# Prince Andrew’s return to royal duties faces fresh scepticism after Virginia Giuffre’s death



Discussions surrounding Prince Andrew’s prospective return to royal duties have resurfaced amidst the recent announcements regarding Virginia Giuffre, who tragically lost her life by suicide. Giuffre, a prominent figure in the alleged sex trafficking ring run by the late Jeffrey Epstein, accused Andrew of sexual assault when she was just 17 years old. While the prince has previously claimed he would fight to clear his name, he ultimately reached a controversial settlement in a US civil case believed to be around £12 million, without admitting guilt. His lawyer remarked on Giuffre's claims as “baseless,” further asserting that she was seeking a “payday.”

Giuffre’s accusations stemmed from her recruitment into Epstein’s trafficking operation by Ghislaine Maxwell, which she says began while she was working at Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago resort in 2000. In her accounts, Giuffre recounted the disturbing experience of being "lent out to politicians and academics and royalty,” describing herself as being “passed around like a platter of fruit” during a BBC interview.

The announcement of Giuffre's death prompted many to reflect on the ongoing narratives surrounding Prince Andrew and his connection to the scandal. A statement from her family highlighted the extensive trauma she endured, referring to her life as one marred by "lifelong victimisation" and the overwhelming toll of her past.

The royal family typically adheres to a policy of silence, encapsulated in the adage “never complain, never explain.” However, Andrew's infamous 2019 BBC Newsnight interview contradicted this tradition, bringing to light his perspective on the allegations. He notably described his only culpability as having a “tendency to be too honourable,” failing to express genuine contrition. This interview led to widespread public outrage and left many questioning his awareness of the implications of his statements and behaviour.

Despite occasional public appearances, Andrew’s presence at royal events has often been met with ambivalence. His attendance at the memorial for Prince Philip in 2022 and an Easter church service in Windsor raised eyebrows, particularly following fresh scrutiny regarding his associations, one notably with businessman Yang Tengbo, who has been accused of espionage.

As discussions about his potential reintegration into royal duties continue, many remain sceptical about the possibility of his acceptance back into the royal fold. Prince Andrew, despite residing in considerable luxury, may find himself perpetually estranged from the public approval he appears to covet. This estrangement is seen not as a harsh punishment by some, but rather as a reflection of the consequences of his past associations and decisions.

Andrew's situation juxtaposes sharply with Giuffre's tragic fate, serving as a stark reminder of the profound personal costs borne by the individuals at the heart of these allegations. The intricate dynamics of scandal, public perception, and royal traditions continue to unfold, leaving the future uncertain for both the prince and the broader royal institution.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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