



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

6 February 2017

Dear Mr Bowen

I am writing to thank you and your co-signatories for your letter of 9 December.

The UK has a proud and distinguished tradition of respect for human rights, which long pre-dates both the Human Rights Act of 1998 and our membership of the EU. I want to assure you that the Government I lead is fully committed to continuing this tradition.

As you will know, the Government wishes to reform the UK's domestic human rights framework, by replacing the Human Rights Act with a British Bill of Rights. This Bill will remain faithful to the basic principles of human rights found in the original European Convention on Human Rights. We will consider this important reform further once we know the arrangements of our exit from the EU and the constitutional effects this exit will have. However, I want to be clear that the UK's departure from the EU will not undermine our commitment to human rights at home and abroad.

We continue to be a strong advocate for human rights on the international stage. In recent years we have led the way on combating modern slavery, championing the rights of women and girls, and tackling sexual violence in conflict. This leadership has been recognised by our recent re-election to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

I am determined that the UK will continue this leadership during my time as Prime Minister and remain a beacon for human rights around the world.

Yours sincerely

Mr Stephen Bowen