

When I heard the news that Britain had voted to leave the EU, I was overwhelmed by a whirlwind of emotions: **disbelief** – this can't be true, there must be a mistake and I urged my husband to 'check again'. Then when he confirmed it was true, the next feeling to kick in was **confusion**: so what does that mean for me? An EU national who has lived here for the last 12 years, built a home and raised a family, established myself as a member of my community and my profession. Then **apprehension**: so what happens now to my children – one an EU national, the other two British citizens. Who is better or worse off? Will we all have to move because of one or stay because of the other two?

I have dedicated the best part of my adult life to defend and promote human rights. As a human rights defender, as a Jew whose family experienced the Holocaust, the EU represents an understanding that we have to act together to ensure that 'NEVER AGAIN' is just that, and there is a shared responsibility to foster a reality that promotes equality and respect. These core values are at the centre of the idea of the EU.

When I joined René Cassin a year ago, I finally found a home where all these values and identities could be together. This UK based charity – 'the Jewish voice for human rights' – is named after Monsieur René Cassin, the French-Jewish co-drafter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

I hope that leaving the EU will not undermine the core principles that René Cassin stands for – that of building a culture that promotes human rights – and I urge our government to ensure the UK continues to be part of the European Convention on Human Rights and upholds domestic human rights law through the UK's Human Rights Act.

In these turbulent and uncertain times, we all need to hold firm to the core values that bind us together as a society. Human rights laws developed in response to tyranny and genocide. They are what define a civilised and tolerant society. They protect vulnerable minorities, but ultimately benefit us all. Let's not allow them to become the victims of political agendas.

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