

LIBERTY

PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

LIBERTY MEMBERS' CONFERENCE & AGM 2015

25 April 2015 at University of Manchester

Resolutions Passed

1. Human Rights Act 1998

70 years after the liberation of Auschwitz, this AGM recalls that the European Convention on Human Rights realised Churchill's ambition that the world's struggle would end with the enthronement of human rights.

This AGM resolves that on this, the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, the thread of liberty which runs through our nation's history must not be severed for the sake of political expediency.

This AGM recognises that the Human Rights Act 1998 allows people in this country to vindicate their fundamental rights before our national courts, protecting victims of modern slavery, halting unfair extraditions, exposing abuses of power and protecting peaceful dissent.

This AGM is gravely concerned by Conservative Party proposals, published in October 2014, to repeal the Human Rights Act and put us on a collision course with the Court of Human Rights.

This AGM notes that reforms which weaken human rights protections in Britain and undermine the integrity of the Convention system would strike a severe blow against democracy in Britain leaving all of us, citizens, residents or non-residents vulnerable to grave abuse.

This AGM resolves that Liberty will campaign against this proposal in order to safeguard the Act and the protections of the Convention system for future generations.

2. Votes at 16

This AGM believes that the ability to vote is a fundamental human right which should not be denied to those old enough to leave home, take up employment, join the army and (albeit with parental agreement) get married. Conference therefore agrees that the voting age for all public elections in any part of the UK should be reduced to 16.

Liberty's Council

The following 15 members were elected to the Liberty Council to serve a two year period from 2015 – 2017:

Howard Beckett, Magda Biran, Frances Butler (Chair), Louise Christian, Andrea Curti-Reiner, David Enright, Fiona Horlick, David Hughes, Nikita Lalwani, Jean Lambert, Jeannie Mackie, Terry McGuinness, Nick O'Shea, Janis Sharp, Jo Shaw.

They join the 15 members who were elected in 2014 to serve until 2016:

Camila Batmanghelidjh, Chris Bissell, Tom Cleaver, Dinah Crystal OBE, Marije Davidson, Katherine Hardcastle, Martin Howe, Greg Judge, Nicola Lacey, Baroness Doreen Lawrence of Clarendon OBE, Richard J Mercer, Sonali Naik, Richard Norton-Taylor, Simon Sapper, Mazin Zeki.

Liberty's Conference and Appeals Committee

Javan Herberg QC was elected unopposed to serve a three year term on the Conference and Appeals Committee. She joins Judy Khan QC, who becomes Chair of the CAC and is now in her second year of her three year term and Deko Joo Rhee who is now in the final year of her current term.

Liberty's Auditors

MHA MacIntyre Hudson were re-appointed as Liberty's auditors for 2015.