Anyone who believes in fairness, equality, dignity and freedom believes in human rights. Men and women up and down the country understand how important it is for our human rights to be protected; whether it’s the Hillsborough families, victims of crime, journalists or refugees, human rights are there to protect us, our families and our communities. Liberty is proud to work tirelessly and fearlessly to protect human rights and fight abuses of power.

And yet 2015 saw new threats to our rights and freedoms: a pledge to repeal the Human Rights Act and a woefully misconceived Investigatory Powers Bill. These crucial events have dominated Liberty’s work and I join the team on the heels of an incredible year, which includes the Save Our Human Rights Act campaign and the re-vamped No Snoopers Charter.

The last 12 months have also seen great progress for our military justice work. Liberty helped secure a fresh investigation into the alleged rape of Corporal Anne-Marie Ellement, who took her own life in 2009. Six years after her death, two suspects were finally charged. Now we’re campaigning to change the system, so that lessons are learned, and soldiers are protected in future.

GET IN TOUCH
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26-30 Strutton Ground
London SW1P 2HR
Switchboard: 020 7403 3888

PLEASE JOIN US!
For membership see www.joinliberty.org.uk or contact our membership team on 020 7378 3663 membership@liberty-human-rights.org.uk
For enquiries about grants, donations or leaving a gift in your will please contact Emma Finch on 020 7378 3652 | emmaf@liberty-human-rights.org.uk

FOR LEGAL ADVICE
Call 0845 123 2307 or 020 3145 0461

FIND OUT MORE
Facebook.com/libertyhq
Twitter.com/libertyhq
www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk

It has been the most enormous privilege to lead Liberty for the past 12 years. Liberty’s first President E.M. Forster rightly called defending civil liberties ‘the fight that is never done’. Leave Liberty secure in the knowledge that we’re stronger and more ready for that fight than ever. With so many threats to refugee protection, online privacy and even our Human Rights Act, Liberty was never more needed, nor its leadership ever in better hands.

Shami Chakrabarti – former Director of Liberty
Who we are

Liberty campaigns for civil liberties and human rights in the UK.

We promote human dignity, equal treatment and fairness as the foundations of a democratic society, upholding human rights in the courts, in Parliament and in the wider community.

With our members, we’ve been making the news, changing the law and holding the powerful to account for over 80 years. Our team is our greatest strength, bringing together 32 dedicated campaigners who share a common goal: the protection of human rights and civil liberties – everybody’s, all the time.

In 1932, Liberty’s co-founder, Ronald Kidd, witnessed police disguised as workers inciting violence among protestors marching against poverty.

In a bid to raise awareness of the threat to peaceful protest, Kidd and fellow co-founder Sylvia Scafardi gained support from across the political spectrum, from the law, the arts and sciences – including HG Wells and Vera Brittain. On 22 February 1934, they formed the Council for Civil Liberties – to make sure the next hunger march was safe and, long after, to champion the rights of ordinary people and hold the powerful to account.

For 81 years, we have continued the work the Council began. We’re proud to be one of the country’s oldest human rights groups – an independent organisation and an established campaign force. As the conscience of the nation, we’ve learnt that in times of economic instability and social upheaval, our rights come under attack. We can never take our liberty for granted.

How we work

Liberty works through a combination of public campaigning, media campaigning, test-case litigation, lobbying and policy analysis. We also provide free specialist legal advice and information to the public.

Our integrated, multidisciplinary approach is what makes Liberty unique. Our dedicated team works closely together to achieve change across political, media and public platforms, and our small size means we can do it fast.

Liberty has consistently championed the defence of individual freedom and human rights over many years. As a result of its professionalism, it has turned itself into an essential element of the civil liberties landscape and helps provide a creative dialogue with public authorities and the Government which is of benefit to us all. The last year has been no exception.

Dominic Grieve, Conservative MP and former Attorney General

“..."
Save Our Human Rights Act: the Government pauses for thought

In the wake of the general election, the Government pledged to fulfil its manifesto commitment to repeal the HRA and replace it with a ‘British Bill of Rights’ within the first 100 days of parliament.

