

Liberal International's 2025 Isaiah Berlin Lecture was delivered by Professor John Gray at the National Liberal Club and can be seen here:

[Isaiah Berlin Lecture 2025 – John Gray: Liberalism, Populism and the Sense of Reality](#)

Expanding on the subject of his lecture, 'Liberalism, Populism and the Sense of Reality', and in conversation with LI President of Honour, Lord Alderdice, Professor Gray – who worked with Isaiah Berlin for two decades – offered, at times, challenging propositions arguing for instance that “the populist movements sweeping the world are not external threats to liberalism, but the shadows cast by its own excesses”.

"Liberal politics," Professor Gray reminded the audience, "is not the pursuit of agreement, but the art of living together without killing each other - even learning from one another."

His closing message was a call to return to genuine politics - dialogue, compromise, and empathy - rather than relying on technocratic or judicial shortcuts.