



# Why the Human Rights Act?

The Human Rights Act means that you can defend your rights in the UK courts and that public organisations must treat everyone equally, with fairness dignity and respect.

# Common values – human rights and you

**FACT:** Everyone's human rights are protected by law, including yours.

**FACT:** Human rights are not just about lawyers and courts. Users of a wide range of public services have used the Act as a tool to argue for better and fairer services.

# Public protection

**FACT:** The Human Rights Act does not stop convicted criminals and terrorists from being punished. In fact, it requires that people who commit serious, violent offences are prosecuted.

# The right to life

Protects your life, by law. The State is required to investigate suspicious deaths and deaths in custody.

# The prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment

You should never be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way, no matter what the situation.

# Protection against slavery and forced labour

You should not be treated like a slave or subjected to forced labour.

# The right to liberty and freedom

You have the right to be free and the state can only imprison you with very good reason – for example, if you are convicted of a crime.

# The right to a fair trial and no punishment without law

You are innocent until proven guilty. If accused of a crime, you have the right to hear the evidence against you, in a court of law.

# **Respect for privacy and family life and the right to marry**

Protects against unnecessary surveillance or intrusion into your life. You have the right to marry and raise a family.

# Freedom of thought, religion and belief

You can believe what you like and practise your religion.

# Free speech and protest

You have a right to speak freely and join with others in a peaceful way to express your views.

# No discrimination

Everyone's rights are equal. You should not be treated unfairly – for example because of your gender, race, sexuality, religion or age.

# Protection of property, the right to an education and the right to free elections

Protects against state interference with your possessions; means that no child can be denied an education and that elections must be free and fair.

**We believe in fundamental rights and freedoms – shared values that protect every member of the human family and the society we seek to build together.**

**To learn more about the Human Rights Act and Liberty's campaign, visit [www.commonvalues.org.uk](http://www.commonvalues.org.uk)**

# LIBERTY

PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES  
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

[www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk](http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk)