



Amnesty International

PRESS RELEASE

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Barrister Martin Collier opposes Julian Huppert MP at a public debate on 1st December

The Human Rights Act: Protecting us all or just the undeserving?

Amnesty International Cambridge City group is hosting a public debate on the Human Rights Act. Putting forward the motion “The UK Human Rights Act is Good for This Country” is Cambridge LibDem MP Julian Huppert. Barrister and Head of Fenner’s Chambers in Cambridge, Martin Collier, will put forward the opposing view. The debate will take place at 3pm at the Jesus Lane Friend’s Meeting House on Saturday 1st December.

The Human Rights Act generates many different viewpoints and these are not always based on facts. Huppert and Collier will separate fact from fiction while arguing their position.

Julian Huppert says: “There has been an enormous amount of misinformation circulated about this Act since its introduction in 1998. But the truth is that it defends us all, and is a powerful embodiment of British values, values that we all ought to support. What’s not to like?”

Martin Collier says: “Human Rights is not a simple synonym for Civil Liberties; Human Rights Law has become an engine of social policy, driven by judges rather than by democratically accountable politicians.”

Liesbeth ten Ham, chair of the Amnesty International Cambridge City group, says that although she of course hopes that the vote at the end will be in favour of the Human Rights Act, it is more important that the debate will contribute to human rights in the UK being better understood, valued and defended. “Once misinformation and myths have been clarified, it is important to recognise valid concerns and have a genuine debate. One of those valid concerns is that as individuals we need access to an effective legal remedy if we are trying to claim our rights.”

The debate is open to anyone interested. Entrance is free, but donations are appreciated to cover the cost of the event and support the work of Amnesty International.

More information can be found on www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/cambridge

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