DE GRUYTER
OPEN

**H. E. AMBASSADOR OF UNITED KINGDOM IN REPUBLIC OF
MACEDONIA CHARLES GARRETT**

IMPORTANCE OF MAGNA CARTA FOR GLOBAL DEMOCRATIC TRENDS AT A CONFERENCE IN MACEDONIA

DOI: 10.1515/seeur-2015-0002

Ambassador Charles Garrett, along with the US Ambassador to Macedonia, were the opening speakers at the conference. In his speech ambassador Charles Garrett said:

Magna Carta is not only a document; it is an encapsulation of many of the values of civilization. That no person can be denied the right to liberty; that each person is entitled to fair trial; that the rule of law must be upheld rigorously; that no one is above the law, no ruler or government.

And that is the enduring value of Magna Carta 800 years on, in a world where many governments practice unrestricted power, where states curtail individual rights, where individuals face arbitrary detention, torture, and state-sponsored harassment of those who disagree with the government of the day. And that is why debates about Magna Carta are always popular: whenever governments and rulers behave like that, there is always a demand for debate about respect of human rights, accountability, transparency, free expression, democracy and dialogue.

And this is not simply about noble concepts. Conflict thrives where human rights abuses go unchecked, often with devastating consequences for communities and nations. And prosperity and stability thrive where democratic freedoms, good governance and the rule of law are upheld.