In response, Liberty launched our largest, most critical campaign in years – Save Our Human Rights Act. Ultimately, a Bill didn’t feature in the Queen’s speech as expected, with a consultation on proposals announced instead. Liberty’s strategy paid off:

“STARS STAND UP FOR THREATENED HRA”

Days after the election, Liberty launched videos featuring Benedict Cumberbatch, Indira Varma, David Harewood, Simon Callow and Vanessa Redgrave lending their voices to our campaign. These moving first person stories of ordinary people using the HRA have been viewed 40,000 times and were reported in almost every national media outlet. This marked the first of many high-profile interventions coordinated and secured by Liberty.

“THE GREATEST SURGE IN MEMBERSHIP IN OUR HISTORY”

The launch of the public campaign complemented this strategy – with Liberty spokespeople spreading the word at schools, universities, party conferences and speaking events, alongside meetings with NGOs and other supportive stakeholders. In the weeks that followed, over a thousand new members joined Liberty – the greatest surge in membership in our history. We produced an HRA ‘action pack’ for every member, and used the growth in interest to generate more support through social media.

“INFLUENCING DECISION-MAKERS”

While the public face of the campaign spread our message far and wide, our Policy Team’s behind-the-scenes work formed the backbone of our strategy. Pre- and post-election, our Policy staff met with backbench and frontbench MPs from all parties, opposition leaders, and the devolved administrations, briefing them on the implications of scrapping the Act, and galvanising support. Manifesto commitments supporting the Act by Labour, the SNP, the Liberal Democrats, Plaid Cymru and the Green Party followed. Over the past 18 months, all three devolved administrations have passed motions in support of the HRA. Post election, we continued to meet with dozens of MPs, particularly on the Conservative backbenches.

“MOST DANGEROUS WOMEN IN BRITAIN” UNITE TO SAVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Repeal of the Human Rights Act isn’t inevitable. There is still a huge amount to be gained by making the case for it as strongly and clearly as possible...

We will work with anyone and everyone to achieve that:
whether they are from other political parties other devolved governments, organisations like Liberty, Amnesty International and the Scottish Human Rights Commission, or civic society more widely.

Nicola Sturgeon – First Minister of Scotland, speaking in Glasgow at a meeting hosted by Liberty

“Our Human Rights Act belongs to all of us. It’s not for politicians to pick and choose when it applies or who deserves protection. Repealing it will mean less protection against state abuse or neglect, and weaken the rights of every single one of us – and the vulnerable most of all.

Benedict Cumberbatch – Liberty press release

Dividing people, setting their rights and freedoms apart on the basis of their passport or race, stripping them of their human rights, led to the worst abuses of the twentieth century. It led to Apartheid. And it can only lead to further injustice and dispossession in the future.

South African activists urge UK Government not to repeal Human Rights Act – open letter in the Observer, coordinated by Liberty

Right Freedom

No discrimination

Protection of rights
THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT IN ACTION

Liberty’s legal cases helped our campaigners show how the HRA benefits us all, and who’d suffer most if it were lost. Our lawyers work on over 40 cases that highlighted the HRA’s role in protecting the vulnerable and holding the powerful to account.

As the campaign developed, Liberty’s legal clients stood up for our Human Rights Act.

In 2011, my wife and I came to Liberty. They threatened Surrey police with legal action under – guess what? – the Human Rights Act, which demands proper, effective investigations into deaths involving the state. Only then did they agree to hand over what we had fought for: more than 90 lever-arch files of forensic evidence, statements, photographs and notes. That evidence let Liberty apply for a fresh inquest.

Des James – Liberty client (from a comment piece in the Guardian, See p.8)

CHANGING THE STORY

Mainstream media coverage of UK human rights cases has been dominated by negative and misleading headlines in recent years. Liberty’s Media Team worked hard to redress the balance across national, regional and local outlets, and using social media. While some of Liberty’s Human Rights Act cases gained national exposure in media sympathetic to the campaign, our proudest achievements are positive stories and Liberty comment pieces in titles usually hostile to the HRA. An increase in Liberty’s Media Team in 2015 meant we helped our clients and spokespeople speak louder than ever:

• 2,100 positive mentions of HRA in print or online
• 46 broadcast appearances positively promoting the HRA
• 37 positive HRA comment pieces

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LIBERTY RECTIFIES “GLARING OMISSION” FROM PARLIAMENT EXHIBITION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ACT BANNER

On Human Rights Day, we unveiled an 11-foot Human Rights Act banner in Westminster Hall, in protest against the Act’s omission from parliament’s Magna Carta anniversary exhibition. Celebrating landmark legislation on the UK’s “journey to a modern democracy”, incredibly, the HRA was nowhere to be seen in the exhibition.

