CoScan
Confederation of Scandinavian Societies

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For immediate release

HRH The Duchess of Gloucester receives the CoScan 2026 Nordic Person of the Year Award

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester has received the 'Nordic Person of the Year Award' from CoScan, The Confederation of Scandinavian Societies in the UK.

The award recognises Her Royal Highness, who is of Danish origin, for her unstinting work as patron to a large range of charitable organizations, with a strong focus on healthcare, music, education and disability support, as well as her role as Protector of the Anglo-Danish Society's Scholarship Programme. The award is also a heartfelt thank-you from our member societies across the British Isles who take a huge pride in Her Royal Highness's Danish origins and wish to express their admiration for the unique level of compassion The Duchess shows and her dedication to her role within the Royal Family.

The CoScan award was made during an event hosted by the Anglo-Danish Society in London, at the Danish Ambassador's Residence, on 19th May 2026.

Presenting the award, Nick Archer MVO, the President of CoScan, said: 'CoScan's Nordic Person of the Year Award goes annually to people of Nordic origin who have made a distinctive mark on this country, whether as residents

or visitors. There is possibly nobody of Danish origin who has in such a sustained way over such a long period of time had as great a positive influence on British public life as Her Royal Highness. Since her marriage to the then Prince Richard of Gloucester in 1972, she has travelled the length and breadth of the United Kingdom and around the world as a working Member of the Royal Family, becoming increasingly loved and respected as the years have passed. This recognition by CoScan of Her Royal Highness is long overdue. But, as they say and as CoScan hopes, 'better late than never'. 'Bedre sent end aldrig'.

About The Duchess of Gloucester

The Duchess of Gloucester is Danish by birth. She is the wife of Queen Elizabeth's cousin, The Duke of Gloucester, and a full-time working member of the Royal Family.

Her Royal Highness takes great pride in the work she undertakes for her many charities and organisations, as well as her duties in support of the Monarch. According to the royal.uk website, she has said of her involvement with charities:

'As members of the Royal Family and in our public life, The Duke and I have the huge privilege of continuously meeting people greatly committed to their work with charitable causes - many individuals being volunteers, doing all kinds of good works, giving of their time, talents and expertise. Some are high-powered and greatly skilled, others willing to do the most mundane but essential tasks - all of them enjoying being part of a team supporting a noble cause. It is inspiring and immensely rewarding meeting these volunteers on my varying engagements in London and throughout the country. I meet volunteers in schools, often for children with special needs, medical research projects, hospices, homes for older and frail people, and also in community initiatives for sport, music and the conservation of the Arts. I see so many wonderful places, and it is the people involved who make them so.'

About CoScan

CoScan was founded in 1950 and supports and represents all the major Anglo-Scandinavian societies in the UK, as well as friends of the Nordic countries living in the UK. It has a combined membership of many thousands of people and it acts as a coordinating body for cultural exchange between the UK and Ireland on the one hand and the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, on the other. The embassies of the Nordic countries are its patrons.

Each year, CoScan makes a 'Nordic Person of the Year Award' to mark the achievement of **outstanding** merit by an individual, body or group related to one of the five Nordic countries, and who have caused the British and others outside the region to view the Scandinavian countries with ever-increasing affection and respect.

Previous recipients, representing the whole of Scandinavia, include chess champion Magnus Carlsen, astronaut Christer Fuglesang, diplomat Hans Blix, philanthropist Lisbet Rausing, presenter Sandi Toksvig, Scandi-noir writer, Jo Nesbø, conductor Sakari Oramo, and pianist Víkingur Ólafsson.

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