

# Our closest friends would like to see an historic wrong righted

Now we are leaving the EU, Brexit provides an opportunity to put right an historic wrong which goes back many years.

Australians, Canadians, New Zealanders and other 'subjects of the Queen' are still treated as foreigners when they visit the UK. Whereas our membership of the EU has required us to submit to the EU's principle of free movement of people, Australians and Canadians, among others, have to apply for a visa.

The Australian Monarchist League has urged Theresa May to address this historic wrong. "Mrs May forgets that many citizens of the Queen's Realms are domiciled in the UK and have a vote as do many people with relatives and friends in these former British nations", said a spokesman for the organisation. "It is about time Britain undertook to resolve this situation now."

The Australian Monarchist League is considering an advertising campaign to make this an issue in the forthcoming election. Philip Benwell MBE, the national chairman, is already in London for meetings with British and European MPs and others to urge that there be established a special entry gate for those countries, such as Australia, who have the Queen as their head of state. He is not suggesting special visa allowances but merely arguing that those from the Queen's Realms be treated with dignity and not as aliens.

The biggest obstacle Mr Benwell and others have faced in their 20-year campaign has been the negativity of supporters of EU membership in this country. With our country now about to begin the great divorce from the EU, the time is surely right to address this issue.

Mr Benwell will be one of the speakers at the Campaign for an Independent Britain's annual rally in London on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Photo by Tamsin Slater 