“’It’s an insult to the great campaigners celebrated – from slavery abolitionists to the Suffragettes – to ignore the Act that encapsulates everything they fought for. It cannot be written out of history.’

Andy Slaughter MP – Shadow minister for human rights (pictured below)

LOOKING FORWARD

While the Government’s pause for thought was welcome, we know they are determined to push through repeal of the Act – and still expect legislation to be brought forward. In preparation, we’re busy preparing the final stages of the campaign and keeping momentum strong. We still don’t know when the consultation on a British Bill of Rights will be announced, but when it is we’ll be ready to save the Human Rights Act, once and for all.
Military Justice: fighting for the rights of our service men and women

Military Justice is Liberty’s campaign to protect and uphold the human rights of those serving in our Armed Forces.

We believe that the rights of service men and women are just as deserving of protection as those of civilians, which is why we’re representing the families of several soldiers who were failed by the current system.

“Today, 20 years after my daughter Cheryl died, the inquest into her death will begin – my family would not have seen this day without the Human Rights Act. It secured us access to vital evidence regarding Cheryl’s death – evidence it suited the authorities to withhold.

Liberty client Des James, Feb 2016

EXPOSING THE TRUTH ABOUT DEEPCUT

Cheryl James died of unexplained gunshot wounds at Deepcut barracks in 1995. As we go to print, the inquest’s verdict is expected within weeks.

When Cheryl’s body was found, her death was treated as suicide after an inquest of only an hour. Liberty used Article 2 of the Human Rights Act (the right to life) to fight for a new inquest into her death, forcing the police to disclose 90 files of statements, forensic evidence and photographs, originally withheld from the family. Liberty has worked tirelessly to examine thousands of documents, resulting in over 100 witnesses giving evidence. Today, Cheryl's family are one step closer to the justice they deserve.

Liberty also represents the families of Sean Benton and James Collinson, two other recruits who died at Deepcut. We are determined to uncover how these soldiers came by their deaths, and look forward to achieving new inquests for their families.

ANNE-MARIE ELLEMENT

“Anne-Marie was entitled to have her allegations investigated while she was still alive. The history of this case, and how it took six long years for it to come to court, reveals grave deficiencies in the policies and practices of those responsible for investigating sexual offences committed against members of the Armed Forces.

Emma Norton – Liberty lawyer

In April 2016, two ex-soldiers were acquitted of the rape of Anne-Marie Ellement, a Royal Military Police Officer who sadly took her own life in 2011. Two years before Anne-Marie died, she had reported being raped by two of her colleagues.

Acting for her family, Liberty secured a fresh Article 2 inquest into Anne-Marie’s death, and used Article 3 of the Human Rights Act to compel the authorities to reinvestigate the rape allegation. Conceding the original decision not to prosecute was wrong, the Director of Service Prosecutions eventually charged two defendants – Anne-Marie’s case finally came to court. Acquitting the defendants, the judge expressed his concerns about the conduct of the defendants and the culture within their Royal Military Police unit, which, had fallen ‘woefully short’ of the British Army’s values and standards.

If it were not for the persistence of Anne-Marie’s family – and for the HRA – neither this inquest nor the prosecution would have ever been brought.

LOBBYING FOR CHANGE

Victory for Liberty’s Military Justice campaign as Parliament agrees new independent Armed Forces Ombudsman.

Alongside our legal work, Liberty is asking the Government to take desperately needed steps to embed independence and fairness for our troops at the heart of the military system. In 2015, we welcomed the Government’s decision to accept our proposal to create an independent Service Complaints Ombudsman – a significant step towards ensuring our Armed Forces have access to justice. However, we also called on Government to grant more substantive, investigative powers for the Ombudsman role, briefing extensively in both Houses and giving written and oral evidence to the Defence Select Committee. In the spring, the Committee backed our recommendation and the amendment was adopted by the Government. The Ombudsman has now been appointed, but there’s still a lot more to be done.

Later in the year, we gave evidence to the Armed Forces Bill Select Committee criticising the power of Commanding Officers to investigate allegations of sexual assault, rather than refer them to service police. In the closing stages of the Bill, the Government announced a review of this power, and accepted our calls to publish annual statistics on sexual assault and rape in the Armed Forces.
No Snooper's Charter: protecting security, defending privacy

“Liberty has successfully demolished every argument for bulk powers put forward by the Government in the Investigatory Powers Bill. They’re keeping the information flowing and doing a great job of informing MPs what they’re really voting on. If Liberty doesn’t raise awareness on this issue, who else can the public turn to hear the full truth?”

