

Happy Human Rights Day!

On this day in 1948 the United Nations adopted the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR). This first ever international human rights treaty was the civilised world's response to the horrors of the Holocaust – a global voice saying 'Never again!' The UDHR protects human rights by setting out basic common principles that all nations must follow, and has influenced and inspired many national constitutions and international treaties such as the [European Convention on Human Rights](#) (ECHR). We are proud that our namesake, [René Cassin](#), was one of the UDHR's co-authors.

This year's UN Human Rights Day theme – [Our Rights. Our Freedoms. Always.](#) – emphasises the universal nature of human rights and reaffirms their inalienability and timelessness.

Today, here in the UK, these reminders are more important than ever. The government wants to scrap the Human Rights Act. The Act – which incorporates the rights listed in the ECHR into British law – protects victims of crime, the wrongly accused, the disabled, the mistreated, and the elderly. It has allowed countless people to pursue justice here in the UK and is an instrument which should be cherished, not diminished.

The promised consultation on repeal of the Act has been postponed until the New Year. But this is not a case of it being 'kicked into the long grass' – the government's plans have encountered unforeseen complications. And more substantial troubles lie in the potential effects of scrapping the Act, not least the diminution of rights in the UK and the emboldening of repressive regimes abroad.

A leading opponent of the government's plan to scrap the Human Rights Act is their own former Attorney-General, Dominic Grieve QC MP. He is one of the most prominent and legally authoritative individuals in Parliament, and his voice holds formidable weight in the discussion of the future of human rights in the UK.

René Cassin is pleased to host Dominic Grieve at our upcoming event [From the Holocaust to the Human Rights Act](#), which examines the link between Jewish experience and human rights protections.

On Human Rights Day, we invite you to join us in January, and further, we invite you to join us in our campaign to protect the Human Rights Act.