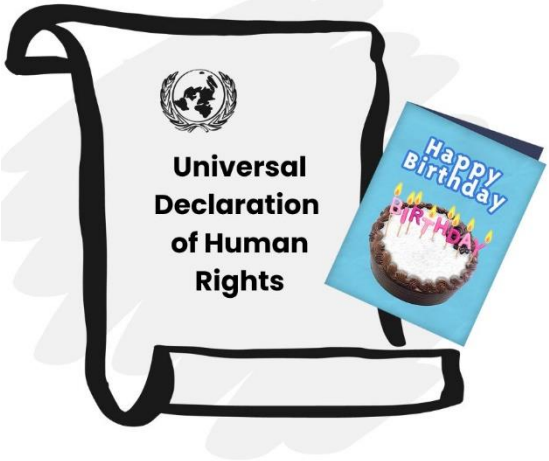


Today we celebrate International Human Rights Day.



This is the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).



The UDHR was the first time countries came together to say everyone has human rights.



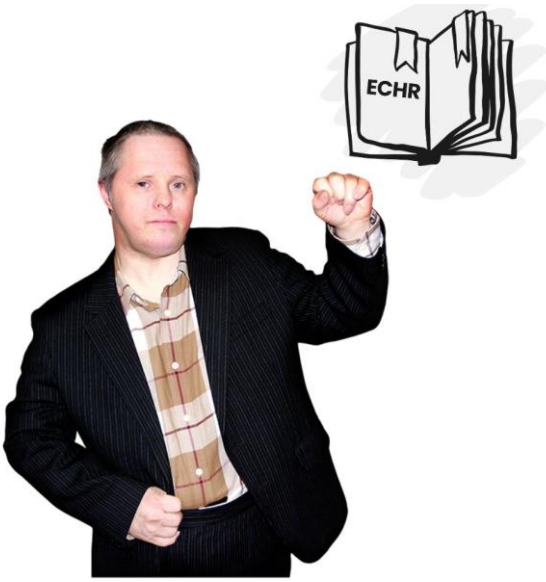
This year is also the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe, which is an organisation that the UK helped to start.



The Council of Europe wrote the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).



The ECHR is an agreement between countries across Europe to protect everyone's human rights.



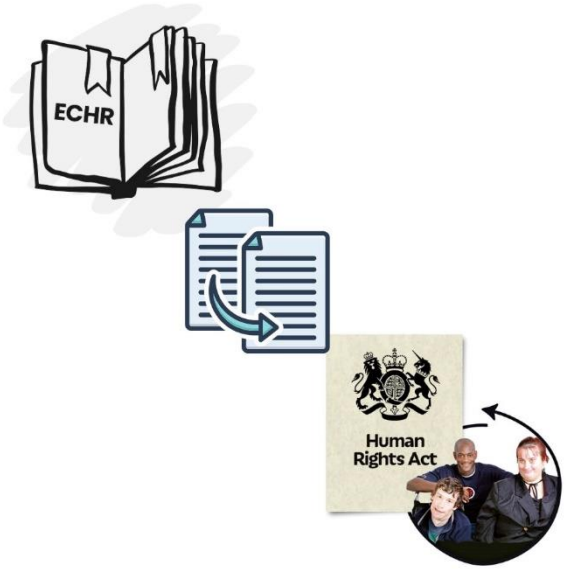
The ECHR means that people can use their human rights in real life.



Our courts and laws protect these rights.



The countries also agree to work together to protect these rights and take everyday actions to support them.



These rights have now been copied into the UK's Human Rights Act.



Our communities across the UK also work together to support and protect these rights.



When Eleanor Roosevelt helped write the UDHR, she said human rights start in the "small places close to home".



This means places where those communities come together, like families that advocate for each other and support workers who work together with people.



Human rights can help us all to live lives where we are treated equally and are respected.



To make the most of human rights, people in power need to meet their legal duties.



They need to take everyday actions like raising awareness and making sure people in power are held responsible for their actions.



We ask politicians to say that the UK is committed to supporting human rights.



We also ask politicians to agree to support a culture of respect for human rights across the UK.

© 2024 The British Institute of Human Rights is a registered charity (1101575) and registered company (4978121). Correspondence and registered office address: BIHR, 167-169 Great Portland Street, Fifth Floor, London W1W 5PF. Please note that we do not work at this address and the office here is not open to visitors; the address is for correspondence only. Please therefore contact us by phone (020 3039 3646) if you wish to speak to us, but keep in mind that we do not provide advice.

