Dear Prime Minister and Political Leaders,

This Human Rights Day comes at a significant moment. As civil society leaders, we write to mark seventy-five years since the European Convention on Human Rights, giving legal force to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and twenty-five years since our Human Rights Act brought these protections home into UK law.

These anniversaries remind us that human rights are not abstract ideals. They are the framework that protects people's dignity, limits the misuse of power, and helps to shape a fairer society. Across the UK, human rights have quietly and consistently made a difference in people's lives: ensuring dignity in care, fairness in housing, protection in education, accountability in public services, and justice when things go wrong.

Human rights protections need to be matched by strong political leadership and a clear commitment to put them into practice. The law provides the framework, but it is through the actions and choices of those in power that these protections become real in people's lives.

This year's Human Rights Day falls at a time when many people feel deep uncertainty about the future. These are serious and worrying times. It would be easy to look inward, to narrow our vision, or to allow hard-won protections to slip away through neglect or division. But we choose a different path.

We choose to look forward with determination and hope. The lesson of history is that human rights matter most when they are hardest to defend. In moments of uncertainty, they provide a shared foundation of fairness, dignity and accountability - the rules that keep our democracy decent and our society grounded in respect for each other's humanity.

This anniversary year is a chance to set out a bold and hopeful vision for human rights here at home. A vision of a UK that stands by its international commitments and strengthens, rather than weakens, the protections that have served our society for generations. A vision where human rights are part of everyday life — where people understand and can use their rights, and where public bodies have the knowledge and responsibility to uphold them. A vision of a democracy that plays by the rules, with government held to the same standards it expects of others.

We urge you, as political leaders, to:

- Publicly reaffirm the UK's commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the Human Rights Act.
- Reject any proposals that weaken these frameworks and commit to securing them now and for the future.
- Invest in making human rights real, ensuring that communities, public bodies and individuals have the knowledge, resources and confidence to uphold them in practice.
- Lead with clarity and courage, being clear that human rights are not a partisan issue but the shared foundation of our democracy.

Eighty years ago, the world chose to build a universal framework for human dignity. Seventy-five years ago, the UK helped shape it into a law for a continent ravaged by war. Twenty-five years ago, those protections became part of our lives at home.

As we near the end of 2025, at a time where fear, intolerance and division risks taking hold, we can choose to step forward together in support of universal human rights, confident in the values that have long defined us, and hopeful about the society we can build.

Yours sincerely,

Sanchita Hosali, CEO, British Institute of Human Rights
Katherine Hill, Director, 4in10 London's Child Poverty Network
Margaret Simpson MBE MSC FRSA, CEO, ABILITY BORDERS SCIO
Kari Gerstheimer, CEO & Founder, Access Social Care
Jeremy Crook OBE, Chief Executive, Action for Race Equality
Liz Bayram, CEO, Advice UK
Justine Forster, CEO, Advocacy Focus
Maya Uddin, Chief Executive, Advocacy Highland
Arlene Astley, Operations & Development Manager, AdvoCard
Angela Ellis, Chief Executive, Advonet
Aderonke Apata, Founder & CEO, African Rainbow Family
Cllr Faith Gakanje-Ajala, Founder, African Women Empowerment Forum
Maya Esslemont, Director, After Exploitation
Katherine Crawford, Chief Executive, Age Scotland
Joe Powell, CEO, All Wales People First
Furrah Riaz, Programme Manager, Amina - The Muslim Women's Resource Centre
Kerry Moscogiuri, Director of Campaigns & Communications, Amnesty International UK
Vanessa Paynton, Executive Director, Art in Healthcare
Helen Trew, CEO, Art27 Scotland
Deborah Alsina, Chief Executive, Arthritis UK
Piya Muqit, Executive Director, Asylum Aid
Kat Lorenz, Director, Asylum Support Appeals Project
Diana Skelton, National Coordinator, ATD Fourth World UK
Zainab Homam, CEO, Awesta Charitable Organisation
Danny Boyle, CEO, BEMIS Scotland
Silkie Carlo, Director, Big Brother Watch
Ben Higgins, CEO, Bild (British Institute of Learning Disabilities)
Hazel Williams, CEO, Birthrights
Kate Mercer, Founder, Black Belt Advocacy
Romilly Greenhill, CEO, Bond
Professor Sam Baron, Chief Executive, British Association of Social Workers
Helen Wildbore, CEO, Care Rights UK
Helen Walker, CEO, Carers UK
Sam Smith, CEO, C-Change
Claire Stern, Deputy CEO, Central England Law Centre
Dr Eman Hani, CEO, Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC)
Jayne Leeson MBE, CEO, Changing Our Lives
John O'Doherty, CEO, Children's Law Centre
Theresa Casey, , Choose Play (East Lothian Play Association)
Sian Summers-Rees, Chief Officer, City of Sanctuary UK
Anna Ritchie Allan, Executive Director, Close the Gap
Jim Bowen, Director, Clynfyw Care Farm CIC
Daniel Holder, Director, Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ)
Community Plan for Holloway
Carolyn Sawers, Chief Executive, Corra Foundation
Alex Vessis, Chief Executive, Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support (DCRS)
Debra Allcock Tyler, CEO, Directory of Social Change
Andrew MacKay, CEO, Disability Law Service
Kamran Mallick, CEO, Disability Rights UK
Rhian Davies, CEO, Disability Wales/Anabledd Cymru
Sarah Offley, Chief Officer, Dudley Voices for Choice
Pamela Deans, Chief Executive, Dumfries and Galloway Advocacy Service
Neill Clark, CEO, East Ayrshire Advocacy Services
Patricia Durr, CEO, ECPAT UK (Every Child Protected Against Trafficking)
Parveen Ishaq, Office Manager, EDINBURGH AND LOTHIANS REGIONAL EQUALITY COUNCIL
Maureen Martin, Chief Executive, Edinburgh Development Group (EDG)
Elcena Jeffers, Founder, ELCENA JEFFERS FOUNDATION
Andrea Simon, Executive Director, End Violence Against Women Coalition
Daniel Gorman, Director, English PEN
Rebecca Don Kennedy, CEO, Equality Network
Nick Morgan, CEO, Euro Youth Mental Health

