

TELL YOUR MP TO #SAVEYOURRIGHTS

The Rights Removal Bill is coming back to Parliament. We need our MPs to vote it down.

The so-called **Bill of Rights Bill** will repeal the **Human Rights Act**. The Bill will put people in harm's way and let the government avoid accountability when they violate our rights.

Your local MP can make a difference. It's your MP's job to listen to you and represent your interests so don't be afraid to tell them to #SaveYourRights.

Whether you're a seasoned campaigner or engaging for the first time, we've got the guide to help you write a letter and arrange a meeting with your MP. We also have Liberty's fact sheets and helpful links in this guide to help you.

WRITE TO YOUR MP

MPs' email inboxes can get inundated so handwriting a letter can be an effective way to get your message across.

MEET WITH YOUR MP

Meeting your MP is one of the personal and direct ways to show them how passionately you care. What's more, it's something you can do as a group of Liberty supporters.

WRITE TO YOUR MP

STEP 1: DO SOME RESEARCH

Find out who your local MP is:

members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP

Do a little research to know their stance on human rights (see our 'Helpful Links' section).

STEP 2: WRITE YOUR LETTER

- **Introduce yourself.** MPs will only respond to their constituents. Let them know your name and that you are one of their constituents. Be descriptive – you might be a mother of two, a nurse, or just a concerned citizen. Connect with them on a human level.
- **State your case.** Be clear and concise about why you are writing. Something brief but strong works, like: “I’m deeply concerned by the government’s plans to repeal the Human Rights Act through the Rights Removal Bill and would like your commitment to oppose this plan.”
- **Explain your argument.** There are lots of reasons why the Rights Removal Bill is a terrible idea. You won’t have room to list them all so pick one or two reasons that you feel strongly about. Describe how it would impact your life. Emphasise that this is an important local issue that many constituents are worried about. If there is a human rights issue in your area, mention it.

WRITE TO YOUR MP

STEP 2: WRITE YOUR LETTER (continued)

- **Make your demand.** Ask your MP to:
 - vote against the Bill
 - speak up against the Bill in Parliament
 - meet with you and other constituents to discuss the issue further (see our guide on how to ‘Meet with your MP’).
- **Be passionate, but respectful.** You might have strong feelings about this (as you should). But remember the goal is to get your MP to agree with you and represent your case in Parliament. Avoid the attacks and stick to polite persuasion and you’ll much more likely to get your MP to engage.
- **Don’t forget to include your address.** It’s important to do this as MPs won’t respond unless they can confirm that you live in their constituency. You might also want to include an email and/or a contact phone number so the MP can get back to you more quickly.

STEP 3: LET US KNOW

Once your letter is posted, wait for a reply. You can follow up by email to request a response.

We’d love to know what your MP says. Please email their reply to our Policy and Campaigns Assistant at pcassistant@libertyhumanrights.org.uk.

MEET WITH YOUR MP

BEFORE YOU GO

STEP 1: REQUEST A MEETING

- **Find out when you can meet.** Most MPs will have their availability on their website or contact information for you to ask. MPs usually also run surgeries in your area where you can make an appointment. When you request a meeting, let them know that you want to discuss the Bill of Rights Bill – this will help your MP prepare for the meeting.
- **Request a meeting.** If your MP doesn't have a meeting appointment system, you can write to them (see our 'Write your MP' guide). Make sure the meeting request part is clear. Be aware that MPs are busy so it may be difficult to fit into their schedule. Here's an example of what you might say:

"I would appreciate an opportunity to speak with you about my concerns. Please let me know a date and time that works for you. I know that you are very busy so even 20 minutes of your time would be appreciated. You may receive other requests to meet and I would be happy to join others in the same meeting if that would be more convenient for you."

MEET WITH YOUR MP

BEFORE YOU GO

STEP 2: GET READY

Plan in advance what you want to discuss with your MP. You don't have to be an expert in human rights or the law but it's good to be as informed as you can be.

- **Familiarise yourself with the facts** and why the Rights Removal Bill is so dangerous. Think about what data or case studies can support your case or speak from personal experience.
- **Do some research on your MP** to find out where they stand on human rights issues. Consider how your MP might respond and how you can counter opposing arguments.

