Dear Lord Chancellor,

We the undersigned note with disappointment and regret the Ministry of Justice’s failure to make the consultation Human Rights Act Reform: A Modern Bill of Rights accessible to disabled people.

Despite repeated calls from Deaf and Disabled People’s Organisations (DDPOs) and human rights groups, it has taken until more than ten weeks into the consultation process for a supposedly ‘easy read’ version to be produced.

The text-only accessible version of the consultation that the Government has published is insufficient to the point of being insulting. We note the claim that an updated version is forthcoming, but with this in mind it is ever more unacceptable that no extension has been offered along with it.

There was no reason for the consultation to be launched before provision was made that would enable everyone affected to take part in the process. There is certainly no reason why disabled people should now have only 12 days – or less – to respond to proposals that will have a direct impact on their lives.

Even with an easy read version, people with learning difficulties will need support to respond, which takes time to arrange and execute. Refusing to extend the deadline is refusing to enable people to take part.

We call on the Ministry of Justice to provide a proper extension to this process to allow for disabled people to engage with the consultation. If the Government felt that 12 weeks was an appropriate length of time to respond to the consultation, then 12 weeks from the day that the proper easy read version is published should be the new deadline.

Yours sincerely,

Martha Spurrier, Director, Liberty
Sacha Deshmukh, Interim Chief Executive, Amnesty International UK
Svetlana Kotova, Director of Campaigns and Justice, Inclusion London
Kamran Mallick, Chief Executive, Disability Rights UK
Yasmine Ahmed, UK Director, Human Rights Watch
Fiona Rutherford, Chief Executive, JUSTICE
Andrew Lee, Director, People First Self-Advocacy
Vicki Nash, Head of Policy, Campaigns and Public Affairs, Mind
Christina McAnea, General Secretary, UNISON
Moira Tasker, Chief Executive, Inclusion Scotland
Tressa Burke, CEO, Glasgow Disability Alliance
Caroline Collier, CEO, Inclusion Barnet
Bella Sankey, Director, Detention Action
Emma Vogelmann, Lead Policy Advisor, Scope
Morven Brooks, CEO, Disability Equality Scotland
David Buxton, Chair, British Deaf Association
Andrea Simon, Director, End Violence Against Women Coalition
Gisela Valle, Director, Latin American Women's Rights Service
Oliver Robertson, Head of Witness and Worship, Quakers in Britain
Sara Redmond, Chief Officer - Development, The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)
Tom Brake, Director, Unlock Democracy
Aswini Weereratne, Chair, Human Rights Lawyers Association
David Buxton, Chief Executive, Action on Disability
Lynne Turnbull, Chief Executive Officer, Disability Positive
Amanda Casson Webb, Joint Chief Executive, Royal Association for Deaf people (RAD)
Liz Reason, Chair, Executive, Green Party of England & Wales
Kerry Smith, CEO, Helen Bamber Foundation/Asylum Aid
Satbir Singh, Chief Executive, JCWI
Silkie Carlo, Director, Big Brother Watch
Sara Ogilvie, Director of Policy, Rights and Advocacy, Child Poverty Action Group
Mhairi Snowden, Director, Human Rights Consortium Scotland
Ruth Smeeth, CEO, Index on Censorship
Mark Harrison, Steering Group Member, Reclaiming Our Futures Alliance (ROFA)
Ariane Adam, Legal Director, Public Law Project
Charlie McMillan, Chief Executive, Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities
Lyn Pornaro, Chief Executive Officer, Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living
Juliet Harris, Director, Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)
Estelle du Boulay, Director, Rights of Women
Catherine Hale, Director, Chronic Illness Inclusion
Emily Morton, Chief Executive, Disability Sheffield
Andrew Copson, Chief Executive, Humanists UK
Peter Wieltschnig, Policy & Networks Officer, Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX)
Nicole Francis, Chief Executive, The Immigration Law Practitioners’ Association
Hannah Ward, Director of Policy and Communications, National AIDS Trust
David Cutler, Director, Baring Foundation
Sophie McCann, Advocacy Officer, Médecins Sans Frontières
Helen Jones, Steering Group Chair, York Disability Rights Forum
Katrina Ffrench, Director, UNJUST C.I.C
Fizza Qureshi, CEO, Migrants’ Rights Network
Jamie Burton, Chair, Just Fair
Margaret Griffiths, Executive Council Member, Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People
Housing Working Group
Andy Greene, Steering Group Member, DPAC
Jennifer Jones, Co-founder, DPAC Sheffield
Carolyne Willow, Director, Article 39
Jayne Bell, Deputy CEO, Carers Federation
Kevin Drugan, Chief Executive, Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living