Silence Chihuri, Founder & CEO, Fair Justice System for Scotland Group
Stanislava Gray, Project Coordinatoe, Forth Valley Migrant Support Network
Naana Otoo- Oyortey, Executive Director, FORWARD UK
Sonya Sceats, Chief Executive, Freedom from Torture
Sarah Mann, CEO, Friends Families and Travellers
Asad Rehman, CEO, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland
Ben Whalley, CEO, Gaddum
Ian Bruce, Chief Executive, Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector
Tressa Burke, Chief Executive, Glasgow Disability Alliance
Leonie Nimmo, Executive Director, GM Freeze
Sara Redmond, CEO, Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)
Christine Goodall, Coordinator, HEAR Equality and Human Rights Network
Alison Pickup, CEO, Helen Bamber Foundation
Richard Robinson, CEO, Hourglass
Kate McCauley, CEO, Housing Rights
Andrea Coomber KC (Hon.), CEO, Howard League for Penal Reform
Kevin Hanratty, Director, Human Rights Consortium
Ele Hicks, Project Manager, Human Rights Consortium Cymru
Charlie McMillan, Director, Human Rights Consortium Scotland
Fraser Sutherland, CEO, Humanist Society Scotland
Andrew Copson, CEO, Humanists UK
Zoe Bantleman, Legal Director, Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA)
Imran Khan KC, Founding Partner, Imran Khan and Partners Solicitors
Tracey Lazard, CEO, Inclusion London
Hannah Tough, CEO, Inclusion North CIC
Julie Hutton, CEO, Independent Advocacy Perth & Kinross
Bruna Boscaini, CEO, Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organisation
Madeleine Cassidy, CEO, IPSEA (Independent Provider of Special Education Advice)
Jess McQuail, Director, Just Fair
Louise King, JfKL Co-Lead / Director of the Children's Rights Alliance for England, Just for Kids Law, including the Children's Rights Alliance for England
Fiona Rutherford, Chief Executive, JUSTICE
Emma Hutton, CEO, JustRight Scotland
Lucy Peake, CEO, Kinship
Julie Bishop, Director, Law Centres Network
Jack Marshall BEM, Member Representative, Co-Chair, Learning Disability England
Sue James, CEO, Legal Action Group
Jamie Beagent, , Leigh Day Solicitors
Mary Fee, Coordinator, LETSlink London/UK
Akiko Hart, Director, Liberty
Ali Fiddy, Director, Maternity Action
Brian Dow, CEO, Mental Health UK
Tom Doyle, CEO, MESMAC
Fizza Qureshi, CEO, Migrants' Rights Network
Sarah Hughes, CEO, Mind
Lynette Charles, CEO, Mind in Haringey
Mohmmed Aziz, Director, Mlegal
Lucy Fullard, Director, Mrs Lucy Fullard
Bryan Michell, Charity Coordinator, My Life My Choice
Vic Rayner, CEO, National Care Forum
Anna Feuchtwang, CEO, National Children's Bureau (NCB)
Bill Love, Executive Director, National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi)
Rita Waters, Group CEO, National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)
Eppie Sprung, Founder, Next Chapter Scotland
Mimi Unamoyo, Founder, Northern Ireland Refugees and Asylum Seekers Women Association (Bomoko NI)
Pete Ritchie, Executive Director, Nourish Scotland
Abebe B. Iticha, Trustee, Oromo Relief Association UK
Angela Ross, Organisational Development Advisor, Outside the Box

