

**LIBERTY MEMBERS' CONFERENCE AND AGM 2016
18 June 2016 at One Moorgate Place, London**

Resolutions Passed

1. Investigatory Powers Bill

This AGM notes with concern, the publication of an Investigatory Powers Bill setting out a new legal framework for electronic surveillance in the UK.

This AGM is deeply concerned by the breath-taking extension of mass surveillance powers proposed by the Bill, including:

- Provision to force companies to store and grant access to more of our communications data than ever before, including revealing internet browsing logs;
- Provision allowing for the interception of billions of our emails, texts messages and calls;
- New powers which allow for the mass hacking of computers, phones and countless other devices;
- Clauses allowing for the collection and automatic analysis of vast datasets of information on citizens known as 'bulk personal datasets'.

This AGM believes that these powers are undemocratic and represent a grave abuse of the human rights of the population. This AGM further notes that no cogent operational case has been made for the new powers set out in the Bill, and experts suggest that untargeted surveillance can undermine our intelligence gathering capability.

Despite three critical reports from Parliamentary Committees, this AGM notes that the Government has failed to insert meaningful protections into the Bill to safeguard individual privacy. In particular, surveillance warrants will continue to be authorised by Ministers and Chief Constables with the judges' role limited to a power to review.

This AGM recalls that personal privacy is inherent to human dignity. As our lives are increasingly lived online, the mass surveillance powers set out in this Bill represent a dangerous and disturbing attack on our liberties. This AGM resolves to campaign against mass surveillance powers and to fight to ensure that surveillance is targeted, proportionate and subject to proper judicial authorisation and oversight.

2. Counter extremism

This AGM is concerned about the damaging consequences of the Government's counter-extremism strategy. We note that the longstanding Prevent programme and the new statutory duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism have facilitated marginalisation, alienation, undermined trust in public bodies and been ineffective as a means of countering extreme narratives.

This AGM notes with concern Government plans to restrict free speech through the introduction of banning, disruption and closure orders set out in a Counter-Extremism Bill. This AGM resolves that the best way to counter extreme narratives is by promoting an alternative agenda of respect for human rights, individual dignity, equal treatment and the rule of law. This AGM reaffirms its commitment to promote protection for free speech and respect for personal privacy in our institutions and our society.

3. Refugee crisis

This AGM notes that the devastating human consequences of conflict are compounded when the international community fails to safeguard the basic rights and freedoms of those forced to flee their homes. Across the globe, people who have endured persecution and indiscriminate violence face the fresh horror of treacherous journeys to Europe's shores. Of those who survive, many suffer inhuman and degrading conditions in squalid refugee camps and the emotional torment of separation from family members.

This AGM resolves that international responsibility and respect for human rights – not geographical circumstance - must shape the UK's response to the refugee crisis reflecting the universality of human rights. The UK must play its part by providing safe and legal routes to this country, including through resettlement schemes that reflect the scale of the current crisis and will reduce the power of people smugglers and the tragedy of deaths at sea.

This AGM further recalls that family unity is central to our international refugee and human rights obligations and urges the Government to place respect for family life at the heart of both domestic rules and its international response to the refugee crisis. The Government must further implement safeguarding measures against discrimination and harassment to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers live in dignity and safety.

This AGM recalls the UK's proud history of offering sanctuary to those in need and its role at the heart of the post-World War II effort to safeguard basic rights and freedoms. Our response to this humanitarian crisis will shape the lives of thousands and determine our legacy for generations to come.