William Binney – Former NSA Technical Director

From legal cases to independent reviews and new legislation, 2015 has seen a number of developments for Liberty’s work in the privacy arena. With our first dedicated technology and surveillance specialist joining the team, we’ve helped parliamentarians, the media, the courts and the public understand the true scale of mass surveillance in the UK.

In November, the latest efforts to gain unprecedented access to our private lives played out with the publication of the much anticipated Investigatory Powers Bill (IP Bill). In the wake of the Snowden revelations and subsequent legal challenges by Liberty and others, we now know secret surveillance of the entire population has been the norm for over a decade. This Bill seeks to legitimise this industrial scale snooping, and go even further.

The powers the Bill contains—mass interception, mass hacking, mass acquisition of communications data, collection of our web browsing histories, retention and linking of huge databases containing people’s most sensitive information—undermine the privacy and internet security of every single one of us. There’s no opt-out, no need to be suspected of anything. It will just happen to everyone, all of the time. Liberty doesn’t believe snooping on the entire population, regardless of suspicion, makes us any safer. What’s more, it actively puts all of our most personal and sensitive data in one place, risking everyone’s cybersecurity. No other democracy in the world has these kinds of intrusive powers. And we don’t need them.

**KEEPING US SAFE WHILST PROTECTING OUR HUMAN RIGHTS**

There’s no doubt targeted surveillance powers can play a vital role in preventing and detecting serious crime. But the current framework fails to ensure it happens in a necessary, proportionate and accountable way. Over the last year, Liberty worked with MPs, the media, and experts to show that a dynamic, targeted system conducted for tightly defined reasons will keep us safer, whilst simultaneously protecting our human rights. We’re not the only ones who think this is necessary.

**DRAFT BILL COMMITTEE CONCLUDES THE CASE FOR MASS SURVEILLANCE HASN’T BEEN MADE**

Liberty was invited to give evidence to the Joint Committee on the Draft IP Bill. After weeks of line-by-line scrutiny conducted by our Policy Team, we submitted 69 pages of legal and technical analysis, complementing oral evidence delivered by our Director. Like Liberty, the Committee called for an overhaul of the Draft Bill. Days earlier, the Intelligence and Security Committee deemed the Bill a “missed opportunity”, “inconsistent and largely incomprehensible”, mirroring the Science and Technology Committee’s conclusion that the Bill was “broad and ambiguous”.

**WHAT NEXT?**

As the Bill progresses in 2016, our parliamentary representatives now have the chance to amend its failings and introduce a law that keeps all of us safe in the digital age. Liberty is doing everything it can to ensure the opportunity is not squandered.

**A TECHNOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE SPECIALIST FOR LIBERTY**

In 2015 we appointed Liberty’s first dedicated technology and surveillance expert, Silkie Carlo, to help us stay ahead on human rights implications of developing technologies. Silkie’s expertise is integral to analysing the IP Bill and making sense of complex issues. Before joining Liberty, Silkie provided technical training to journalists and lawyers at risk from surveillance and worked for Edward Snowden’s official defence fund. As well as policy work, Silkie is providing practical technical training to journalists, lawyers and human rights campaigners. Her appointment represents an important development for Liberty, and one already ensuring we stay one step ahead.

**Policy Officer (Technology and Surveillance), Silkie Carlo**
RAISING AWARENESS ONLINE

With years of experience campaigning in this area, we built on previous work to develop No Snoopers’ Charter – Liberty’s campaign for a safe, secure Britain.

Liberty laid out an accessible 8 Point Plan, dissecting the howlers in the Bill and making our position clear. Almost 5,000 people pledged support for our plan by April 2016. A new campaign landing page went live, a popular myth-busting blog series began and our No Snoopers’ Charter campaign film – created with award-winning agency Don’t Panic – gained over 1 million views.

CHALLENGING SURVEILLANCE IN THE COURTS

In the wake of the Snowden revelations in 2014, Liberty launched a landmark legal challenge against mass surveillance. This was the first challenge of its kind and has helped expose the true extent of surveillance, bulk data collection and transatlantic collusion in data sharing.

