Your address

Name of MP MP

House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA

date

Dear

As one of your constituents, I’d like to draw your attention to something I feel very passionate about, the **Human Rights Act.**

The Human Rights Act (HRA) is a piece of national legislation which protects our human rights – effectively a UK Bill of Rights. It incorporates into UK law most of the rights in the European convention on Human Rights, which was created following the Second World War to protect individuals from similar abuses happening again.

In fact, British experts drafted most of the Convention and the UK was the first state to sign up to it in 1951. The HRA requires all public authorities – central government, local councils, courts, schools, anyone responsible for carrying out a ‘public function’ – to think about human rights whenever they make decisions or write policy that affects our lives, and they must respect those rights.

The Act is designed to suit and support the UK democratic system. It is often attacked, rarely championed, and surrounded by myths and misconceptions, but the HRA is a positive piece of legislation for individuals and society generally. It protects ordinary people - from the elderly to hospital patients, to domestic violence. We should be redoubling our commitment to enduring human rights principles in these troubling times, not undermining them.

Unfortunately bad press coverage has given raise to some untrue stories about what the HRA entitles people to and what has been done because of it.

Britain should be a world leader on human rights. 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, Britain is actually talking about following suit!

The long delays in The Justice Secretary publishing his “Bill of Rights Consultation” must also be indicative of the complexity of trying to create something “better”. I strongly urge you to take a stand for Human Rights and work to ensure the government keeps the Human Rights Act.

**Please take this opportunity to save a vital piece of legislation that protects every one of us.**

Yours sincerely,