

## Queen's speech

I'm speaking to you at what I know is an increasingly challenging time, a time of **disruption** in the life of our country, a disruption that has brought **grief** to some, financial difficulties to many, and enormous changes to the daily lives of us all. I want to thank everyone on the **NHS frontline**, as well as **care workers** and those carrying out essential roles who **selflessly** continue their day-to-day duties outside the home in support of us all. I'm sure the nation will join me in assuring you that what you do is appreciated, and every hour of your hard work brings us closer to a return to more normal times. I also want to thank those of you who are staying at home, **thereby** helping to protect the vulnerable, and **sparing** many families the pain already felt by those who have lost loved ones.

Together we are **tackling** this disease, and I want to reassure you that if we remain united and resolute, then we will overcome it. I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take **pride** in how they responded to this challenge, and those who come after us will say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any, that the attributes of self-discipline, of quiet, **good-humoured resolve**, and of fellow feeling still characterize this country. The pride in who we are is not a part of our past, it defines our present and our future.

The moments when the United Kingdom has come together to applaud its care and essential workers will be remembered as an expression of our national spirit, and its symbol will be the rainbows drawn by children. Across the Commonwealth and around the world, we have seen **heart-warming** stories of people coming together to help others, be it through delivering food parcels and medicines, checking on neighbours, or converting businesses to help the relief effort. And though self-isolating may at times be hard, many people of all **faiths** and of none are discovering that it presents an opportunity to slow down, pause and reflect in prayer or meditation.

It reminds me of the very first **broadcast** I made in 1940, helped by my sister. We as children spoke from here at Windsor to children who had been evacuated from their homes and sent away for their own safety. Today, once again, many will feel a painful sense of separation from their loved ones, but now as then, we know deep down that it is the right thing to do. While we have faced challenges before, this one is different. This time we join with all nations across the globe in a common **endeavour**. Using the great advances of science and our instinctive compassion to **heal**, we will succeed, and that success will belong to every one of us. We should take comfort that while we may have more still to **endure**, better days will return. We will be with our friends again. We will be with our families again. We will meet again. But for now, I send my thanks and warmest good wishes to you all.

## VOCABULARY

**Disruption** /dɪs'trʌpʃn/ = disturbance or problems which interrupt an event, activity, or process.

**Grief** /gri:f/ = intense sorrow, especially caused by someone's death; sadness

**NHS** = abbreviation for the National Health Service

**Frontline** /frʌnt'laɪn/ = the military line or part of an army that is closest to the enemy. Related to those who are directly involved

**Care worker** = person employed to support and supervise vulnerable, infirm, or disadvantaged people, or those under the care of the state.

**Selflessly** /'sɛlfləsli/ = in a way that is concerned more with the needs and wishes of others than with one's own.

**Thereby** /ðe:'bʌɪ/ = by that means; as a result of that.

**Spare** /spe:/ = avoid causing grief, trouble etc to (a person)

**Tackle** /'tak(ə)l/ = make efforts to deal with (a problem or difficult task).

**Pride** /praɪd/ = a feeling of pleasure and satisfaction that you get because you or people connected with you have done or got something good – **Take pride in** someone or something; take satisfaction in, to **be proud of** someone

**Good-humoured** /,gʊd'hju:məd/ = naturally cheerful and friendly

**Resolve** /rɪ'zɒlv/ = firm determination to do something.

**Heart-warming** = emotionally rewarding or uplifting, touching, moving

**Faith** /feɪθ/ = strong belief in the doctrines of a religion; complete trust or confidence in someone or something

**Broadcast** /'brɔ:dka:st/ = transmit (a programme or some information) by radio or television.

**Endeavour** /ɪn'devə,ɛn'devə/ = try hard to do or achieve something; attempt, aim; attempt to achieve a goal

**Heal** /hi:l/ = cause (a wound, injury, or person) to become sound or healthy again.ù

**Endure** /ɪn'dʒʊə/ = suffer (something painful or difficult) patiently.