossbench Lordships (CLs: post-nominal "PL"). This will help to address the partisan nature of the upper house. Crossbench Lordships would be appointed at the discretion of the Lord Speaker, with the expressed consent of the Triumvirate and the knowledge of the Speakership. As well as this, there will be an open period whereby nominees may be scrutinised by the community - ensuring that I will not make a mistake. **By reducing how partisan the upper house is, I will break the deadlock.**

I will introduce a Convenor of the Crossbench Peers, in order to complement the existence of the Leader of the House of Lords (a role that has recently brought significance). The Convenor would have similar duties to the Convenor in real life: representing Crossbenchers and their interests in the House. As well as this, the role would provide a non-partisan opinion on the state of the House, and how the moderation is working. This is integral for a stable, aware and community-supported Lord Speakership - something that I want to lead as Lord Speaker.

The added bonus of having a Convenor of the Crossbench Peers is that the role itself will stimulate activity from the Crossbenches. By stimulating non-partisanism, I as Lord Speaker can solve the gripes you have with the House of Lords.

Party Lords

With the Party Lord review, I intend to downsize the House (through PL reductions) and, due to this, decrease the qualms that members of the community have with the seeming impunity of the House of Lords. I do like the Party Lord concept, but it is undeniable that the House is simply too far bloated and too partisan for its good right now.

Achievement Lords

Achievement Lordships are the highlight of our chamber. However, many of us in the community feel that the nomination of Achievement Lords is not transparent.

There are numerous examples of a lack of transparency. For example, the Conservative peer /u/kevinwilson94 was supposedly appointed as an AL at the advent of their creation, but was in fact not; equally, worthy members such as /u/theyeatthepoo were appointed, but even without the prior knowledge of the people that *should* be in the loop: Deputy Lord Speakers. This cycle of misinformation needs to end. I am the Lord Speaker to stop it.

Under my Lord Speakership, Achievement Lords would be appointed transparently, with forewarning to my deputies and with public announcement beforehand. Any appointments would require extensive visible support under my tenure. That means:

- You will get a say in how ALs are nominated
- You will get to nominate people.
- You will always know who is selected.

Parliament Acts and the Upper House's propensity to reject Bills

I fully accept and understand why there is frustration regarding the powers of the House of Lords. Peers have continually rejected Bills that have enjoyed strong support from the Other Place, for partisan reasons that absolutely do not befit the existence of the Upper House. This is wrong. As Lord Speaker, I will introduce motions clarifying what Lords can and cannot do.

What these motions will ensure is that:
- Lords cannot block Money Bills that are a part of the legislative agenda of a government or coalition manifesto
- There is a new convention in the House restricting what peers can and cannot reject.

I will not block a Parliament Act as Lord Speaker either. Under my plan, we can have a truly technocratic house, which still has rights without impinging on those of the House of Commons.

Lords Chat

As Lord Speaker, I will reopen the House of Lords Chat to non-Lords, but with heavier moderation. This is with the intent of making the Lords Chat both more active as well as the source of more highbrow discussion than its #main counterpart. Non-Lords may be admitted through case-by-case request sent to /r/MHoL. The rules of the chat will be decided with the collaboration of members such as you, whereby I will present a list of draft rules to /r/MHoCMeta, and they can be discussed. Links to divisions and postings will still be put in the reformed Lords chat. To summarise, currently, the Lords Chat is inactive. As Lord Speaker, I will actively try to change that by opening it up to high quality discussion from non-peers.

Conclusion

I hope that having read this manifesto, you also agree with my strong plans to fix this Upper House. By voting for me, you are voting for a Lord Speaker that will recognise the concerns of all in the community, and actively tries to solve them. As Lord Speaker, I will be open and accountable. I will introduce wide-scale reforms that **everybody** can be on the same page on, and I categorically will not let you down.

Thank you for reading.

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PURPLESLUG FOR LORD SPEAKER.
#PS4LS.