



Dear Prime Minister & political leaders,

Today marks global Human Rights Day. Seventy-five years ago, a ground-breaking global pledge was made: to commit to universal human rights for all people, everywhere, through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Anchored by common fundamental values that reach beyond divides, the UDHR makes it clear that universal human rights are part of what it means to be human, not gifts granted by the state.

This year also celebrates the victory to secure our Human Rights Act, with the UK Government withdrawing its two-year campaign to scrap it in favour of a Rights Removal Bill that would have taken us away from universal human rights protections. Voices across civil society joined together to speak up, exemplifying the United Nations' call to action this year: to support a movement of shared humanity while empowering people to claim their rights.

Enshrining the rights of all human beings to equal dignity and respect, the UDHR sets a global blueprint for international, national, and local laws and policies. The UDHR inspired the European Convention on Human Rights, laying the foundations for everyone in the UK to be able to challenge the institutions of public power that impact our lives. Brought home by our own Human Rights Act, as legal tools to hold the powerful accountable in courtrooms and through practical everyday advocacy, each one of us can access our universal human rights in what Eleanor Roosevelt, key architect of the UDHR, called our "small places close to home".

This Human Rights Day, we celebrate having secured our Human Rights Act; we celebrate the UDHR. There is, however, much work to do in resisting the sustained attacks on universal human rights here at home. We are calling on all political leaders to reaffirm the commitment to universal human rights for all people, through both words and actions, nationally, in devolved nations, and in the small places close to home.

Yours sincerely,

Sanchita Hosali, CEO at British Institute of Human Rights
Lucy Peake, CEO at Kinship
Jonathan Senker, Chief Executive at VoiceAbility
Kari Gerstheimer, CEO at Access Social Care
Charlie McMillan, Chief Executive at Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities
Tom Doyle, CEO at Yorkshire MESMAC
Jayne Leeson, CEO at Changing Our Lives
Rosalind Stevens, Project Manager at Civil Society Alliance
Vivien Cooper, CEO at The Challenging Behaviour Foundation
Richard Robinson, CEO at Hourglass
Mia Hasenson-Gross, Executive Director at René Cassin, the Jewish voice for human rights
Shoaib M Khan, Human Rights Lawyer at SMK Law Solicitors
Tom Brake, Director at Unlock Democracy
Annette Lawson, Chair at The Judith Trust
Sam Smith, CEO at C-Change Scotland
Lorraine Keown, Chair of the Human Rights and Equality Committee at The Law Society of Northern Ireland
Mhairi Snowden, Director at Human Rights Consortium Scotland
Kerry Smith, CEO at Helen Bamber Foundation
Christina McAnea, General Secretary at UNISON
Dr Donald Macaskill, Chief Executive Officer at Scottish Care
Sarah Maguire, Chief Executive Officer at Choice Support
Sara Redmond, Chief Officer of Development at Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)
Julie Bishop, Director at Law Centres Network
Karen Parry, Chief Executive at Inclusion North
Louise King, Director at Children's Rights Alliance for England, part of Just for Kids Law
Deniz Ugur, Deputy Director at End Violence Against Women Coalition
Anna Fowlie, Chief Executive at Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
Juliet Tizzard, Director of External Relations at Parkinson's UK
Vic Rayner, CEO at National Care Forum
Luke Starr, Coordinator at ForcesWatch
Joanne Kinsey, President at Business & Professional women UK
Helen Walker, Chief Executive at Carers UK
Hugh Knowles and Miriam Turner, Co-Executive Directors at Friends of the Earth (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)
Scott Watkin and Jack Marshall, Members Representative Body, Co-Chairs at Learning Disability England
Dr Shabna Begum and Laurence Jay, Interim co-CEOs at Runnymede Trust
Heléna Herklots CBE, Older People's Commissioner for Wales at Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Bev Jullien, CEO at Mothers' Union
Svetlana Kotova, Director of Campaigns and Justice at Inclusion London
Gisela Valle, Executive Director at Latin American Women's Rights Service
Helen Wildbore, Director at Care Rights UK
Suzi Henderson, CEO at Cloverleaf Advocacy 2000 Ltd
Niamh Eastwood, Executive Director at Release
Joe Powell, Chief Executive at All Wales People First
Andrea Simon, Director at End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW)
Sally Richens, Executive Director at National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTI)
Joyce Kallevik, Director at WISH
Jamie Beagent, Partner and Joint Head of Human Rights at Leigh Day
Yasmin Rehman, CEO at Juno Women's Aid
Maurice Frankel, Director at Campaign for Freedom of Information
Estelle du Boulay, Director at Rights of Women
Emma Guy, Editor in Chief at EachOther
Patricia Durr, CEO at ECPAT UK (Every Child Protected Against Trafficking)
Jim Bowen, Director at Clynyfw Care Farm
Sally Daghlian, CEO at Praxis
Andrea Cleaver, CEO at Welsh Refugee Council
Jim Fitzgerald, Director at Equal Rights Trust
Julie Newcombe, Co-founder at Rightful Lives
Sonya Sceats, Chief Executive at Freedom from Torture
Sarah Mistry, CEO at British Geriatrics Society
Maria McCloskey, Director at The Public Interest Litigation Support (PILS) Project
Andrea Coomber KC (Hon), Chief Executive at The Howard League for Penal Reform

