



Grassroots for Europe Round Table #31

Hazards to Democracy: key info update

Tuesday December 6th 2022

Updated 7.12.2022

Human Rights Act 'reform' Bill

Liberty have a video:

<https://twitter.com/libertyhq/status/1600112827556995072?s=20&t=9SBchKFFJnkaMnp7yvM85Q>
and a petition.

<https://action.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/page/109045/action/1?ea.url.id=6130897>

STOP PRESS. There will be a spectacular public event protesting against the Government's Bill of Rights Bill at Observation Point* on the South Bank from 11:30 on Thursday December 8th. If you see this in time, you are encouraged to attend and help promote the event via live media. In any event, all help in publicising this protest and issue would be greatly appreciated. Please see further details in the supplement below.

* <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Observation+Point/@51.5056404,-0.116616,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xf00551ddfe319d19!8m2!3d51.5083917!4d-0.1109083>

Leveson Lecture by Dominic Grieve QC [forthcoming at <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/judicial-institute/>]. Preview by Joshua Rozenberg at <https://rozenberg.substack.com/p/grieve-for-the-rule-of-law> (07 02 2022). "Grieve.... wondered whether the government was looking for a way of pulling out of the human rights convention altogether [...] But although human rights was the starting point of Grieve's lecture, his main focus was on a broader issue: why some politicians and their supporters appeared to be so critical of the rule of law."

Online Safety Bill – currently in Parliament.

See: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/dec/05/eu-regulators-elon-musk-britain-online-safety-bill-big-tech-brexit>

See also our earlier report from session RT#24.

Recent comments and resources [kindly supplied by Dr Monica Horten]:

<https://www.newstatesman.com/spotlight/cybersecurity/2022/11/online-safety-bill-make-life-harder-victims>

iNews article on the monitoring of Whats App and chat services.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/online-safety-bills-spy-clause-will-pave-way-for-state-mandated-mass-surveillance-of-whatsapp-messages-2005430?>

BBC - Online Safety Bill: Plan to make big tech remove harmful content

axed <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-63782082>

SOAS/ICO/Open Rights Group briefing to MPs on chat message scanning

<https://twitter.com/SOASICOP/status/1598693856656166922?>

From Open Rights Group:

- On chat monitoring,

<https://www.openrightsgroup.org/publications/whos-checking-on-your-chats-in-private-online-spaces/>

- Primer -Online Safety Bill and risks to freedom of expression: see attached pdf

Index on Censorship barristers opinion on chat monitoring

<https://www.indexoncensorship.org/2022/11/new-legal-opinion-on-the-online-safety-bill/>

Public Order Bill

A cross-organisational group is meeting weekly, convened by Jodie Beck at Liberty.

The final day of Lords committee stage is **next Tuesday 13th December**. Report Stage will take place in the New Year

It was agreed today that next weeks meeting will be focused on preparing for Ping Pong and thinking about how we (re)mobilise MPs in favour of key amendments as well as thinking about external engagement activities.

Liberty is preparing a new cross-organisation joint briefing on the Bill.

Runnymede is working with its APPG on Race.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP is now on the Joint Committee on Human Rights – a great ally and very active on this Bill

Friends of the Earth launched digital action in partnership with global sister orgs with hashtag **#RIPUKHumanRights** - would appreciate boosts by coalition

partners: https://twitter.com/friends_earth/status/1598017852774428674?s=20&t=IKsZRnpFrRYVvLoJYYrOPQ

REUL Bill

Regulatory Policy Committee opinion : <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/retained-eu-law-revocation-reform-bill-rpc-opinion-red-rated> [21.11.2022]

European Movement UK: 'Save Our Standards' campaign and petition.

https://www.europeanmovement.co.uk/saveourstandards_signup

See also:

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/nov/22/uk-plans-for-sunsetting-eu-laws-post-brex-it-not-fit-for-purpose>

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2022/oct/24/post-brex-it-proposals-mean-2400-laws-could-disappear-lawyers-warn>

Wildlife Trusts. <<"Large parts of civil society are united in opposition to the Retained EU Law Bill – it's time the UK Government listened" >> <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/blog/joan-edwards/retained-eu-law-bill-its-time> [28.22.2022]

Justice. Written evidence: <https://files.justice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/22094720/JUSTICE-Retained-EU-Law-Public-Bill-Committee.pdf>
<https://justice.org.uk/retained-eu-law-revocation-and-reform-bill/>

The Civil Society Alliance is a new project set up to empower civil society organisations from across the UK to scrutinise and influence constitutional, administrative and legal changes in the complex, multidimensional regulatory landscape following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. The Civil Society Alliance is a member of the Civil Society Forum (CSF) established by the Withdrawal

Agreement.

The Civil Society Alliance has warned that the REUL Bill could have side-effects which will complicate resolution of issues around the NI Protocol - <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/113319/html/> Membership of the CSA is open to civil society organisations, and pro-EU organisations participating in the Round Table may be considering, or may wish to consider joining it and supporting its work.

National Security Bill.

Campaigners are concerned that the National Security Bill could require people and institutions to report on contacts with friendly state governments that might be seeking to influence the UK government whilst failing to address the influence of rich individuals or corporations.

Elections Act 2022.

Tom Brake, Director of Unlock Democracy writes: “the Elections Bill Coalition is being resurrected because of concerns over the poor implementation of the photo voter ID requirement, which could lead to unsafe elections”.

Stop Press Supplement – Bill of Rights Bill protest.

[Received from Liberty, 07 12 2022]

Hi All

With International Human Rights Day coming this weekend, and the most recent reports saying to expect the Government's Bill of Rights Bill back in Parliament before the festive break, we're working up a stunt for this Thursday morning (8 December).

We'll be at Observation Point on the Southbank from 11:30 tomorrow with a real crane, fake Dominic Raab, fake wrecking ball and fake wall to raise awareness of the Government's fake bill of rights – the Rights Removal Bill – and how it would wreck rights and freedoms in the UK. Feel free to join us if you're able.

Social media

We'll of course be sharing the stunt on social media and it would be great if you're able to share on your channels too. We're hoping to capture good photos and video footage, and we'll upload some to [the content toolkit](#) so they're available if you would like to post them yourself.

And if you would like to post yourself rather than share ours, here is some suggested copy that might help out (you are of course welcome to tweak to suit your needs):

1/

The Government is swinging a wrecking ball at your basic human rights

The #RightsRemovalBill means more power for them, fewer rights for you

Speak up to #SaveYourRights

2/

The Government's fake bill of rights will wreck your rights and freedoms

It's a #RightsRemovalBill

Speak up to #SaveYourRights

3/

The Government's fake bill of rights will wreck rights and freedoms in the UK

It's a #RightsRemovalBill: more power for them, fewer rights for you

Speak up to #SaveYourRights

4/

Dominic Raab's #RightsRemovalBill will wreck your rights

More power for the Government. Fewer rights for you

Speak up to #SaveYourRights

Additional messaging

If you want more key lines to share with any post about the Rights Removal Bill – on Thursday or throughout the campaign – you'll find our key messages document [here](#).

Actions

We'll be linking content to our main [campaign page](#) which will include [petition](#) and ['email your MP'](#) actions.

Please do feel free to share the same or similar actions you're running.

Many thanks, and don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions.

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