

2025 Policy Council Candidates

1. Candidate: Denise Ashurst	
Proposer: Ceele Camp	Seconder: David Taylor
<p>I am currently involved with Extinction Rebellion and have undertaken slow walking protests with JSO. I have been to court for protest actions out of concern over new oil and gas licences in the UK. I also have a keen interest in deliberative democracy, having supported community assemblies in Wales, where I live. I have supported Liberty financially or via petition signing on and off over the years.</p> <p>I would consider it a privilege to be involved with Liberty's Policy Council.</p>	
2. Candidate: Ruth Breddal	
Proposer: Patricia Tuitt	Seconder: Qudsia Mirza
<p>I have served on the Policy Council since 2023, and I'm currently interim Chair of the Executive Committee. My aim is to strengthen the democracy and governance of Liberty, enabling us to focus on defending our human rights.</p> <p>I have been a campaigner for human rights for over 30 years. As the U.K. human rights laws are still being challenged, I hope to continue contributing to the work of Liberty.</p> <p>I have considerable experience of governance, as well as grass roots activism, particularly in Amnesty International. I was a member of the Board of AIUK for six years, and was Chair for three of those. Afterwards, I was elected to be Chair of Amnesty's Global Assembly.</p> <p>These roles taught me about the importance of strategic planning and policy implementation. For any organisation to achieve its goals, policies have to be decided with attention to the overarching mission as well as organisational capacity. During my tenure at AIUK we formalised evaluation of our campaigns which improved the effectiveness of campaign planning.</p> <p>Decades of committee work both locally and internationally have given me experience of working collaboratively. I have considerable strengths in relationship building, and negotiating in a positive, and calm manner.</p>	
3. Candidate: Clive Browne	
Proposer: Chris Purnell	Seconder: Pierre Hausemer
<p>My name is Clive Browne and I wish to be considered for the Council. I believe strongly in the rights of the individual and have over the years represented some of the most vulnerable in society. As a paid advisor for a C.A.B. I had a legal aid franchise in welfare benefits, and represented clients at DWP benefit appeals. I have also worked for a mental health charity as a support worker for clients with severe mental illness. I have been employed as an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA), and Litigation Friend working with the Court of Protection, as well as liaising with local authorities and acute hospitals. I am currently employed by a mental health charity and have recently finished work on a joint project with the NHS for employment retention for clients recovering from mental illness. I will soon be starting work on the Right Care Right Person project representing the views of clients who have experienced mental health crisis, so as to inform and help implement the project in Dorset. I would like the opportunity to continue help shape the direction of Liberty so as to continue its quest for beneficial change for society.</p>	

4. Candidate: Colean Camp

Proposer: Ruth Breddal

Seconded: Patricia Tuitt

I am Chief Executive of a UK charity and mum of two teenage boys. I have served on Liberty's Policy Council for the past two years and been co-opted to the Culture and Welfare Working Group where I am currently taking a lead on liaising with the Senior Leadership Team around the staff survey. I have always cared deeply about human rights and supported charities within this space. I believe Liberty's work is more critical than ever in recent times, as the right to protest and the power of the judiciary to hold government to account have come under threat. Liberty has been brave both in its invaluable investigative work, as well as with difficult conversations around the spaces where the rights of different groups can be in conflict. I bring a lay perspective to these issues that I believe is useful to ensure Liberty's work is grounded and has input from non-specialists. I also have organisational knowledge and skills that can support the organisation going forward. It has been a privilege to be part of the important discussions at Liberty to date and I'd very much like the opportunity to use my knowledge and skills to serve for another term.

5. Candidate: Abraham Eiluorior

Proposer: Ruth Breddal

Seconded: Patricia Tuitt

I am a doctoral research student at Durham University with research background on Refugee Law. I am also the founder of Sunderland Rainbow Sanctuary Seekers group (SURASS - an organisation giving practical support to LGBT asylum seekers in the north east of England). I sit on the Board of Trustees of Friends of Drop-In (FODI Sunderland – supporting asylum seekers and refugees in Sunderland (<http://fodisunderland.org/meet-the-team/>), and I am also the Vice Chair of Sunderland City of Sanctuary. My background in Human Rights Law will give me the opportunity to fight for the oppressed and vulnerable people in the society and also hold the government to account for their actions.