Thanks to our legal challenge – which was heard with challenges brought by Privacy International and Amnesty International – the Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT) found that GCHQ had acted unlawfully when it accessed millions of private communications that had been collected in bulk in the US prior to December 2014. But the IPT also decided that the bulk interception of communications is lawful, and that the US-UK intelligence sharing became lawful from December 2014 onwards.

We don’t agree, so we’ve taken this case to the European Court of Human Rights.

IN THE MEDIA

Liberty’s Media and Policy Teams worked closely with journalists, parliamentarians, lawyers and tech experts to bring attention to our concerns, generating a huge 5749 mentions in the media:

- 178 print
- 5515 online
- 56 broadcast
- 7 comment pieces

LIBERTY’S 8 POINT PLAN FOR A SECURE AND PRIVATE BRITAIN:

1. Judicial warrants for surveillance requests
2. Respect for our data
3. Targeted surveillance – for a reason
4. Transparency and redress
5. Use of intercept evidence in court
6. Fair and open international data sharing laws
7. Protection for encryption standards
8. Recognition of the unique threat hacking poses to our security

Visit www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/privacy

HIGH COURT STRIKES DOWN SECTION 1 AND 2 OF DRIPA

Liberty is representing MPs David Davis and Tom Watson in a challenge to mass-data gathering and access powers in the Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act (DRIPA).

Many of these powers are replicated and extended in the Investigatory Powers Bill, despite the ongoing legal challenge.

In July 2015, the High Court ruled key parts of DRIPA unlawful because they fail to provide clear and precise rules to ensure the public’s data is only accessed to prevent, detect or prosecute serious crime – and didn’t require interception to be authorised by a court. The Government appealed the judgement and the case was referred to the European Court of Justice.

The Court’s decision will have major implications for the IP Bill – which expands the mass data-gathering powers challenged in this case. If our case is successful, DRIPA will almost certainly be struck down, replacement provisions stopped in their tracks, and the lawfulness of the many bulk powers in the IP Bill thrown into doubt.

In the same case Liberty also represented a number of human rights organisations from across the world.

In June 2015, the IPT found that GCHQ unlawfully intercepted and handled communications of Amnesty International and the Legal Resources Centre in South Africa – violating article 8 of the Human Rights Act.

The Government has now responded to our application to the European Court of Human Rights. We don’t know when we will get the Court’s judgment, but a win would likely cast doubt on the legality of many powers in the Government’s current Investigatory Powers Bill.
Liberty firmly believes this Immigration Bill will create further vulnerability, marginalisation and fear, leaving many families with small children vulnerable to the most extreme poverty. Providing more power with less scrutiny – these draconian measures will make our country a less friendly place for anyone who doesn’t “look” or “sound” British. They are dangerous, inhumane, and definitely won’t work. Rachel Robinson – Liberty Policy Officer

Deeply divisive immigration proposals became a huge priority for Liberty in 2015. The Immigration Bill, published in September, includes provisions escalating the ‘right to rent’ scheme, new offences of ‘driving whilst illegal’ and illegal working, and changes to asylum support that risk leaving children destitute. We briefed strongly against this inhumane and divisive legislation, taking the opportunity to call for positive change.

Overseas Domestic Workers

Since 2012, changes to the Overseas Domestic Worker (ODW) visa have left many vulnerable people tied to their employers – increasing vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. Despite support in the Lords, we didn’t get much-needed reforms via the Modern Slavery Act, so we used the Immigration Bill to push for a viable route out of modern-day slavery.

Having met with Government-commissioned expert, James Ewins QC – tasked with looking into protections required for domestic workers – we were delighted when he recommended a universal right to change employer and extend visas for up to 2½ years. We called for implementation of this key recommendation and continue to work with Parliamentarians calling for reform.

Immigration Detention

In December, Liberty hosted a moving choral performance from the Women Asylum Seekers Together (WAST) Nightingales choir. The event took place in Parliament and we were joined by Conservative, Labour, SNP and Liberal Democrat politicians. Members of the choir have experienced Britain’s immigration system first-hand and four have been detained at the notorious Yarl’s Wood immigration detention centre. Liberty is calling for a 28-day limit on immigration detention in the UK, proper judicial oversight and an end to the detention of vulnerable people, such as pregnant women.

