



Women's Rights are Human Rights: Statement on Human Rights Day

The 10th December marks both Human Rights Day and the final day of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

We are survivors, frontline support services, campaigners, researchers, lawyers, and experts in violence against women and girls. We join our voices together with yours and with all who care about ending violence against women and girls, to call for the urgent protection of our Human Rights Act.

The Human Rights Act is an essential tool to protect women and girls facing all forms of gender-based violence. It is used to ensure that action is taken to keep us safe in schools, by local councils, by health services, social services and by the police. And when institutions, like the police, fail us, the Human Rights Act is often the *only* tool available to hold them to account and provide justice for those harmed.

Since its introduction, the Human Rights Act has also been an important part of our vision for a society which upholds and respects the rights of all. Any attack on the principle of universal human rights undermines our work to end violence against women and girls, and harms us all.

The government is trying to rip up these protections and with it, much of our vital progress to end violence against women and girls. But we will not sit quietly while our rights to safety, justice and accountability are undermined.

We say to government: you cannot claim to prioritise tackling violence against women and girls while withdrawing critical legislation that protects us. Our shared message this Human Rights Day is this: we won't stand by while you attack our fundamental rights. The Rights Removal Bill endangers women and girls - we call on you to scrap the Bill and save our Human Rights Act.

Women's rights are human rights.

List of signatories:

Individuals / survivors

Bekhal Mahmud, bereaved sister of Banaz Mahmud, and who successfully relied on the Human Rights Act to seek justice for police failures following her sister's murder

Kate Wilson, survivor who relied on the Human Rights Act to successfully challenge the Metropolitan Police for their use of undercover police against protest movements

DSD, survivor of John Worboys who relied on the Human Rights Act to successfully challenge the police for their multiple investigative failures

NBV, survivor of John Worboys who, together with DSD, relied on the Human Rights Act to successfully challenge the police for their multiple investigative failures

Nour Norris, bereaved sister of Khaola Saleem and aunt to Raneem Oudah, and who relied on the Human Rights Act to ensure a full inquest was held which highlighted shocking and multiple police failures in the lead-up to their murders

Claire Waxman OBE, who relied on the Human Rights Act to successfully challenge the Crown Prosecution Service for not pursuing the prosecution of her stalker, and failing to protect her from psychological harm caused by further acts of harassment.

Organisations

1. Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)
2. Agenda Alliance
3. Al-Hasaniya
4. The Angelou Centre
5. Apna Haq
6. Ashiana
7. Asian Women's Resource Centre
8. Centre for Military Justice
9. Centre for Women's Justice
10. Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit
11. Deaf Ethnic Women's Association
12. Ella's
13. End Cyber Abuse
14. End Violence Against Women Coalition
15. Equality Now
16. Faith and VAWG Coalition
17. Fawcett Society
18. FORWARD UK
19. Hawa Trust
20. HER Centre
21. Hull Sisters
22. Humanists UK
23. Humraaz

24. IKWRO
25. IRISi
26. Juno Women's Aid
27. JURIES
28. Kairos Women Working Together
29. Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation (KMEWO)
30. Latin American Women's Aid
31. Latin American Women's Rights Service
32. London Black Women's Project
33. Micro Rainbow
34. Middle Eastern Women & Society Organisation (MEWSo)
35. National Federation of Women's Institutes
36. Network of Eritrean Women-UK
37. Nia
38. One Voice 4 Traveller
39. Own My Life Course
40. Police Spies Out Of Lives
41. Race Equality Foundation
42. Rape Crisis England & Wales
43. Rape Crisis Scotland
44. RASASC – Rape Crisis South London
45. Refuge
46. René Cassin
47. Respect
48. Restored
49. Rights Of Women
50. Safety4Sisters NW
51. Scottish Women's Aid
52. Solace Women's Aid
53. Southall Black Sisters
54. Surviving Economic Abuse
55. Welsh Women's Aid
56. White Ribbon UK
57. Women's Aid Federation England
58. Women's Aid Northern Ireland
59. Women and Girl's Network
60. Women's Budget Group
61. Women for Refugee Women
62. Women in Prison
63. Women's Resource Centre