



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 Clynfyw Care Farm
Sally Daghlain, 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

UNLOCK
DEMOCRACY

FREEZE
for a responsible, fair
and sustainable food system

SEEAC
SOUTHEAST AND
EAST ASIAN CENTRE

The PILS
Project
Public Interest
Litigation Support

RUNNYMED

The Challenging
Behaviour Foundation
making a difference to the lives of people with autism through behaviour



BGS
British Geriatrics Society
Improving healthcare
for older people

NDTi
Non-Governmental Forum for Inclusion

Comisstydd Pobl Hyn Cymru
Older People's Commissioner for Wales

ase
access
social care

TURNING
POINT
Inspired by possibility

FJSS GROUP

Pob yn Gystal Cymru (Dalen)
At Wales People First

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
ON THE WELFARE
OF IMMIGRANTS

WELSH REFUGEE COUNCIL
CYNGOR FFOADURIAID CYMRU

EACH
OTHER

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

Care Rights
UK

ENGLISH
PEN

Choice
Support

WISH
Working together

include.org

Changing
Our Lives

Release
Drugs, The Law & Your Rights
Scottish Care
Voice of the independent care sector

RIGHTS of
WOMEN
helping women through the law

EQUAL RIGHTS TRUST

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

EQUALITY
OURS
Equality and
human rights
for us all

rené
cassin
the jewish voice for human rights

ecpat
UK
Every Child Protected
Against Trafficking

END
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN

BPW
Business and Professional Women UK

CRER
coalition for racial
equality and rights

sussexinterpretingservices

Praxis
for migrants and refugees

FREEDOM
FROM
TORTURE
EMPOWERING
SURVIVORS
REBUILDING
LIVES

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

The
JUDITH
Trust

Yorkshire
MESMAC

Law
Centres
Network

Humanists UK

LA
WRs
LATVIAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SOCIETY
Latvian American Women's Rights Society
Latvian American Women's Rights Society
Latvian American Women's Rights Society

Kinship

UNISON
the public service union

THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN IRELAND



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

JUNO
Women's Aid
Safety.
Support.
Strength.

LDE
Learning Disability England

Leigh Day

BASW
The professional association for
social work and social workers

LIBERTY

Clynfyw

Scottish
Independent
Advocacy
Alliance

Quakers

ROOKE
IRWIN
SWEENEY

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Detention
Action

SMK LAW
SOLUTIONS

Law Society
of Scotland

VoiceAbility