Lucy Fullard, Director, Parent and Carer Alliance CIC
Juliet Tizzard, Director of External Affairs and Communications, Parkinson's UK
Jess Wade, Interim CEO, Partners in Advocacy
Matthew军飞 Freeman胡, , Peace Loving CIC 里湖公司
Tracy Thomas, Senior Manager, Pembrokeshire People First
Clare Symonds, Chief Officer, Planning Democracy
Christopher Stacey, Chief Executive, Prisoners Abroad
Jamie Peters, CEO, Public Law Project
Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain
Matthew Johnson, CEO, Race on the Agenda
Edward Waller, Founder, RealisingRights
Danielle Roberts, Sustainability and Communications Coordinator, Reclaim the Agenda
Tim Naor Hilton, CEO, Refugee Action
James Tullett, CEO, Refugee and Migrant Forum of Essex and London (RAMFEL)
Enver Soloman, CEO, Refugee Council
Niamh Eastwood, Executive Director, Release
Mia Hasenson-Gross, Executive Director, René Cassin, the Jewish voice for human rights
Mark Winstanley, CEO, Rethink Mental Illness
Julie Newcombe, Co-founder, Rightful Lives
Estelle du Boulay, Director, Rights of Women
Anne-Marie Irwin, Founding Partner, Rook Irwin Sweeney
Margaret Simpson MBE MSC FRSA, Director/CEO, Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber CIC
Professor Donald Macaskill, CEO, Scottish Care
Jamie Speirs, Senior Solicitor, Scottish Child Law Centre
Linda Mitchell, Head of Delivery, Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities
Lorne Berkley, Strategic Lead: Policy & Rights, Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities
Anna Fowlie, CEO, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
Suzanne Swinton, Director, Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Tracey McFall, CEO, Scottish Recovery Consortium
Salma Ullah, Co-Founder, SHEWISE
Shoaib Khan, Partner, SMK LAW
Janpal Basran, Director, Southall Community Alliance
Mariko Hayashi, Founder & Director, Southeast and East Asian Centre CIC (SEEAC)
Stacey Edgar, Executive Director, Southwark Law Centre
Sarfraz Kherdin, Campaigns, Advice and Advocacy Project Lead, Speak Out in Hounslow
Mala Jayhindaran, Founder, Springburn Unity Network
Rose Simkins, Chief Executive, Stop Hate UK
Vikki Holloway, CEO, SWAN Advocacy Network
Matthew Evans, Director, The AIRE Centre
Carole Ewart, Chief Officer, The Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland
Kevin Peltonen-Messenger, CEO, The Care Forum
Rachel Balabanoff, Coordinator, The Care Rights Project
Jacqui Shurlock, CEO, The Challenging Behaviour Foundation
Kurt Liu, Associate, Co-Founder, The Hong Kong Scots CIC
Alix Lewer, CEO, The Include Project
Lorraine Keown, , The Law Society of Northern Ireland
Gareth Morgan, , The Paristamen Charity
Yvonne MacNamara, CEO, The Traveller Movement
Juliet Harris, Director, Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)
Terry Stacy, Charir, Tonic Housing
Ada Celebi, Deputy CEO, Unfold
Katrina Ffrench, Director, UNJUST UK
Tom Brake, CEO, Unlock Democracy
Mandy Taviner, CEO, Warrington Speak Up
Rob McDowall, Chair, Welfare Scotland
Andrea Cleaver, CEO, Welsh Refugee Council
Sara Dowling, CEO, Why me? Transforming Lives through Restorative Justice
Chris Walsh, CEO, , Wise Age Ltd
Davinia Batley, Interim CEO, WISH
Dr Sara Reis, Interim CEO, Women's Budget Group
Caroline Robinson, Executive Director, Worker Support Centre
Jane van Zyl, CEO, Working Families
Stephen Pittam, , York Human Rights City Network
Elly Heaton, CEO, Young Ealing Foundation


