

# Today...

## An open letter on Human Rights Day.

Dear Party Leaders,

As we approach the 2019 General Election we ask you to join us in celebrating Human Rights Day by committing to protecting universal human rights in the UK.

Human rights, as universal standards shared across the globe, were laid down 71 years ago in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, inspiring law and positive action across the world. Our very own law, the Human Rights Act, draws on these universal rights, setting legal standards to protect people across the UK whether they are in hospitals or care homes, social services or places of detention, housing or schools.

Whatever the outcome of Thursday's election, 2020 will be an important year for the UK. Many decisions will need to be made about what sort of country we want to be, going forward, and what relationship people have with those we place in power.

We ask you to stand firm on our hard-won freedoms. We ask you to stand firm on ensuring that our Human Rights Act remains an integral part not just of our constitutional arrangements, but also of people's everyday lives, enabling us all to live with equal dignity and respect.

Yours sincerely,

**The British Institute of Human Rights**  
bihr.org.uk



The  
British Institute of  
Human Rights; Action  
on Elder Abuse; AdviceUK;  
Advocacy Focus; Age Connects  
Cardiff and the Vale; All Wales People  
First; Alzheimer Scotland; Amnesty  
International UK; Article 12 in Scotland;  
Article 39; Asylum Link Merseyside;  
AVA (Against Violence and Abuse); Bexley  
Accessible Transport Scheme; BHA for Equality;  
Birthrights; Bristol Mind; British Institute of  
Learning Disabilities (BILD); Campaign for Freedom  
of Information; Carers UK; Centre for Women's  
Justice; Changing Our Lives; Children in Scotland;  
Children in Wales; Children's Commissioner for Wales;  
Children's Rights Alliance for England; City Law School;  
Clynyfw Care Farm; Coalition for Racial Equality  
and Rights; Committee on the Administration of  
Justice; Coram; Disability Rights UK; Disability Wales;  
English PEN; Fair Trials; Fairness, Respect, Equality  
Shropshire (FRESH) Ltd; Family Rights Group; Forces  
Watch; Freedom from Torture; Friends, Families  
and Travellers; Global Initiative to End All Corporal  
Punishment of Children; Health and Social Care  
Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE); Helen Bamber  
Foundation; HIV Scotland; Humanists UK; INQUEST;  
International Bar Association Human Rights Institute;  
Just for Kids Law; JUSTICE; Law Centres Network;  
Learning Disability England; Legal Aid Practitioners Group;  
LGBT Foundation; Liberty; Mary Ward Legal Centre; Medical  
Justice; Mencap Liverpool & Sefton; Migrants Organise; Mind;  
nlcompass Northwest; National Aids Trust; National Union  
of Students (NUS); NDTi; nia; Older People's Commissioner for  
Wales; Prison Reform Trust; Public Law Project; Quakers in Britain;  
Race on the Agenda; RAMFEL (Refugee & Migrant Forum of  
Essex and London); RAY (Refugee Action York); Refugee  
Council; Rene Cassin; Reporters Without Borders;  
Restorative Justice for All; Rights of Women; RightsInfo;  
Rights Watch (UK); Runnymede Trust; Scottish Legal Action  
Group; SCVO Shared Lives Plus; SMK Law Solicitors;  
Southall Black Sisters; Sue Ryder; Suffolk Law Centre;  
Tai Pawb; The AIRE Centre; The Howard League for  
Penal Reform; The IARS International Institute; Together-  
Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights; Tower Hamlets  
Law Centre; UKLGIG; United Kingdom Homecare  
Association; University of Roehampton; Unlock  
Democracy; Welsh Women's Aid; West Norfolk Disability  
information Service (WNDiS); Wish: A voice for women's  
mental health; Women's Resource Centre; York Human  
Rights City Network; Yorkshire MESMAC Group of  
Services; Young Legal  
Aid Lawyers (YLAL);  
Youth Access