



Amnesty International

Glasgow West Group

Human Rights Bill (aka' Rights Removal Bill') Update (8/9/22)

Halting of the 'Rights Removal Bill'

The Bill had been scheduled for a second reading on 12/9/22, but this will not now happen. And it is understood the Bill is being 'withdrawn in its current format'.

It is thought that this is due to the widespread concerns that have been highlighted about the content of the Bill and how it was drafted.

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2022/sep/07/liz-truss-halts-dominic-raab-bill-of-rights-plan>

The widespread protest from across civil society – including AI – have likely been fundamental in highlighting the problematic nature of the proposed changes to Human Rights'. This includes the work of the Human Rights Consortium Scotland, which includes over 100 organisations in Scotland, including AI.

<https://hrcscotland.org/2022/07/12/scottish-civil-society-says-no-to-rightsremovalbill/>

There is a suggestion that the Government will look at alternative ways of implementing the changes set out in the Bill, as there had been a long-standing manifesto commitment on this. (Presumably, there is some element of face-saving taking place at this point, so it is unclear how and when this issue might be returned to.) Not proceeding with the Bill will also potentially impact on other existing areas of Government policy, including the proposed approach to dealing with immigration.

Other useful background information

House of Commons Library published detailed background information on the 'Bill of Rights' Bill.

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9406/CBP-9406.pdf>

AI Autumn 2022 Magazine (Issue 214) The latest issue of the AI magazine contains a series of really useful articles on the Bill, it's potential implications for undermining rights and the campaign to resist the Bill.

AIUK website likewise sets out a range of useful information on the proposed Bill, why the existing Human Rights Act should be defended and the campaign to resist the proposed Bill.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/human-rights-act>

Human Rights Consortium Scotland (which includes AI as a key partner) has sought to co-ordinate civil society organisations across Scotland in protesting the 'Rights Removal Bill'

<https://hrcscotland.org/incorporating-the-european-convention-on-human-rights/>