

# LIBERTY

PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES  
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

## **Members elected to Council 2007 - 2009**

(in alphabetical order)

### **New! Amanda Ariss**

I have been active in human rights since starting an Amnesty International branch at school thirty years ago. I am also an active equality campaigner and I am Head of Policy at the Equal Opportunities Commission. I was closely involved in creating the new Commission on Equality and Human Rights and campaigned for it to have strong human rights powers.

Following battles over identity cards and anti-terrorism legislation, the next three years will be vital for civil liberties. We will have a new Prime Minister and the outcome of the next general election could be close. The Commission on Equality and Human Rights will start work and its willingness to defend and to promote human rights will quickly be tested.

If elected to Liberty's Council, I would bring a deep passion for human rights allied to the strategic, policy-making and lobbying skills that can help Liberty to achieve its goals. My priorities would be:

- Strengthening Liberty's public campaigning for civil liberties even further
- Pressing all political parties to make a reality of Britain's human rights commitments
- Tackling the gross human rights violations involved in people trafficking
- Getting the Commission on Equality and Human Rights to deliver

### **New! Lucy Armstrong**

I am thirty eight years old and live in the North East. I have been a member of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) of two prisons in the region for the last ten years. Through this work we ensure the fair and humane treatment of prisoners, securing the basic human rights of fairness, equality and dignity that Liberty seeks to guarantee for everyone in the UK. At a time when our rights and freedoms are under attack from the very politicians charged with protecting them, Liberty appears to be the sole voice of reasoned opposition and challenge.

I am standing in this election as a practical demonstration of my commitment to Liberty's values and campaigns. I hope to contribute my experience in commercial and strategic decision making from a career in finance; understanding how to influence public sector organisations from work on an independent BBC governors' review and human rights' experience at a national and regional level through my prison work. I believe these skills, allied to my enthusiasm, energy and commitment to promoting Liberty in my region would be of value to the organisation.

### **New! Alex Bailin**

I am a practising barrister at Matrix chambers doing a mixture of criminal, public law and human rights work. I have acted for Liberty in its interventions in important cases (e.g. the 'Belmarsh case' in the House of Lords on detention without trial; the Ramzy case in the European Court of Human Rights on return to torture) and have

also been instructed by Liberty to represent defendants in criminal cases (e.g. Katharine Gun - charged with Official Secrets Act disclosure relating to the bugging of the UN in the run-up to the Iraq war). My work increasingly has an international dimension. I have also advised Liberty on a range of policy issues relating to criminal justice and civil liberties.

I am a contributing author to various leading books on criminal justice and human rights. I have been a member of Liberty for many years and am keen to be more involved with its work at this critical time for human rights and civil liberties. As an experienced criminal lawyer, I feel I might be able to provide a useful contribution in the current climate.

### **Frances Butler**

Last summer, ministers attacked the Human Rights Act after some bad decision-making by officials who lacked the guidance that ministers should have given them. During October, I advised the Home Affairs Committee on its inquiry into the Act following these attacks. The MPs needed to know that everyone – victims and perpetrators - has the right to human rights protection and that Government and other public authorities have a duty to guarantee it. They also needed to understand that the human rights framework provides a set of shared values that binds people together as well as respecting their differences.

My report for Age Concern, *Rights for Real*, was published last year and I'm now advising the Joint Committee on Human Rights on its inquiry into the careless treatment and abuse which too many older people experience in hospitals and care homes. The Human Rights Act needs to reach these hidden places too.

I joined Liberty's Council in 2003 and have been an executive board member since 2004, supporting the director and her highly professional team. I would like to continue helping Liberty safeguard the important protections guaranteed in what is effectively the only bill of rights which we have ever had.

### **Louise Christian**

Louise Christian has been a member of Liberty for at least twenty five years and is an enthusiastic and committed member of the Council and more recently the Board of Liberty. She is the Senior Partner of the human rights firm Christian Khan and is a well known media commentator on civil liberties issues. She has acted for prisoners released from Guantanamo Bay and in other high profile cases. In the past year she has spoken at meetings organised by Liberty at the TUC conference, in parliament and outside the US Embassy. She identifies strongly with Liberty's policies in opposing repressive new terrorism, asylum and criminal justice legislation and asserting the importance of the Human Rights Act. She wishes to continue giving all the support she can to the Director and the staff of Liberty at such a crucial time.

### **New! Barbara Davidson**

Ever since school days I have been passionate about human rights and equality issues. Growing up in Northern Ireland gave me an insight into the divisiveness of treating communities in different ways and the disastrous consequences of heavy-handed anti-terror laws imposed by successive Governments. I am a strong believer in the power of education as a force for good. That includes educating everyone about rights and freedoms.