I am an active campaigner for LGBT and migrants' welfare, rights and justice. I am a refugee from Nigeria and have got extensive knowledge having been a member of the Policy Council since 2019. It is my intention to continue to bring these experiences and knowledge into the works of the Policy Council. It is on this basis that I, again, humbly offer myself to serve on the Policy Council.

6. Candidate: Aidan Geary

Proposer: David Taylor

Seconded: Ruth Breddal

For the past two years I have been a member of Liberty's Policy Council, and sat on the Executive Committee as Treasurer. It has been a hugely challenging time for Liberty, but the organisation is gradually improving its position, and making necessary changes so it is best placed to tackle today's civil liberty issues. That work is ongoing, and I would like to continue to contribute to it, through membership of the Policy Council and the Executive Committee.

One would hope that, with time, civil liberties and human rights would have become thoroughly embedded in our legislative, regulatory, and social fabric. Regrettably, despite all of the progress made, political change around the world and much of the current discourse in the UK suggests there is a real risk of things sliding backwards. The need for an organisation like Liberty feels as great today as it ever has. And for Liberty to have a powerful voice, it needs to be well run, well-funded, and well advised by bodies like the Policy Council. I would very much appreciate your vote, so that I can continue to assist Liberty in this crucial work.

7. Candidate: Becky Green

Proposer: Alex Rees

Seconder : Angus McCallum

Liberty's work is more important than ever. However I believe we must take a more proactive approach to such work, in that spirit, I will bring the following strategies as a Policy Council member.

- 1) Increase the knowledge of human rights in the public consciousness. Many people don't know all of their human rights nor what avenues they can take if they are violated, We cannot expect people to engage with the erosion of rights they do not know.
- 2) Cultivate a more proactive organisation. Liberty's membership consists of people who are genuinely passionate about protecting human rights and holding the government to account. I want to do all I can to encourage and equip our members to reach out to their own communities, providing helpful resources, fighting disinformation and starting conversations with people who our organisation may not normally reach.
- 3) Collaborate with both national and international charities and organisations wherever possible. Pooling our resources and knowledge means we can do far more in the long run than we could ever do independently.

Liberty has helped many people like me, I want to continue to reach out and ensure that we stay active and engaged with the public.

8. Candidate: Susannah Hagan

Proposer: Shanthi Milne

Seconder: David Mead

I applied to be on the Liberty Policy Council last year and though I haven't glued myself to any railings in the meantime, Liberty's work has become even more important to me as a new government has failed to row back on the incursions into the right to protest. In fact, Liberty has been compelled to go back to court to fight the same case all over again against the last government's redefinition of acceptable levels of protest and the carte blanche given to the police to decide what those levels are. This attack is particularly acute in relation to climate protests, a subject close to my heart. As a Professor of Architecture, I've taught and researched on the reduction of environmental impact by buildings and cities all my working life. I belong to a group called ACAN (Architects Climate Action Network), which feels acutely the threat to peaceful protest. If I can contribute usefully to the Policy Council, I'd very much like to.

9. Candidate: Pierre Hausemer

Proposer: Becky Green

Seconded: Bob Chapman

My name is Pierre Hausemer and I am standing for election to the Liberty Policy Council. I joined Liberty in 2018 as I became increasingly upset by the direction of UK government policy which put into question our fundamental rights and liberties in ways that would have been inconceivable just a few years before. I admire the principled stand that Liberty takes to our fundamental rights, even in times when this is not popular.

I am an economist and public policy analyst by training and for the past 18 years I have worked as an adviser to European governments (mostly the EU) on a wide range of issues, including disinformation, interference in elections, migration, equality and the impact of digital technology (including AI, social media) on society.