Arran Evans, Director at Sussex Interpreting Services
Alix Lewer, CEO at The Include Project
Clare Moody, Co-CEO at Equally Ours
Dr Ruth Allen, Chief Executive at British Association of Social Workers (BASW)
Mariko Hayashi, Executive Director at Southeast and East Asian Centre (SEEAC)
Suzanne Swinton, CEO at Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Andrew Copson, Chief Executive at Humanists UK
Alexandra Lopoukhine, Interim Executive Director at The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI)
Akiko Hart, Interim Director at Liberty
Daniel Gorman, Director at English PEN
Jatin Haria, Executive Director at Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER)
Silence Chihuri at Fair Justice System Scotland
Ady Roy and Ben McCay, Charity Co-Chairs at My Life My Choice
Annie-Marie Irwin, Partner and Joint Head of Human Rights at Rook Irwin Sweeney LLP
Julie Bass, Chief Executive at Turning Point
Clive Parry, Director at Association for Real Change
Leonie Nimmo, Executive Director at GM Freeze
Paul Parker, Recording Clerk at Quakers in Britain
James Wilson, Director at Detention Action
Diane McGiffen, Chief Executive of Law Society of Scotland

UNLOCK DEMOCRACY

FREEZE

SEEAC SOUTHEAST AND EAST ASIAN CENTRE

The PILS Project Public Interest Litigation Support

RUNNYMEDE

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation



BCS British Cerastitis Society

NDTi National Development Team for Inclusion

Comistynydd Pobl Hyn Cymru Older People's Commissioner for Wales

asa access social care

TURNING POINT Inspired by possibility

FJSS GROUP

Welsh People's Voice

ARC England

NCF THE NATIONAL CARE FORUM

carersUK

COMBUSTION Campaign for Freedom of Information

Friends of the Earth

ALLIANCE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ALLIANCE SCOTLAND PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

My Life My Choice

C-CHANGE SUPPORTING GOOD LIVES

Cloverleaf Advocacy

THE JOINT COUNCIL OF THE WELFARE OF IMMIGRANTS

WELSH REFUGEE COUNCIL

EACH OTHER

Children's Rights Alliance for England Part of Just for Kids Law

Care Rights UK

ENGLISH PEN

Choice Support

WISH

include.org

Changing Our Lives

Release Drugs, The Law & Your Rights

RIGHTS OF WOMEN helping women through the law

EQUAL RIGHTS TRUST

Inclusion London Supporting London's Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations

Scottish Care Voice of the independent care sector

EQUALITY OURS Equality and human rights for us all

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Every Child Protected Against Trafficking

END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

BPW5 Business and Professional Women UK

CRER coalition for racial equality and rights

sussexinterpretingservices

Praxis for migrants and refugees

FREEDOM FROM TORTURE

ForcesWatch

Howard League for Penal Reform

Rightful Lives

SCVO

Human Rights Consortium Scotland

SCLD

HELEN BAMBER FOUNDATION strength to fly

Hourglass Safer ageing - Stopping abuse 0808 808 8141

inclusion north

Yorkshire MESMAC

Humanists UK

LA WRs

Kinship

UNISON the public service union

The JUDITH Trust

Law Centres Network

JUNO Women's Aid Safety. Support. Strength.

LDE Learning Disability England

Leigh Day

THE LAW SOCIETY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

BASW The professional association for social work and social workers

PARKINSON'S UK CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

LIBERTY

Clynfyw

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance

Quintess

ROOK IRWIN SWEENEY

Mothers' UNION Christian care for families

Detention Action

SMK Law Solicitors

Law Society of Scotland

VoiceAbility