

Today...

An open letter to the Prime Minister on Human Rights Day.

Dear Prime Minister,

Today, on Human Rights Day, we will celebrate the difference the Human Rights Act makes to all our lives.

The Human Rights Act is something to cherish. It helps those delivering frontline services to make difficult ethical decisions and enables families to hold those in powerful positions to account. It is key to defending our free press and to protecting our democracy. It is the Bill of Rights we already have.

This year, huge uncertainty and upheaval began that will continue for years to come. It is not the time to add to the legal confusion, to risk further division or signal that the UK wants to walk away from international standards. Now is the time to champion, at home and abroad, the protection of hard-won human rights. For everyone.

The day you became Prime Minister you said your mission was to make Britain a country that works for everyone, including the disadvantaged. You said that when your government passes new laws you would listen to ordinary people and you would do everything you could to give them more control over their lives.

The Human Rights Act makes a much-valued difference to all our lives and for many people that difference is dramatic. Please, Prime Minister, drop the government's commitment to "scrap" the Human Rights Act.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Bowen, Director, **British Institute of Human Rights**;
Fiona Bawdon and Caoilfhionn Gallagher, Co-founders, **Act for the Act**; Gary FitzGerald, Chief Executive, **Action on Elder Abuse**; Paul Breckell, Chief Executive, **Action on Hearing Loss**; Chilli Reid, Head of Development and Policy, **Advice UK**; Justine Hodgkinson, CEO, **Advocacy Focus**; Donna Covey CBE, Director, **AVA (Against Violence and Abuse)**; Mary Winter, Chair, **Age Connects Morgannwg**; Dean Richards, Chief Executive Officer, **Age Connects Neath Port Talbot**; Jeff Hawkins, Chair, **Age Connects Wales**; Ian Thomas, CEO, **Age Cymru**; Brian Sloan, Chief Executive, **Age Scotland**; Joe Powell, National Director, **All Wales People First**; Jim Pearson, Director of Policy & Research, **Alzheimer Scotland**; Kate Allen, Director, **Amnesty International UK**; Geof Armstrong, Director, **Arcadea**; Federico Moscogiuri, Chief Executive, **Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance**; Lynne Tammi, National Co-ordinator, **Article 12 in Scotland**; Carolynne Willow, Director, **Article 39**; Diane Dunlevey, Chair, **Asian Fire Service Association (AFSA)**; Ali McGinley, Director, **Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID)**; Ewan Roberts, Centre Manager, **Asylum Link Merseyside**; Priscilla Nkwenti, Chief Executive, **BHA for equality in health and social care**; Ben Higgins, Chief Executive, **BILD**; Rebecca Schiller, Chief Executive, **Birthrights**; Dr Christina Richards, **BiUK**; Asif Afridi, **BRAP**; Tom Hore, Director, **Bristol Mind**; Dr Ruth Allen and Guy Shennan, CEO and Chair, **British Association of Social Workers**; Andrew Copson, Chief Executive, **British Humanist Association**; Maurice Frankel, Director, **Campaign for Freedom of Information**; Heléna Herklots, Chief Executive, **Carers UK**; Alison Garnham, Chief Executive, **Child Poverty Action Group**; Isabelle Guitard, Director of Programmes, **Child Soldiers International**; Alison Todd, Chief Executive, **Children 1st**; Tam Baillie, **Children and Young People's Commissioner, Scotland**; Chris Dodd, Acting Coordinator, **Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance**; Amy Woodhouse, **Children in Scotland**; Professor Sally Holland, **Children's Commissioner for Wales**; Louise King, Director, **Children's Rights Alliance for England**; Jim Bowen, **Clynyfw Care Farm**; Jatin Haria, Executive Director, **Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights**; Brian Gormally, Director, **Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ)**; Liz Sayce OBE, Chief Executive, **Disability Rights UK**; Catherine Rayner, Chair, **Discrimination Law Association**; Martyn Jones, Executive Director, **Diverse Cymru**; Leigh Daynes, Executive Director, **Doctors of the World UK**; Carol