Several thousand people will be detained in centres over Christmas – just for administrative convenience. It would be so easy to forget them. I want to thank Liberty for not forgetting about them, and for continuing to fight on their behalf. You keep us parliamentarians right and you keep us good. I look forward to working with you in 2016 and making that the year we see a limit to immigration detention.

Stuart McDonald – SNP MP

Refugees

Despite the unravelling crisis on our doorstep, the Immigration Bill included nothing to alleviate refugees’ suffering. Liberty worked with NGO partners to push for amendments to provide safe, legal routes to the UK for refugees, and offer sanctuary to separated children in Europe. We also pushed for a change to the Immigration Rules to allow asylum seekers to work if the Home Office fails to decide their claims in its target time.

Looking Forward

Despite multiple Government defeats in the House of Lords on issues including the ODW visa and the right to work for asylum seekers, the Government has only offered small concessions. However, amendments dealing with immigration detention and sanctuary for refugee children remain on the agenda. Liberty will continue to fight for secure protection for asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants, resisting a divisive and discriminatory agenda based on in-country immigration control.

I want to pay tribute to Liberty for speaking and giving voice to those who are often not heard when it comes to those issues of freedom and liberty that make our society strong. And the voice of asylum seekers is not heard. It’s wonderful Liberty is working with this issue and really getting it onto the agenda.

Baroness Helena Kennedy

The Immigration Bill – clumsy, divisive and a threat to social cohesion

The Women Asylum Seekers Together (WAST) Nightingales choir perform in Parliament
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE GOT ACCESS TO JUSTICE

In 2015, more than 3000 people contacted the A&I team for support: 1908 online queries, 299 letters, 996 callers to the Advice Line.

The service is crucial not only for guidance on issues that affect us every day, but for identifying serious human rights violations. We help the authorities understand and uphold their obligations, and help victims bring abusers to justice. Certain areas of concern have been common through 2015:

- People who feel the police are not investigating their complaints, concerns about treatment in custody or other abuses of power.
- People concerned about privacy and surveillance, data retention and data sharing.
- People with domestic, family or immigration issues who don’t qualify for legal aid, or don’t know how to find suitable representation.
- Concerns about the treatment of relatives in care homes.
- Queries about mental health issues and making applications to the Court of Protection.

LOOKING FORWARD: LEGAL EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Every year, the team delivers workshops, training sessions and talks in schools, universities and other organisations, providing a forum to debate human rights issues and demonstrate the facts. We want to develop this outreach work, equipping more people with knowledge of how human rights can be used to tackle inequality and injustice.

With special thanks to:

- Liberty’s Legal Advice & Information Service
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- Liberty’s Legal Advice & Information Service

I really do appreciate the time & effort you have taken to help & your advice is excellent. I find it extremely heartening that there are organisations like yours for people to turn to in their hour of need. I suspect that you, like most of us, have days when you lack motivation for the job you do. If so, please do try to remember at such times that what you are doing is genuinely a special thing.

A&I caller feedback, 2015
I joined Liberty because I believe that human rights should be actualised and supported, rather than just spoken for. Rights aren’t rights if nobody fights for them, or acts for them. As has been shown in the past, unchecked power can and will be abused for its own ends.

James Ossian

After the last election it suddenly seemed as though our human rights laws were under threat of being rewritten by people who thought some human beings weren’t ‘worthy’ of these rights. I’d admired Liberty for a long time, but it was at that point I knew I had to support an organisation that would defend those rights passionately.

Ruth Newman

From detention without charge to indiscriminate mass surveillance, never before in my lifetime have we had a greater need for someone to champion our human rights. I joined Liberty as a result. My only regret is that I didn’t join sooner.

Seb Verghese

I joined Liberty to help protect our human rights which were first recognised soon after the end of the Second World War. These rights are now embedded in our own Human Rights Act which is under threat. We must let our voices be heard and this can be done through Liberty. We all need to protect our Human Rights, for without them we will be failing those who are – or could become – victims of horrors we thought only to be found in the past.

Rodney Stableford

I am worried about so many of my patients who live with stress and depression, and have no doubt that living under 24/7 surveillance, scrutiny and judgement exacerbates this. It is not true that only the guilty have something to fear. Undermining our social values and expectations of decency, honesty and tolerance harms all of us.

Dr Sandy Taylor

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After the last election it suddenly seemed as though our human rights laws were under threat of being rewritten by people who thought some human beings weren’t ‘worthy’ of these rights. I’d admired Liberty for a long time, but it was at that point I knew I had to support an organisation that would defend those rights passionately.