See our 'Helpful Links' section for some research tips.

STEP 3: TELL US WHEN YOU ARE GOING

We would love to hear about your meeting. It is useful for us to know which of our members and supporters are planning to meet their MPs.

There may also be other Liberty supporters in your constituency who wish to join the meeting with you, and we may be able to let them know.

Get in touch with our Policy and Campaigns team at pcassistant@libertyhumanrights.org.uk.

MEET WITH YOUR MP

AT AND AFTER THE MEETING

STEP 4: AT THE MEETING

- **Introduce yourself.** This seems obvious but let your MP know that you are someone who is very concerned about the Rights Removal Bill and the proposal to repeal the Human Rights Act.
- **Discuss the issues.** By this point you will have prepared your points in advance. Express them clearly and respectfully. Being passionate will make your MP more likely to engage than if you're reading from a piece of paper. But don't forget the facts. Coming across as a well-informed and sensible constituent will make you all the more persuasive.
- **Be clear about your demand.** Remember you came for a purpose. Let your MP know what it is exactly that you want them to do: to vote against the Bill. You can also ask them to represent your concerns in Parliament. Your MP is your representative so even if they won't always do what you ask for, they should still consider your request.
- **Stay focused.** Depending on your MP and their views on human rights, it could be a challenging conversation. Your MP might use political spin or standard talking points which can be frustrating to hear. Even if your MP is on board, it can be emotional discussing the impact of this Bill. Keep calm and composed.

MEET WITH YOUR MP

AT AND AFTER THE MEETING

STEP 4: AT THE MEETING (continued)

- **Manage your expectations.** In the best-case scenario, your MP gives you their word on voting down the Bill, in which case: amazing work! It's also possible your MP will disagree or can't give you a concrete solution. Don't be discouraged. Your meeting would still have an impact as it helps us know which MPs to further engage. And don't give up! Encourage your friends, neighbours and family members to join the campaign. The more of us stand up, the more MPs will have to listen.

STEP 5: AFTER THE MEETING

- **Send a follow up email or letter.** Hopefully the meeting went well. Even if your MP didn't commit to vote against the Bill, engaging is still helpful to the campaign. Send your MP a letter thanking them for their time and request for them to keep you updated on their actions on the Bill, and on plans to protect the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights.
- **Let us know.** It is important for our campaign to know how MPs respond and what they said. Please let us know how your meeting went by emailing us at pcassistant@libertyhumanrights.org.uk.

RIGHTS REMOVAL BILL KNOW YOUR FACTS

These are the main points our campaigners use to let people know about the danger of the Rights Removal Bill and why it's important to save our Human Rights Act instead. You can use these to speak to your MP.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- The Government wants to rip up our Human Rights Act (HRA), the law that protects us all from abuse of power.
- Justice Secretary Dominic Raab introduced the Bill of Rights Bill, which is nothing but a 'Rights Removal Bill' – more power for them, fewer rights for you.
- The Bill was shelved in September 2022 by Liz Truss's Government – and branded a “complete mess” in Whitehall – when Raab was sacked.
- Under Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Raab is back as Justice Secretary and wants to bring the Bill back too.

UNIVERSAL VALUE

We all want to live in a society where everyone is treated fairly, with dignity and respect, and one where we are all able to challenge injustice.

But the Government's Rights Removal Bill will put people in harm's way and hide the powerful from accountability for their actions.

RIGHTS REMOVAL BILL KNOW YOUR FACTS

1. THE BILL WEAKENS HUMAN RIGHTS

The Rights Removal Bill weakens everyone's rights. It allows the Government to decide who does and doesn't have rights – turning fundamental human rights into privileges.

- Under the Human Rights Act, everyone in the UK enjoys the same rights. For more than 20 years it has protected everyone's rights and helped them get justice when power has been abused – from soldiers to disabled people, victims of sexual assault, journalists, workers, and LGBTQ+ people.
- The Rights Removal Bill allows the Government to decide whose rights are more important than others' and identifies people who will have fewer rights.
 - It strips rights away from people challenging deportation and their relatives – paving the way for the Government to ramp up its toxic hostile environment and remove the rights of non-British citizens.
 - The text of the Bill also removes rights from British soldiers serving abroad if they are treated badly by the Ministry of Defence – such as those who died when travelling in defective Snatch Land Rovers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

RIGHTS REMOVAL BILL KNOW YOUR FACTS

2. THE BILL LETS THE GOVERNMENT AVOID ACCOUNTABILITY

The Rights Removal Bill will give licence to public authorities – like the Government, local councils and the police – to ignore people’s rights, helping the powerful hide from accountability.

- Under the Human Rights Act, public authorities have to put measures in place to respect and protect people’s rights.
 - It was this duty that enabled the victims of serial rapist John Worboys to force the Metropolitan Police to properly investigate his crimes.
 - And it was the duty on the State to properly investigate deaths in suspicious circumstances that forced the second inquest into the Hillsborough disaster that finally got the truth for the 97 people who died.
- The Rights Removal Bill will weaken the power of the courts to make sure public authorities protect people’s rights and investigate and learn when things go wrong.
 - It does this by effectively telling the courts to bow to the expertise of the public authority involved when it comes to allocating its own resources.
- Polling conducted by nfpResearch shows 77% of people say public authorities must act in a way that respects people’s rights.

RIGHTS REMOVAL BILL KNOW YOUR FACTS

3. THE BILL MAKES IT HARDER TO CHALLENGE ABUSE OF POWER

The Rights Removal Bill will make it harder for people to challenge abuse of their rights.

- The Human Rights Act empowers people to challenge abuse of their rights in British courts.
- The Rights Removal Bill makes this more difficult by requiring a person to prove they have suffered ‘significant disadvantage’ before they can ever get to court – incredibly difficult when you’re up against the power of the State.
- Locking people out of British courts will force more people to go to the European Court of Human Rights – a much longer and much more expensive process that means justice may only be available to people who can afford it.
- Polling conducted by nfpResearch shows 76% of the public says people must be able to hold the Government accountable for its actions.

RIGHTS REMOVAL BILL KNOW YOUR FACTS

4. THE BILL IS UNDEMOCRATIC

The Rights Removal Bill makes a mockery of our democratic processes. No one voted for fewer rights that are harder to enforce.

- The Government has no mandate for the Rights Removal Bill. The Conservative Party 2019 manifesto promised to ‘update’ the HRA, not rip it up.
- In September, the Government shelved the Bill of Rights Bill, with it described in Whitehall as a “complete mess”. The Justice Secretary is now re-introducing it unchanged.
- The Government has also completely ignored the result of its public consultation on the Bill. The majority of expert respondents said the proposals should be scrapped but the Government’s carrying on anyway.

RIGHTS REMOVAL BILL KNOW YOUR FACTS

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

If enough of us take a stand, we can force the Government to ditch the Rights Removal Bill. We have faced threats to our Human Rights Act before, and **we have won** every time.

What you can do to help save your rights:

- **Raise awareness** – follow and share campaign content at #SaveYourRights and #RightsRemovalBill
- **Sign Liberty’s petition** – more than 125,000 people have already signed
- **Email, write, or meet with your MP**
- **Join Liberty:** Liberty is only as strong as its members, and we’re building the largest possible movement to protect rights and freedoms in the UK

HELPFUL LINKS

Here are some links to resources you may find useful when writing a letter or preparing for a meeting with your MP.

- Liberty's explainer on the Rights Removal Bill:
www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/rightsremovalbillfacts
- Liberty's briefing for second reading in the House of Commons (executive summary):
www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/rightsremovalbillbriefingsummary
- Joint civil society briefing for second reading in the House of Commons:
www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/rightsremovalbilljointbriefing
- 22 years on - six stories that show why we need the Human Rights Act:
www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/HRA22years
- Researching your MP's position on human rights:
 - You can read your MP's contributions in Parliament through their profile pages on the Parliament website:
members.parliament.uk/members/commons
 - You can look at how they have voted on certain issues on websites like www.theyworkforyou.com