



Sanchita Hosali, CEO
British Institute of Human Rights
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MoJ Ref: ADR120020

7 January 2025

Dear Sanchita,

Human Rights Day 2024

Thank you for your letter of 10 December to the Prime Minister, marking Human Rights Day. As the Minister responsible for human rights, I have been asked to respond. I would like to thank you, and the 70 organisations from across the UK who acted as signatories to your joint letter, for taking the time to write to the Government about these important issues.

The Government was pleased to mark Human Rights Day. I was delighted to join you and many of your member organisations when speaking at your event in the House of Lords. Thank you again for the invitation: I hope my comments about the commitment of the Government to protecting and promoting human rights, and my personal reflections on the importance of human rights, were of interest to your attendees.

As I said in my speech, I emphasise that the UK government is fully committed to the protection of human rights both domestically and internationally. We are committed to the international human rights framework and the important role that multilateral organisations like the Council of Europe play in upholding it. This Government will never withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights.

This Government is committed to promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law. We put this at the heart of what we do. The UK government is firmly committed to promoting and advancing the rule of law internationally and re-invigorating the UK's important reputation as a global leader in shaping and respecting the international legal order. We will work with others to promote the rule of law in partnership internationally.

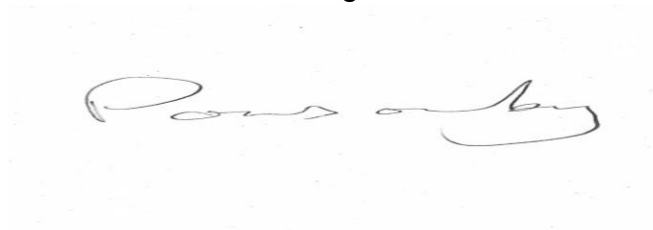
To that end, and also to mark Human Rights Day, the Foreign Secretary and Lord Collins, my counterpart in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, hosted an event for over 200 human rights experts, faith leaders, and members of the NGO and diplomatic community. Speeches delivered by the Foreign Secretary, Attorney General, and Lord Collins set out the Government's approach to upholding human rights, democracy and the rule of law internationally, focused on five priorities:

- Defending civic space and fundamental freedoms
- Upholding the rule of law

- Championing equal rights for all
- Supporting accountable, effective, and inclusive institutions
- Responding to global challenges including climate, conflict and technology by prioritising human rights and governance principles.

Thank you again for taking the time to write, and I wish you a happy new year.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ponsonby', is centered within a light gray rectangular box. The signature is fluid and cursive.

LORD PONSONBY OF SHULBREDE