Lui Asquith, Director of Legal & Policy, Mermaids
Rowan Earle, Advocacy Coordinator, Real DPO
Leanne Devine, Assistant Director - Legal Services & Acting Assistant Director - Policy, Public Affairs & Research, Shelter
Tim Naor Hilton, CEO, Refugee Action
Chris Jones, Director, Statewatch
Kathryn Bole, Chair of Trustees, Suffolk Coalition of Disabled People
Laura J Welti, Chief Officer, Bristol Disability Equality Forum
Phil Stevens, Chief Executive, Disability Action Haringey
Sarifa Patel, Co-Chair, Disability Rep Forum
Gemma McKeown, Solicitor, Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ)
Brian Dikoff, Legal Organiser, Migrants Organise
Rupert Skilbeck, Director, REDRESS
Alan Benson MBE, Co Chair, Transport for All
Anne Pridmore, Chair, Being the Boss
Isobel Ingham-Barrow, CEO, Community Policy Forum
Natasha Fox, Chief Officer, Advocacy West Wales
Simon Barrow, Director, Ekklesia
Karen Chandler, Chief Officer, Pembrokeshire People First
Jamie Peters, Interim Director of Campaigning Impact, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland
David Quarmby, Chairperson, Kirklees Visual Impairment Network
Nimrod Ben-Cnaan, Head of Policy and Profile, Law Centres Network
Mark Day, Head of Policy and Communications, Prison Reform Trust
Christine Stuart, Disability Champion, RBK
Darryl Smith, Programme Lead, Equality Together
Louise Weldon, CEO, Harrow Association of Disabled People
Karen Parry, Chief Executive, Inclusion North CIC
Anne Novis MBE, Greenwich Disabled People Against Cuts
Mrs Joanne M Munn, Chief Executive Officer, Bromley Experts by Experience
Annie Viswanathan, Director, Bail for Immigration Detainees
Richard Boggie, Development Manager, Difference North East
Sophie Fournel, CEO, Centre for Independent Living Kent
Luke Tanner, Founder, Growth & Strategy lead of Equal Care London, Equal Care Cooperative
Kush Kanodia, Non-Executive Director, NHS
Jacob Smith, UK Accountability Officer, Rights & Security International
Sam Smith, CEO, C-Change Scotland
Marie-Antoinette Mighty, Chair of Disabled Colleagues Network, Bristol city council
Vin West MBE, Chair, Arfon Access Group
Ravi Low-Beer, Legal Adviser, Asylum Support Appeals Project
Sarah Wheatley, Learning and Development Manager, Connect in the North
Suzi Henderson, CEO, Cloverleaf Advocacy
Marsh Stitchman, Projects Director, Lewisham Speaking Up
Mark Delacour, Director of External Affairs, METRO Charity
Peter Sands, Chairman, London Sports Club for the Blind
Mark Baggley, Manager, Choices and Rights Disability Coalition (Hull and East Riding)
Kate Sainsbury, Project Lead, Appletree Community
Norma Curran, CEO, Values Into Action Scotland
Penelope Beschizza, Teacher & Director, Deaf Change UK
Jenny Hurst, Independent Living Coordinator, Action Disability Kensington and Chelsea
Adrian Whyatt, Chair, New Ionian Academy
Ingrid Lisa Karlsen-Isfeldt, Volunteer, Southwark Day Centres for Asylum Seekers
Pete Donnelly, Managing Director, The Wheelchair Skills College
Jean Smith, CEO, Nilaari Agency
Mark Williams, Volunteer, Bristol Reclaiming Independent Living
Claire Camplin, Advocacy Team Leader, Disability Advice Service Lambeth
Anthony Chatzifotiou, Specialist Rehabilitation Counsellor, Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust
Maggie Beirne, Secretary, Ealing Reclaim Social Care Action Group (ERSCAG)
Robert Reilly, Company Secretary, Kingston Centre for Independent Living
Gina Vettese, Chairperson, Merton Centre for Independent Living
Mervin Goring, C.I.O., Nottingham Focus On Wellbeing
Alisdair Cameron, Co-Director, ReCoCo
Angela Carmichael, Director & Advisor, Wiltshire People First
Nathan Lee Davies, Disabled Activist, Wrexham DPAC
Jonathan Rackham, Independent Advocate
Rosemary Nicholson, Office Administrator, Visually Impaired in Camden
Richard G Banks, Director, RBA
Catherine Sorsby, Independent Advocate, Meadow Support
Kate Mercer, Owner, Kate Mercer Training
Tristan Middleton, Senior Lecturer, University of Gloucestershire
Liz Crow, Founder, Roaring Girl Productions
Mike Steel, Researcher and Advocate, University of Bristol
Mikki Martinez-Joyce, Lecturer, Berkshire College of Agriculture
Caglar Kimyoncu, Artistic Director, Filmpro Limited
Bryan Michell, Charity Coordinator, My Life My Choice
Liane Burn, CEO, Enfield Disability Action
Lucy Byrne, CEO, Richmond AID
Jean Glaves, Care Act Advocate, D. Mind
Gemma Humphrey, Business Manager, Shaping our Lives
Ian Loynes, Chief Executive, SPECTRUM CIL
Ben Reed, CEO, Equal Lives
David Buxton, Chief Executive, Action on Disability
Dr Emily Kakoullis, Lecturer in Law, Cardiff University
Jess McQuail, Director, Just Fair
Melody Powell, Inclusion Champion Development Worker, ALLFIE
Sally Malit, Co-Director, Speak Out in Hounslow
Bryony Meteyard, Director, Ignite Me Workshop Theatre