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# Amnesty International

## LOCAL GROUP

### CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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October 2015

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## The Human Rights Act Campaign (HRA)

The government announced in May that they would be consulting on the proposals to scrap the HRA and replace it with a British Bill of Rights. We are waiting to hear exact timings so these are subject to change but at present we see this campaign as having four stages:

### Phase 1: From now until the consultation starts

From now until the consultation is announced we are hoping to help groups to spread the word about the HRA. We hope you and your group will be signing the petition to the Secretary of State for Justice, Michael Gove at <http://keeptheact.uk> or using the Mini Guide leaflet (see below resource section). We want to build support for the HRA among our Amnesty groups and the wider public.

### Phase 2: Consultation responses

The government decided they are going to consult on the proposed scrapping of the Human Right Act (HRA) and we are currently waiting to hear more on this. The government has said they will release a consultation in the autumn (we have heard it is coming in October/November but this could change).

We will let you know as soon as the consultation is announced and then we will send over some tips for how you/your group can respond (we assume this will be a public consultation). It is important that we get as many different responses as possible so hopefully you will all be able to spend a little time working on this.

### Phase 3: From February until the bill is announced

We want to use this phase to really put **pressure on our MPs**. We need to ensure the supportive MPs turn up and vote to save the HRA and that MPs who currently don't support the HRA know that their constituents care passionately about this issue. We will be sending out more information to groups in February.

### Phase 4: Campaigning on a bill

This will be a targeted campaign to save the HRA while a bill goes through parliament. We don't know when this will be but will be ready to respond when it comes.

**Overall it is key that throughout this whole process we continue to build support among the public so please do think about how you and your group can engage people on this issue!**

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## The Human Rights Challenge!

It's time to get creative for the Human Rights Act! We are challenging youth, student and local Amnesty groups to come up with the most creative way to visually represent the Human Rights Act. **Prizes will be given to the best ones.**

You can create any type of content you like but here are a few ideas to get you thinking:

- Hold a HRA-themed **AmnesTea** bake sale. Ask people to bake cakes based on an article in the HRA (see below for a short version of the HRA).
- Draw a picture or take photos representing a right in the HRA.
- Create a HRA banner and display it somewhere prominent in your school/ college/local community.
- Hold a HRA flashmob in your town/city/on your campus/in your playground.
- Write a short story/poem/song and recite/perform it.

Or think of something completely unique! We will judge the winners on these criteria:

- Most creative
- Reached out to the most people/engaged new audiences
- Best representation of a HRA right/the act itself!

Winning entries will be used to help promote the campaign.

To enter you need to send us a photo or video of your action or the action itself if it's a photo or picture. Send your entries to [activism@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:activism@amnesty.org.uk) by **31<sup>st</sup> January 2016**.

## Human Rights Act Skillshare day

*November 28th 2015, 9:30 to 17:00, Human Rights Action Centre, London*

Our hard-won rights in the UK are under attack. Our government has made clear its plans to do away with the [Human Rights Act](#), the law that ensures basic rights for all of us, including the most vulnerable in our society.

Will you join the fight to save the Human Rights Act?

This one-day workshop is for:

- Individual members of Amnesty
- Members of Amnesty [local & student groups](#) (spaces are limited to two delegate per group)
- Members of [Amnesty networks](#) and [Country Coordinators](#)
- Participants in our [education programme](#)

The one-day workshop will be a chance for activists to come together for an enjoyable, engaging and informative day on the Human Rights Act, and our next plans for the campaign to save it.

You will hopefully leave raring to get out there and campaign, with good knowledge of the Act, the confidence to lobby your MP and inspired to continue supporting the campaign as we go forward.

[Please register online for your free place at this workshop](#)

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### Human Rights Act Resources

#### **HRA001** - Mini guide

This sets out the HRA and some cases and has an action to Michael Gove at the back. Should be good for stalls and events.

#### **HRA002** - Pocket guide

A condensed version of the mini guide that can be used with people who are less engaged and who might not yet sign a petition.

#### **HRA003** – HRA posters

For stalls and events.

#### **HRA004** - (Heart) Human Rights badges

#### **HRA005** - Save the Human Rights Act badges

#### **HRA006** - Save the Human Rights Act stickers

**You can order these resources by calling 01788 545 553 and giving the above product codes.**

### The Human Rights Act (short version)

**(Article 1)** - is introductory and is not incorporated into the Human Rights Act

**Article 2** - Everyone has the right to life.

**Article 3** - Everyone has the absolute right not to be tortured or treated in a way which is cruel or humiliating.

**Article 4** - Everyone has the right not to be required to do forced or compulsory labour and the absolute right not to be treated as a slave.

**Article 5** - Everyone has the right to liberty and security.

**Article 6** - Everyone has the right to a fair trial.

**Article 7** - Everyone has the right not to be punished for doing something if your action was not against the law when you did it

**Article 8** - Everyone has the right to respect for their private and family life, their home and their letters, emails and phone calls.

**Article 9** - Everyone has the right to believe what they want, and to hold their own opinions. This includes the right to hold religious beliefs.

**Article 10** - Everyone has the right to express their views and opinions. You have a right to receive information and have your say – as long as you respect other people.

**Article 11** - Everyone has the right to get together with other people in a peaceful way and everyone has the right to join a trade union.

**Article 12** - Everyone has the right to marry and have a family. The national law sets the minimum age this can take place at.

**(Article 13)** is not included in the Human Rights Act.)

**Article 14** - You have the right not to be treated unfairly in the enjoyment of your rights because of your age, race, religion, sex, disability or any other status.

The First Protocol: Article 1 - Everyone has the right to enjoy their possessions.

The First Protocol: Article 2 - Everyone has the right to an education.

The First Protocol: Article 3 - Everyone has the right to vote in elections to choose which government they want to run the country. The law states the minimum age someone can vote.

The Thirteenth Protocol: Article 1 - Nobody can be sentenced to death for any crime