

Vision on the Royal House

The occasion of this piece

Since September 2022, Crown Princess Catharina-Amalia Beatrix Carmen Victoria of Orange-Nassau, or Amalia for short, has been studying PPLE at the University of Amsterdam. Her entry into Amsterdam's student life was not without controversy. For example, people were allegedly evicted from their homes to make room for the crown princess and Amalia is seriously threatened by the criminal circuit. For this reason, ASVA is sometimes publicly asked for an opinion in the media. To maintain a consistent line in the spokespersonship, two orders were expressed to the board from the ALV on March 13, 2023. First, the order was given to clearly emphasize in further communications that we cannot separate Amalia from her position. Second, the board was asked to prepare a general vision of the royal family. This piece addresses both issues in that order.

ASVA's Vision of Amalia's position as a student:

ASVA believes that Amalia cannot be seen in isolation from her title as crown princess of the Netherlands. ASVA will therefore, if relevant, be critical of the privileges Amalia enjoys and the consequences that her presence has on other students.

There are several reasons why we do not see her separate from her position. First, the privileges Amalia enjoys are at odds with the interests of other students. For students, it is not an easy time. Students often have to go into debt by tens of thousands of dollars and suffer severely from housing shortages. In contrast, Amalia receives 1.3 million euros annually and has been given a house by a family friend. As such, she is not a normal student.

Second, it is strange to deem that someone who by "the grace of God" is allowed to be our head of state can be a normal student. Striving for a normal student life for Amalia is impossible with this fact.

As ASVA, we therefore remain keen on privileges that Amalia enjoys and the measures taken on her behalf. We do not think it is acceptable that other students should suffer because of Amalia's security, for example.

General view on the royal house:

Regarding the royal family as a whole, ASVA is critical of the public funds that go to this family. Moreover, having a Royal Family is at odds with ASVA's democratic view of politics. All representatives of a democratic country should be democratically elected. In addition, succession is contrary to the principle of equality because not everyone is allowed to become head of state.

The king is inviolable before the law his entire life while all other Dutch citizens are not, or are only temporarily so. The king does not pay taxes on his benefits, gifts and inheritances. Again, ASVA does not think this is fair.

However, ASVA will not actively express this opinion. The royal family as a whole is not relevant enough for us as a student organization to actively pay attention to it. This means we will not proactively express this opinion, but we will express it when ASVA is asked about it. In addition, it is not realistic to assume that ASVA can seriously influence this issue.