Boys, Chief Executive, **Down's Syndrome Association**; Rachel Kryss, Co-Director, **End Violence Against Women Coalition**; Jo Glanville, Director, **English PEN**; Jago Russell, Chief Executive, **Fair Trials**; The Board, **Fairness, Respect, Equality Shropshire (FRESH) Ltd**; Jasvir Singh, Co-Chair, **Faiths Forum for London**; Cathy Ashley, Chief Executive, **Family Rights Group**; Sam Smethers, Chief Executive, **Fawcett Society**; Emma Sangster, **ForcesWatch**; Susan Munroe, Chief Executive, **Freedom from Torture**; Chris Whitwell, Director, **Friends, Families and Travellers**; Henry Blaxland QC, Kathryn Cronin and Marc Willers QC, Joint Heads of Chambers, **Garden Court Chambers**; Lucy Peake, Chief Executive, **Grandparents Plus**; Helen Mead, Co-ordinator, **Greenwich Migrant Hub**; Management Board, **Harrow Voluntary & Community Sector Forum**; Professor Cornelius Katona, Medical Director, **Helen Bamber Foundation**; George Valiotis, CEO, **HIV Scotland**; John Scott QC, Convenor, **Howard League Scotland**; Varsha Parmar, Executive Officer, **Human Rights & Equalities Charnwood**; Mhairi Snowden, **Human Rights Consortium Scotland**; Dr Damien Short and Dr Corinne Lennox, **Human Rights Consortium, School of Advanced Study**; Sean Humber, Head of Human Rights, **Human Rights Department, Leigh Day**; Benjamin Ward, Deputy Director, Europe & Central Asia Division, **Human Rights Watch**; Marai Larasi MBE, Executive Director, **Imkaan**; Imran Khan, Partner, **Imran Khan and Partners**; Tracey Lazard, CEO, **Inclusion London**; Sara Khan, Co-Founder and Co-Director, **Inspire**; Dr Phillip Tahmindjis, Director, **International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute**; Dr Alison Summers, Chair of Trustees, **ISPS UK (UK network of the International Society for psychological and social approaches to psychosis)**; Bram Wanrooij, Chair, **Jersey Cares: Refugee Aid Group**; Saira Grant, Chief Executive, **Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants**; Jamie Burton, Chair, **Just Fair**; Ratna Lachman, Director, **JUST Yorkshire**; Andrea Coomber, Director, **JUSTICE**; Carolina Gottardo, Director, **Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS)**; Julie Bishop, Director, **Law Centres Network**; Steve Hynes, Director, **Legal Action Group**; Nicola Mackintosh QC (Hon) and Jenny Beck, Co-Chairs, **Legal Aid Practitioners Group (LAPG)**; Paul Roberts OBE, Chief Executive Officer, **LGBT Consortium**; Paul Martin OBE, Chief Executive, **LGBT Foundation**; Martha Spurrier, Director, **Liberty**; Lisa Redding, Acting Chief Executive, **London Voluntary Service Council**; Paula Twigg, Director, **Mary Ward Legal Centre**; David McCoy, Director, **Medact**; Theresa Schleicher, Acting Director, **Medical Justice**; Jenny Edwards CBE, Chief Executive, **Mental Health Foundation**; Zrinka Bralo, Chief Executive, **Migrants Organise**; Wayne Myslik, Chief Executive, **Migrants Resource Centre**; Don Flynn, Director, **Migrants' Rights Network**; Harun Khan, Secretary General, **Muslim Council of Britain**; Deborah Gold, Chief Executive, **NAT (National AIDS Trust)**; Management Committee, **National Alliance of Women's Organisations**; Vic Rayner, Executive Director, **National Care Forum**; Rob Greig, Chief Executive, **National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi)**; Sarah Yiannoullou, Managing Director, **National Survivor User Network (NSUN)**; Malia Bouattia, President, **National Union of Students**; Julia Lyford, Chair, **North East Equalities Coalition**; Melanie Crofts, **Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council**; Sarah Rochira, **Older People's Commissioner for Wales**; Kath Parson, Chief Executive, **OPAAL (UK)**; Karen Chandler, Chief Officer, **Pembrokeshire People First**; Peter Dawson, Director, **Prison Reform Trust**; Lubia Begum-Rob and Deborah Russo, Joint Managing Solicitors, **Prisoners' Advice Service**; Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, **Quakers in Britain**; Andy Gregg, Chief Executive, **Race On The Agenda**; Liz J. 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The British Institute of Human Rights

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