Ruth Newman

From detention without charge to indiscriminate mass surveillance, never before in my lifetime have we had a greater need for someone to champion our human rights. I joined Liberty as a result. My only regret is that I didn’t join sooner.

Seb Verghese

I am worried about so many of my patients who live with stress and depression, and have no doubt that living under 24/7 surveillance, scrutiny and judgement exacerbates this. It is not true that only the guilty have something to fear. Undermining our social values and expectations of decency, honesty and tolerance harms all of us.

Dr Sandy Taylor

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MEMBERS’ CONFERENCE

In May, Liberty members and staff from across the UK met in Manchester for Liberty’s annual Members’ Conference and AGM. Informative, inspiring and, at times, emotional, the day focused on the Human Rights Act. Liberty clients graciously shared their own stories of injustice and spoke of how the Act had protected them. Everyone left invigorated and ready to Save Our HRA!
Finances

WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM

- £1,300,729 Grants, donations and legacies
- £4,703 Investment income
- £106,186 Legal cases and other earned income
- £576,264 Membership

Total 2015 income: £1,987,882

WHERE IT GOES

- £517,051 Legal and advice work
  Representing clients, bringing judicial reviews, intervening in key cases and maintaining our Advice and Information service
- £313,057 Media
  Generating coverage, reacting to the media and providing spokespeople
- £353,747 Policy work
  Providing expert advice to Parliamentarians and campaigning for their support
- £457,922 Public campaigning
  Campaign strategy, public engagement, online campaigns and events
- £480,423 Membership and development
  Member services, increasing support for our work, keeping members informed and fundraising

Total 2015 expenditure: £2,122,200

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

Fixed assets: £102,403
Current assets: £1,421,004
Deferred grant income: £88,987
Other creditors: £239,837
Net assets: £1,194,583

Restricted funds: £39,082
Unrestricted funds: £1,053,098
Designated funds: £102,403
Total funds: £1,194,583

*Our free reserves reflect 5.4 months of planned expenditure in 2016

With thanks to Trusts, Foundations and organisations giving £1,000 or more to Liberty or the Civil Liberties Trust:

- The 1970 Trust
- The Allen and Overy London Foundation
- The DG Charitable Settlement
- Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
- The Follett Trust
- Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
- Jolanta and Max Neufeld Charitable Trust
- J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust
- Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- The Langdale Trust
- Macaagart Third Fund
- Mishcon de Reya
- Oak Foundation
- Open Society Foundations
- Persula Foundation
- The Portrack Charitable Trust
- The Reed Foundation
- Reed Smith
- The Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Street Foundation
- Thomas Paine Initiative

Thank you to those who gave anonymously.
A BIGGER POLICY PUNCH
A new Policy Assistant and our first in-house technology and surveillance expert increased Liberty’s Policy Team to five. With so much on the legislative agenda, this increase in capacity means more expert evidence, more time in Parliament, and a role at the cutting edge of campaigning on complex threats to online privacy and security.

GETTING OUR MESSAGE ACROSS
Last year we recruited a second Media Officer so we can build more relationships with journalists, get more regional coverage and spend more time on social media. A Media Team of only three get our message out in thousands of articles and broadcast appearances each year, representing incredible value for money.

HELPING MORE PEOPLE GET JUSTICE
A fourth in-house litigator means we can take more ground-breaking test-cases, helping ordinary people hold the powerful to account.

INVESTING IN DIGITAL CAMPAIGNING
We’re producing films on the Human Rights Act and surveillance, and improving supporter engagement by revamping our website and social media strategy.

A GROWING MEMBERSHIP
We’re thrilled to have more members than ever before. If you’re not a member yet, please join us! www.joinliberty.org.uk

PROVIDING LEGAL TRAINEES

We don’t work alone
Every year, countless supporters, volunteers and members give their time, expertise and financial support to help make Liberty great.

These human rights defenders support our work in numerous ways: by taking part in campaign actions, writing to their MPs, volunteering at Liberty, donating and raising money, and speaking out in support of Liberty’s campaigns.