As a solicitor I am involved in all aspects of my firm's pro bono work, attending advice sessions at Battersea Law Centre and the Citizens' Advice Bureau. I am also heavily involved in charity work in my local area of Southwark, including the charity

Pembroke House which provides a community centre for residents, many of whom are seriously deprived.

A member since student days, I have just completed a secondment in the Policy Department. I gained an excellent insight into all aspects of Liberty's work, eg the Serious Crime, Corporate Manslaughter and Forced Marriage Bills and the rights of prisoners to vote.

I strongly believe that the human rights framework provides the best means of dealing with many of the problems faced by society today and passionately uphold all that Liberty stands for.

### **David Downes**

As Professor Emeritus of Social Policy and a member and former Director of the Mannheim Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice at the London School of Economics, I have spent most of my working life preoccupied with teaching and research on crime and punishment. I have also been keenly aware of and, from time to time, have taken an active part in campaigns by Liberty to restrain successive governments from illiberal measures and to promote a strong legal framework for civil liberties.

My main current concern is the damage to criminal justice stemming from New Labour's embrace of a politics of crime control that owes more to penal populism than to its own best libertarian tradition. As a result, a welter of punitive legislation, especially the Criminal Justice Act 2003, has driven the prison population to unprecedented heights at a time of falling crime rates. We are now drifting towards a state of affairs in which mass imprisonment becomes all too feasible, driven by US-style imports such as mandatory indeterminate sentencing of an unduly wide spectrum of offenders presumed 'dangerous'. It is crucial for Liberty to contest these developments, drawing on the rapidly growing field of research in comparative criminology.

### **Shaheed Fatima**

I have been a member of Liberty's Council and Executive Committee since 2005. Now as a new mother, I have an even greater interest in securing rights and freedoms.

As both a (head-scarf wearing) Muslim and a practicing barrister (at Blackstone Chambers) I have first hand experience of the socio-cultural, practical and legal implications of many current human rights issues, e.g. the balance between personal liberty and national security, personal dignity and freedom of speech.

I practice principally in human rights, administrative and international law. These interests find wider expression in my roles as trustee of the Runnymede Trust and Committee Member of the Human Rights Lawyers Association and through my association with Liberty. I was educated at the Universities of Glasgow, Oxford and Harvard and am an Attorney at the New York Bar.

Four important cases which reflect my practice are *ERRC v Immigration Officer at Prague Airport* acting for the refugees, *R (Al-Skeini) v Defence Secretary* acting for the claimant Iraqi families, *R (Al-Jedda) v Defence Secretary* and *R (Animal Defenders International) v Culture, Media and Sport Secretary* challenging the prohibition on political advertising on television. I am the author of "*Using International Law in Domestic Courts*".

**Fiona Horlick**

I have been a member of the Council of Liberty since 2005 and I am also a member of Lawyers for Liberty. It has been a privilege to serve on Council and to help shape the increasingly important work of Liberty. I would very much wish to serve for another term and build on the experience of the last 2 years. I am a criminal barrister where I see the effects of the erosion of human rights on a daily basis. Basic principles, which have existed for centuries, are being sacrificed for cheap media sound bites. Instead of educating the public and promoting human rights and respect for others, this government whips up public fears to promote its own authoritarian ends. Liberty still stands as a beacon of hope and a rallying point for all of us who care and wish to be involved in its essential campaigning. I still have a particular interest in the way children are treated, and failed, by the criminal justice system - almost all adults who appear before the criminal courts have offended as young people. Liberty is now at the forefront of the promotion of the rights of the child.

**New! Tim Lezard**

As a journalist and trade unionist for 19 years, I have both professional and personal reasons for supporting Liberty.

Professionally, journalists are finding it increasingly difficult to play our part in the democratic process because the state has restricted freedom of information and movement whilst increasing surveillance of individuals and their communications.

And the Government's Anti-Terror legislation is a particular concern: any journalist reporting the views of a proscribed group runs the risk of being charged with 'glorifying' terrorism.

These attacks on our liberty undermine the cardinal principles of democracy – free expression, open government and people's right to know.

Personally, I am concerned by indefensible rendition flights, by attempts to restrict our right to peaceful protest and by the introduction of ID cards, which will impinge on our civil liberties whilst doing nothing to make us safer.

If elected, I would seek to increase the involvement in Liberty's work of the UK's 6.5m trade unionists: getting them on board would give a huge boost to our campaigning ability.

*Tim Lezard, 37, is a freelance journalist and a former President of the National Union of Journalists. He sits on the TU Network committees of both Liberty and Amnesty International.*

**Michael McColgan**

I have lived and worked in Sheffield for over 40 years. I work as a solicitor, specialising in criminal and prison law, human rights and education.