Yours sincerely,

Sanchita Hosali, CEO at the British Institute of Human Rights

Sam Smith, CEO at C-Change Scotland

Silence Chihuri, CEO at Fair Justice System for Scotland Group, (FJSS Group)

Richard Robinson, CEO at Hourglass (Safer Ageing)

Rosalind Stevens, Rosalind Stevens at Civil Society Alliance

Tom Brake, Director at Unlock Democracy

Sarah Mistry, CEO at British Geriatrics Society

Leonie Nimmo, Executive Director at GM Freeze

Scott Watkin and Jack Marshall, Member Representative Co Chairs at Learning Disability England

Helen Walker, Chief Executive at Carers UK

Rhian Bowen-Davies, Older People's Commissioner for Wales at Older People's Commissioner for Wales

Christina McAnea, General Secretary at UNISON - the public services union

Sara Redmond, Chief Officer-Development at Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)

Akiko Hart, Director at Liberty

Sarah Maguire, CEO at Choice Support

Julie Newcombe, Co-founder at Rightful Lives

Jamie Peters, CEO (Interim) at Friends of the Earth

Jim Bowen, Registered Manager at Clynfyw Care Farm

Joanne MacInnes, Director at West London Welcome

Maya Esslemont, Director at After Exploitation

Sian Summers-Rees, Chief Officer at City of Sanctuary UK

William Gomes , Director at The William Gomes Podcast

Halaleh Taheri, Executive Director at Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation-MEWSO

Anna Pincus, Director at Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group

Zoe Bantleman, Legal Director at Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA)

Gisela Renolds, Executive Director at Global Link

Gisela Valle, Director at Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS)

Jenni Regan , CEO at IMIX

Eiri Ohtani, Director at Right to Remain

Aderonke Apata, Founder and CEO at African Rainbow Family

Nick Beales, Head of Campaigning at Refugee and Migrant Forum of Essex and London (RAMFEL)

Tracey McFall, Chief Executive Officer at Scottish Recovery Consortium

Mimi Unamoyo, Founder and Project Coordinator at Northern Ireland Refugees and Asylum Seekers Women Association (Bomoko NI)

Alix Lewer, CEO at The Include Project

Mariko Hayashi, Executive Director at Southeast and East Asian Centre (SEEAC)

Mia Hasenson-Gross, Executive Director at René Cassin, the Jewish voice for human rights

Sarah Offley, Chief Officer at Dudley Voices for Choice (DVC)

Jayne Leeson MBE, CEO at Changing Our Lives

Shoaib Khan, Partner at SMK LAW Solicitors

Patricia Durr, Chief Executive Officer at ECPAT UK (Every Child Protected Against Trafficking)

Niamh Eastwood, Executive Director at Release

Kari Gerstheimer, CEO at Access Social Care

Helen Wildbore, Director at Care Rights UK

Daniel Gorman, Director at English PEN

Andrea Simon, Executive Director at End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW)

Kerry Smith, CEO at Helen Bamber Foundation

Tom Doyle, CEO at MESMAC

Hayley Morgan, Chief Executive at Welsh Centre for International Affairs

Usha Grieve, Director at Compassion in Dying

Dr Lucy Peake, Chief Executive Officer at Kinship at Kinship

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk at Quakers in Britain

Estelle du Boulay, Director at Rights of Women

Alex Rook, Partner at Rook Irwin Sweeney LLP

Anne-Marie Irwin, Partner at Rook Irwin Sweeney LLP

Caroline Barrett, Partner at Rook Irwin Sweeney LLP

Polly Sweeney, Partner at Rook Irwin Sweeney LLP

Janevan Zyl, CEO at Working Families

Christopher Stacey, Chief Executive at Prisoners Abroad

James Wilson, Director at Detention Action

Andrew Copson, Chief Executive at Humanists UK

Andrea Cleaver, CEO at Welsh Refugee Council

Shameem Ahmad, CEO at Public Law Project

Sarah Hughes, Chief Executive at Mind

Sonya Sceats, Chief Executive at Freedom from Torture

Lucy Fullard, CEO and Founder at Parent and Carer Alliance CIC

Alexis Quinn , Manager at Restraint Reduction Network

Alison Pickup, Executive Director at Asylum Aid

Joyce Kallevik, Director at WISH

Cllr Faith Gakanje-Ajala , CEO at African Women Empowerment

Yasmin Rehman , CEO at Juno Women's Aid

Frances Lynne Evans, Chairperson at Cwm Taf People First

Clive Parry, Director at Association for Real Change

Jamie Beagant, Partner at Leigh Day

Charlie McMillan, Interim Director at Human Rights Consortium Scotland

Karen Parry, Chief Executive at Inclusion North

Nicholas Morgan, Chief Executive Officer at Euro Youth Mental Health



#HumanRightsDay