

Summary of substantive policy discussions
at Liberty Council meeting
June 2013

Immigration and Human Rights

The Policy Council discussed the political debate around immigration in the UK and Liberty's response. The meeting discussed Coalition immigration policies that have deliberately undermined the human rights of foreign nationals and their families – including restrictive immigration rules on the interpretation of Article 8 and a prohibitive minimum income requirement and English language test for the partners of British citizens that wish to live in the UK. The meeting discussed Liberty's response to the latest Immigration Bill announced in the Queen's Speech which will further curtail judicial discretion in the application of Article 8 in immigration cases; and place a duty on landlords to check the immigration status of tenants and require migrants to pay for access to key services (e.g. healthcare).

The meeting further discussed how these policies lead to discrimination in practice and undermine the overarching human rights framework. The meeting agreed that Liberty should engage in the immigration debate in a manner that promotes tolerance, respect and adherence to basic human dignity.