Liberty has made enormous strides in recent years, thanks largely to the hard work of Shami and her colleagues in Tabard Street. However, its influence needs to be expanded geographically and socially: minority communities, trade unionists, students and young people generally are all too conspicuous by their absence from the membership, let alone active involvement in Liberty's campaigning work.

Throughout the fifteen years I have been a member of the Executive, I have campaigned for strategies to overcome this deficit. We now have the leadership, the staff and – with your support – the resources to translate such strategies into reality

and thereby reinforce Liberty's position at the forefront of the movement to defend and extend human rights.

### **New! Sonali Naik**

Under this Government the 1951 Refugee Convention and fundamental human rights principles have been seriously undermined. Asylum-seekers have been vilified by the state, incarcerated and literally starved out of the system. Double standards have been applied to the right to liberty in particular for those detained under anti-terrorism, legislation and foreign national prisoners who have completed their criminal sentences. Liberty is a key organisation in the current climate of attacks on the rights and freedom of the individual by the government.

I am a British Asian woman committed to defending the human rights of these minority and marginalised groups. I have worked in the field of immigration and asylum for over 13 years, both in the community and in practice as a barrister at Garden Court Chambers. I have been a Lawyer for Liberty for several years.

I have also been involved with the leading campaigning organisation on immigration issues - the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) for over 10 years and was Chair for 5 years. I have also been the Chair of Tower Hamlets Law Centre and am a member of Board of Trustees for Clean Break – a theatre company working with women ex-offenders.

### **Nick O'Shea**

I feel passionate about preserving human rights for people who are least able to defend them – people with mental illnesses, learning disabilities, the homeless or those in prison. I am currently on secondment to the Adults facing Chronic Exclusion Team in central government, which is trying to improve outcomes in housing, health and income for people on the margins of society. Since 2001, I have worked for Revolving Doors, which provides practical support for people who have been arrested or imprisoned, whilst suffering from mental health problems. I am currently Chair of Lewisham Mencap where we are fighting £1.8million of cuts to local services for people with severe disabilities through a family-led campaign. I am seeking re-election to the Council which I have served on since 2005 and offer my knowledge in these areas to help develop Liberty's work. Vote for Nick!

### **New! Deok Joo Rhee**

I was born in Seoul, Korea (1973), but have lived for most of my life in the UK. Having studied (and taught) law, I was called to the Bar in 1998. Apart from two spells of absence (as a legal assistant at the House of Lords and the European Court of Justice) I have been in active practice, working in the fields of administrative law, with particular interest in its interaction with EU law and the developing law of human rights.

(On better days) I retain my optimism that law affords a means by which we can vindicate our (better) instincts through reason, and am committed to working for the promotion and development of a healthy, and more sensitively tuned legal system – able to respond creatively to the increasingly challenging issues with which we are faced.

I have enormous respect for Liberty's work – both in terms of the breadth of issues it covers (both the high profile and the less) - and the multifaceted and imaginative way in which it seeks to engage with all sections of society.

I would value an opportunity to work with Liberty and to be able to support its work in whatever way I can.

**Stephen Ward**

It has been a great privilege to be a member of council for the last two years as Liberty has increased yet more the impact of its work. We need to ensure that the freedoms and protections that we all enjoy are not casually cast aside for reasons of political expediency and on the basis of extremely confused thinking about the best way to tackle the undoubted threats that open societies now face.

I have experience of working within government as a civil servant (in the Cabinet Office) and have worked closely with members of the present government. I also have considerable experience of political campaigning within difficult contexts, having spent three years working full time to build a campaign for the adoption of the euro by the UK and I am currently head of communications at the Law Society. I believe that these skills and experience are useful to Liberty's campaigning work with both policy makers and the public during what continues to be a testing time.

**These 15 join the following Council members who were elected (under 7.4a) in 2006:**

Mona Arshi, Mohammed Aziz, Camilla Batmanghelidjh, Caspar Bowden, Bill Bowring, Richard Clayton QC, Madeleine Colvin, Michael Ellman, Carolina Gottardo, Jean Lambert MEP, Doreen Lawrence OBE, Sarah Ludford MEP, Steven Montgomery, Rod Robertson

***And Liberty's Treasurer:***

Tish Andrewartha

**Voting information:**

Number of ballot papers distributed:	8672
Number of ballot papers returned:	998
Number of papers found to be invalid (blank / spoilt):	6
Thus, total number of valid ballot papers to be counted:	992

A full results sheet will be available at the AGM detailing:

- ◆ the quota required for election
- ◆ each candidate's voting figures, and
- ◆ the stage at which successful candidates were elected.