I strongly believe that addressing growing societal discontent and divisions cannot come at the price of sacrificing the fundamental rights and freedoms that we have fought so hard to acquire over the course of the 20th century.

I believe I can bring value to Liberty's policy council by engaging in ongoing campaigns on AI/facial recognition and biometrics, the ECHR, freedom of speech, disinformation and digital platforms and by supporting cooperation with like-minded.

10. Candidate: Angus McCallum

Proposer: Pierre Hausemer

Seconded: David Mead

I am an active member of Liberty and Amnesty International with a passion for human rights; and my career has enabled me to gain a perspective and understanding of key issues such as policing; freedom of speech and the importance of housing.

I want to support the Committee in shaping Liberty's policies as it fights to stop the erosion of our freedoms whilst also seeking to expand human rights in the UK. Rights challenged by technology, climate change, and threaten by attacks from all political parties.

I support Liberty's values and believe my experience will enable me to help Liberty achieve its aims.

- Senior roles across the Oil and Gas Sector. (Now retired)
- Chief Information Officer of the Metropolitan Police. (Now retired)
- Non-Executive Director of Housing Solutions, a provider of social and affordable housing – where I Chaired the Policy Committee – can having a home be a human right? (Now retired).
- Lay member of Reading University – challenges of freedom of expression.

In summary I want to play a more active role in supporting Liberty protecting and enhancing the Human Rights / Civil Liberties of all UK citizens, working towards making equality, dignity, and justice a reality for everyone.

11. Candidate: David Mead

Proposer: Mike Schwarz

Seconder: Susannah Hagan

I am a university academic, in the Law School at the University of East Anglia (UEA) where I have specialised since the late 90s in researching and writing about protest/public order/policing. I have also written about the operation of the HRA, media coverage of human rights issues, and free speech and privacy. I teach UG modules on Public Law and on Policing and Human Rights, which takes in state surveillance and counter-terrorism measures too.

I have worked with policy makers, politicians, given evidence to Parliamentary committees, been academic fellow to the JCHR (2021/22) as the PCSCA went through, and been consulted by UN Special Rapporteurs on e.g. UN GC 37. I have worked with civil society organisations - Amnesty, Greenpeace, Netpol, Article 11 Trust, and Liberty itself including on its "Serious Disruption" JR, and with barristers and solicitors in the course of litigation. Most recently I have been consulted by the Canadian Parliament's legal team in relation to a ban on anti-abortion protests, and by the New Zealand Police Authority as part of its review of NZ public order law.

12. Candidate: Shanthi Milne

Proposer: Angus McCallum

Seconder: Bob Chapman

I am a writer and filmmaker with fifteen years' experience covering stories focusing on marginalised communities.

My work has given me unique access to and understanding of individuals and their circumstances – particularly members of minority ethnic and religious communities, and victims and perpetrators of crime.

My films include 'Lawful Killing' - a BBC One drama-documentary examining the fatal police shooting of Mark Duggan, and the controversial RIPA laws that shrouded the police intelligence and subsequent investigations in secrecy.

I have also been involved in a global series examining child marriage, as well as documentaries examining the death row system in Texas, challenges faced by undocumented migrants across Europe, and various projects with the UK emergency services.

Between 2021 and 2022, I worked as an Advocacy and Support Volunteer at Detention Action, providing emotional and practical support to individuals detained under immigration powers in UK prisons and immigration removal centres – including individuals threatened with deportation to Rwanda.

Prior to this, I actively served on Liberty's Policy Council for four years. If re-elected I hope to continue to support Liberty's work protecting human rights at a time when we find them so threatened.

