

**Summary of substantive policy discussions**  
**at Liberty Council meeting**  
**June 2010**

Challenges and opportunities for Liberty in the new political environment

Council had a substantial discussion about the post-election challenges and opportunities for Liberty. The following points/ issues were covered:

- How fiscal austerity and the reduction in the role of the state could impact negatively on human rights and how Liberty might counter/highlight this impact.
- The important role of HM Opposition in challenging Government policy that undermines human rights.
- Threats to the Human Rights Act (HRA) and Liberty's response to the planned Bill of Rights Commission.
- The debate and amended motion on the HRA passed at the emergency Liberal Democrat conference before the Coalition Document was agreed.
- Early action to repeal ID cards. Residual concerns re: ID database and stand-alone visas for foreign nationals.
- The divide between those who support rights and freedoms for British citizens but do not believe that the same protection should be afforded to foreign nationals.
- How the test for any Government is its response to particular events.
- The state of children and young people's rights in the UK. Government must be reminded of the vulnerability of young people and their need for positive protection.
- Further cutbacks in legal aid and impact on access to justice.