A huge thank-you to everyone who helped us campaign for change in 2015. There are too many people to thank by name, but we would like to give special mention to the following people:

SUPPORTING LIBERTY’S CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS
Diane Abbott MP
Joan Bakewell
Laura Bates
Professor Janet Beer
Phil Booth
Libby Brooks
Andy Burnham MP
David Burrowes MP
Simon Callow CBE
Lord Carnwath
Joanna Cherry QC MP
Benedict Cumberbatch CBE
Iain Dale
The David Idowu Choir
Lizzie Emeh
Lord Falconer QC
Richard Fuller MP
Dominic Grieve QC MP
Baroness Sally Hamwee
Jeremy Hardy
Sharon Hardy
David Harewood MBE
Rachel Holmes

Ruth Hunt
Owen Jones
Baroness Helena Kennedy QC
Doreen Lawrence
Sabrina Mahfouz
Stuart McDonald MP
Shan McNellman
Alex Neil MSP
Richard Norton-Taylor
Peter Oborne
Mike Pemberton
Grayson Perry
Vanessa Redgrave CBE
Kamila Shamsie
Andy Slaughter MP
Ali Smith
The David Idowu Choir
Lizzie Emeh
Lord Falconer QC
Richard Fuller MP
Dominic Grieve QC MP
Baroness Sally Hamwee
Jeremy Hardy
Sharon Hardy
David Harewood MBE
Rachel Holmes

PROVIDING LEGAL TRAINEES

THE GUARDIANS OF LIBERTY NETWORK
Our ‘Guardians of Liberty’ members provide essential funding towards Liberty’s long-term aims. The network has over 40 founding members and is growing.

See www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/guardians to find out more.

WITH SPECIAL THANKS
We are very grateful to our inspirational legal clients for allowing us to tell their stories and for speaking out in support of human rights.

And finally, none of our work would be possible without the generous support of our members, individual donors and those who remembered Liberty or the Civil Liberties Trust in their Will.

WORKING IN COALITION
Liberty is part of the Don’t Spy on Us Coalition and the International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations.

Liberty is growing
In 2016 we have ambitious income targets to help Liberty grow.

Income
Expenditure

2014
£1,926,966
£2,019,568

2015
£1,987,882
£2,122,200

2016 (budgeted)
£2,411,752
£2,399,594

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£2,122,200

2016 (budgeted)
£2,411,752
£2,399,594

Number of members
Membership income

2014
9,855
£522,895

2015
11,128
£576,264

2016 (forecast)
12,000
£630,000

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PROVIDING LEGAL TRAINEES
Human Right Awards

Every year, Liberty honours the pioneering activists, young campaigners, artists and lawyers who work tirelessly to champion fundamental freedoms.

2015’s event celebrated the achievements of individuals and organisations who continue the fight to end injustice, neglect and abuse, undeterred by an unprecedented attack on the post-war human rights consensus – the threat to our Human Rights Act.

Hosted by actor, writer and comedian Jo Brand at London’s Southbank Centre, the audience were treated to performances by award-winning soul singer Lizzie Emeh, performance poet and Writer at Liberty Sabrina Mahfouz and the inspirational David Idowu Choir.

THE LIBERTY HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS 2015 WINNERS WERE:

Lifetime Achievement Award:
Caspar Bowden

Courageous Voice Award:
Sabeen Mahmud

Collective Voice Award:
The people of Ireland

The Christine Jackson Young Person Award:
Helawit Hailemariam

Human Rights ‘Close to Home’ Award:
Jan Sutton

Human Rights Arts Award:
WAST Nightingales

Human Rights Lawyer of the Year:
Ben Jaffey, Blackstone Chambers

Human Rights Campaign of the Year Award:
Detention Action

Governance boards (at end 2015)

LIBERTY’S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Liberty’s Executive Committee is responsible for the strategic direction, financial and other governance of Liberty.

Frances Butler (Chair) Joanna Shaw (Vice-Chair) Nick O’Shea (Treasurer)
The Hon Susan Baring OBE Fiona Horlick Martin Howe Nikita Lalwani
Jeannie Mackie Richard Norton-Taylor

THE CIVIL LIBERTIES TRUST
The Civil Liberties Trust is a registered Charity (number 1024948) that advances human rights through funding the charitable activities of Liberty.

Tish Andrewartha (Treasurer) The Hon Susan Baring OBE (Chair) Simon Prosser (Vice-Chair)
Frances Butler Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon OBE Canon Mark Oakley Nick O’Shea
Kamila Shamsie Joanna Shaw Sally Sampson Baroness Vivien Stern CBE
Dame Vivienne Westwood RDI