advocacy focus
Age Scotland
Awesta
Driving change globally
carersUK
EDG
Friends of the Earth England, Wales & Northern Ireland
HUMAN RIGHTS CONSORTIUM
Human Rights Consortium Scotland
JUST FOR KIDS LAW
Yorkshire MESMAC
ORA
Rethink Mental Illness
SHEWISE
Law Society of Northern Ireland
YOUNG EALING FOUNDATION
ACTION FOR RACE EQUALITY
Pobl yn Gyntaf Cymru Gyfan
All Wales People First
BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and Cultural Minority Communities
C-CHANGE
COMMUNITY PLAN FOR HOLLOWAY
dates-n-Mates SCOTLAND
Gaddum Advocacy
JUSTRIGHT SCOTLAND
Migrants' Rights Network
outside the box
Parent & Carer Alliance C.I.C.
Rightful Lives
SEEAC
The Paristamen Charity
REFUGEE COUNCIL
THE NATION'S REFUGEE CHARITY
advice UK
Humanist Society Scotland
Kinship
mind
Parkinson's UK
For every Parkinson's journey
Partners in Advocacy
RIGHTS of WOMEN
together
Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights
access social care
BIG BROTHER WATCH
Central England Law Centre
dsc
directory of social change
GC VS
Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector
Humanists UK
Southwark Law Centre
JUSTICE
Changing Our Lives
art in healthcare
bild
Disability Law Service
END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
ENGLISH PEN
Elcena Jeffers Foundation
Law Centres Network
mind in Haringey
Pembrokeshire People First
PPF
Pobl yn Gyntaf Sir Benfro
ROOK IRWIN SWEENEY
Speak Out in Hounslow
TCNC
ABILITY
ILPA
unfold
Empowerment through mentoring
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
birthrights
Disability Rights UK
Equality Network
G4S FREEDOM
IMRAN KHAN ikp AND PARTNERS
LDE
Learning Disability England
M Legal
NCF
choose play
east lothian play association
Disability Wales Anabledd Cymru
EURO YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH
ALLIANCE
Inclusion London
LAG
NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU
Public Law Project
Scottish Care
STOP HATE UK
STOP HATE. START HERE
UNJUST
Why me?
Transforming lives through Restorative Justice
London's Child Poverty Network
4in10
Arthritis
BLACKBELT
City of Sanctuary
SWAN
UNLOCK DEMOCRACY
WiseAge
ADVOCACY HIGHLAND
bond
Dudley Voices for Choice
hear
inclusion north
LEIGH DAY
NDTi
SCOTTISH CHILD LAW CENTRE
AdvoCard
Warrington Speak Up
WISH
standing together
The Advonet Group
Providing Independent Advocacy
ASAP
ASYLUM SUPPORT APPEALS PROJECT
BASW
The professional association for social work and social workers
Dumfries & Galloway
HELEN BAMBER FOUNDATION
Independent Advocacy
Perth & Kinross
nyas
rota
SCLD
wbg WOMEN'S BUDGET GROUP
The British Institute of Human Rights
Close the Gap
F3RWARD
Hourglass
irmo
LIBERTY
Realising Rights
scvo
tcf
ASYLUM AID
protection from persecution
OCAJ
Worker Support Centre
AFRICAN RAINBOW FAMILY
AWEF
African Women Empowerment Forum
CORRA FOUNDATION
voice · power · change
FREEDOM FROM TORTURE
Housing Rights
IPSEA
maternity action
Mental Health UK
BOMOKO N.I.
Peace Loving CIC
RECLAIM THE AGENDA
ramfel
SRC SCOTTISH RECOVERY CONSORTIUM
WELFARE SCOTLAND
York Human Rights City
Working Families
AFTER EXPLOITATION
Care Rights UK
CSREC
Howard League for Penal Reform
René Cassin
Release
SMK Law Solicitors
include.org
ATD FOURTH WORLD
FRIENDS, FAMILIES & TRAVELLERS
justfair
NOURISH
SOUTHALL Community Alliance
REFUGEE ACTION