13. Candidate: Paris Nelson-Wallace	
Proposer: Colean Camp	Second: Aidan Geary
<p>I am a 32 year old black British male who was born and raised in Hackney (East London). I moved to the North of England in 2019 to complete higher education training and currently live in Yorkshire. I have now completed an undergraduate degree with a 1st class BSc honours in Criminology and Psychology, and a 2:1 MA postgraduate degree in Media and Culture to improve my science communication skills for research around neurodevelopmental disorders. At the moment I am doing a second masters degree in International Relations because as a human rights activist I want to use my skills to work on improving Human life globally via the Human Development Index. I can bring a unique perspective to the board with a rich background of diversity and anecdotal experience of multicultural life at its best. I also have board experience with over a year and a half in an NGO serving as a trustee and a vice-chairman on the board of trustees.</p>	
14. Candidate: Chris Purnell	
Proposer: Shanthi Milne	Second: Patricia Tuitt
<p>Chris Purnell is a retired first tier Tribunal judge who had formerly worked as an employed barrister at Law Centres in Plumstead & Tottenham representing in unfair dismissal and discrimination cases. Currently Chair of Plumstead Community Law Centre's trustees he is active in the Labour movement, he has campaigned for a total cease fire in Gaza and is committed to fight for our rights to protest</p>	
15. Candidate: Dr R.L Symonds (M85640)	
Proposer: Chris Purnell	Second: Becky Green
<p>I am a retired consultant psychiatrist and served from 2000 - 2019 as a medical member of the Tribunals Service (mental health), so as treated as a medical judge, I became familiar with legal argument, I was also at the time of the benefits of the Human Rights Act. I was impressed and managed to achieve a Master's degree in Mental Health law at Northumbria University. My thesis was the role of evidence in the mental health tribunals. I was very interested in problems like the standard of proof, and miss the work - we had to retire at 75. So I know some of the background which might be useful, but although I'm pretty fit, I am reluctant to travel to meetings and hope they could be online</p>	
16. Candidate: Eveline Wee	
Proposer: Valerie Little	Second: Susannah Hagan
<p>I am a retired legal aid lawyer with my own firm in the East End of London employing up to 14 staff, working from home since 2008 until my retirement in late 2021. Mainly as a freelance solicitor undertaking advocacy. From 2008-9 I was the family law supervisor for the Children's Legal Centre. I served on the boards of Community Links and the Scarlet Theatre.</p> <p>Having arrived in the UK from Singapore with my family in 1959 aged 9, I benefitted from free education and the NHS. Dismayed by the erosion of legal aid, immigration restrictions, the loss of employment rights, sidelining of unions and the attacks on our democracy I would like to contribute to Liberty as a Council member looking at campaigning and ways of Liberty increasing its impact. I am a current council member and wish to continue. Despite the change in government, our human rights remain fragile.</p>	

17. Candidate: Michael West

Proposer: Sonia Ferguson

Seconder: Cyrilia Knight Davies

I am an immigration barrister at a specialist immigration set, 12 Old Square Chambers, with an appellant-based practice. I've appeared successfully at all levels up to and including the Court of Appeal. Prior to coming to the Bar, I worked as a caseworker at Birnberg Peirce in their public law department.

I frequently appear in immigration bail hearings and regularly take cases on a pro bono basis with Bail for Immigration Detainees. My reason for wanting to be involved in Liberty's work is that, having experience in this area of law, I firmly believe that administrative detention is the single greatest failure of the justice system in the UK and that the absence of a statutory time limit is unduly harsh and unjustifiable.

As a lawyer whose job it is to interpret and apply laws, it is intolerable to be constricted by unjust laws. Being able to work on the policy side of the law insofar as that is influencing change to the system, the work Liberty does holds huge appeal to me.

I would love to continue to serve in Liberty's work challenging immigration detention and other issues of importance to the work the organisation does.

18. Candidate: Matt Woodhead

Proposer: Richard Norton-Taylor

Seconder: Helen Monks

Hey :)

My name is Matt. I'm from Barnsley and the Co-Director of an arts for social change charity called LUNG. I've dedicated the last 10 years of my life to platform voices that need to be heard, so they can speak truth onto power. I am an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Nottingham and have worked at big institutions like The National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. I work directly (and have policy experience) with;

1. Young carers
2. Families bereaved by a death in prison
3. Anti-Prevent work

As well as shaping policy, I am interested in how to use art (and other mediums) to communicate messages for change to the wider public. Thanks for considering my application :)

Matt x