


Family dysfunction, racism and sexism — national opinions on Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s decision to step away

 [deseret.com/opinion/2020/1/10/21060371/prince-harry-meghan-markle-duke-duchess-sussex-royal-family](https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2020/1/10/21060371/prince-harry-meghan-markle-duke-duchess-sussex-royal-family)

On Wednesday, Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, announced that they would “step back” from the royal family by splitting their time between the United Kingdom and North America. Media outlets shared opinions on why the royal couple made the decision and what the impact will be on the senior royal family in the U.K.

The Washington Post published a column on the family dysfunction involved in the royal exit.

“The thing about riding off into the sunset is that, depending on the terms of your departure, it means leaving your once-beloved brother, father and grandmother behind.” — Alyssa Rosenberg, opinion writer

The New York Times published [a piece](#) on the role racism may have played in the couple’s decision.

“If the media paid more attention to Britain’s communities of color, perhaps it would find the announcement far less surprising.” — Afua Hirsch, author of “Brit(ish): On Race, Identity and Belonging.”

HuffPost tweeted a link to their article praising the decision to step away from extended family:

Honestly, we could all take note from the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

<https://t.co/OjyvDbg9KG>

— HuffPost (@HuffPost) [January 10, 2020](#)

The article states, “Setting clear boundaries with your relatives — and telling them what you are and aren’t comfortable with — isn’t always the easiest, but doing so can make your life (and theirs) much, much smoother in the long run.” — Julia Ries, LA-based freelance writer who covers health and wellness for HuffPost.

Tom McTague wrote in [The Atlantic](#) that the couple was somewhat selfish in their decision to leave the royal family.

“And here we arrive at Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, who have announced that they are stepping back as senior members of the royal family, taking on fewer duties while continuing to ‘fully support’ the Queen.

“It doesn’t take a royal kremlinologist to work out that you can’t step back from your duties *and* fully support the person in charge of doling out those duties” — Tom McTague, London-based staff writer at The Atlantic.

Columnist for the Chicago Tribune John Kass tweeted out a link to his take on the ordeal.

Don't run to Canada, [#MeghanMarkle](#), come to Chicago. You and Harry working in my favorite diner--he can learn to make Greek chicken--& you can earn tips. And you won't have to worry about [#QueenElizabeth](#). [#Megxit](#) <https://t.co/RMC7iOdbgC>

— John Kass (@John_Kass) [January 10, 2020](#)

The [Los Angeles Times](#) [opined](#) that the exit might be spurred on by sexism of the tabloid press.

“I think it’s about sexism and a resentment of her being American. I’ve read Brits online criticize her for speaking up, for somehow not giving Harry the lead when they make an appearance together, for soaking up too much of the spotlight and having the temerity to reinvent the kind of do-good work that royals do.” — Carla Hall, editorial board member for the Los Angeles Times.