



September 2022

The Bill of Rights Bill

JUSTICE briefed MPs ahead of the proposed Bill of Rights Bill Second Reading on Monday 12 September 2022, which was postponed, in part, due to the hard work of JUSTICE and other charities and organisations who have worked tirelessly identifying the many issues in the Bill. Like many, JUSTICE welcomed this “shelving” of the Bill, given our serious concerns about the legislation.

However, for the following reasons, we urge the Government to permanently scrap the proposals in this Bill:

- There is no evidential basis for the Bill and there has been a regrettable lack of scrutiny for such an important constitutional change.
- The Bill would significantly reduce domestic human rights protections.
- The Bill would concentrate power in the executive and reduces the accountability of Government.
- The Bill would cause years of completely unnecessary legal uncertainty and chaos.
- The Bill risks de-stabilising the UK’s devolved settlement and undermining the Good Friday Agreement.
- It would place the UK in breach of our international legal obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights and therefore threatens our international reputation as a country that upholds the rule of law.

JUSTICE will continue to work on a cross-party basis to make the case for the Human Rights Act and to oppose the divisive proposals within the Bill of Rights Bill. JUSTICE is proud to be part of the Save Our Human Rights Act coalition and signed our name to a short [joint briefing](#) with 123 charities and campaigning organisations.

You can read our full Second Briefing [here](#).

Reforming the Private Rented Sector: Consultation Response

In August 2022, JUSTICE responded to the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee's call for evidence relating to the Government's [White Paper](#) on [Reforming the Private Rented Sector](#).

Our response to the consultation drew heavily on our 2020 [Solving Housing Disputes](#) report. It reflected JUSTICE's general support for the spirit of the White Paper as a welcome step forward towards a long-term solution that addresses both underlying and systemic issues within the current framework. In particular we welcome the abolition of section 21 "no-fault" evictions and ending blanket "No DSS" conditions.

However, we also highlighted areas in further need of reform including the need for greater coherence between redress and advice providers, easier access to legal aid funded advice and the promotion of dispute resolution where appropriate, to bring about fair and sustainable outcomes.

You can read our full response [here](#).

Only one week left to book your early bird ticket to the Human Rights Conference!

The early bird offer for this year's Human Rights Conference closes on 7 October!

We're thrilled to announce that our keynote speakers this year are **Judge Tim Eicke KC**, the UK's judge on the European Court of Human Rights, and **I. Stephanie Boyce**, President of the Law Society of England and Wales. You can see the full line-up of speakers and sessions [here](#).

If you can't join us in person, fear not – this year we're offering virtual tickets, which include access to the opening keynote, review of the year, fireside chat, and closing debate, as well as the breakout sessions on Judicial Review and Crime.

Book your ticket today.

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