**Letter to local paper**

*Dear Sir/Madam,*

Britain has had a proud history of leading the charge on human rights progress from the aftermath of the Second World War when we were key drafters of the European Convention of Human Rights, to the suffragette movement, to gay rights and other equality legislation, we have often been champions of progress.

What a shame, then, that this year the UK was singled out for criticism in Amnesty International’s annual report on the state of the world’s human rights.

Amnesty is warning that the government’s plan to tear up the Human Rights Act is a gift to dictators all over the world. Russia recently drafted legislation which allows it to ignore human rights rulings it doesn’t agree with. Far from being able to condemn that action and call on Putin to uphold basic human rights, the UK is actually talking about following suit. Music to the Kremlin’s ears, no doubt.

Britain should be a world leader on human rights. The Human Rights Act protects ordinary people - from the elderly to hospital patients, to domestic violence victims - and we want to see those protections spoken about with pride by our politicians. We should be redoubling our commitment to enduring human rights principles in these troubling times, not undermining them. Let’s hope next year’s annual report on the UK reads: “much improved”.

*Find out more about Amnesty’s work in [location] at [weblink].*

*Yours sincerely,*

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*[name – Chairperson of local Amnesty group]*