

The Labour Party

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09 April 2015

Dear Ms Samarasinghe,

Thank you for your letter dated 05 March. My apologies for the delay in replying.

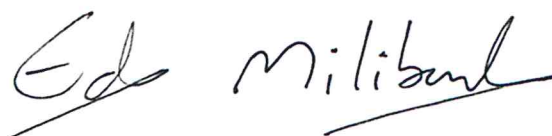
The Human Rights Act is a modern day British Bill of Rights that protects basic rights, such as right to a fair trial, right to life and the right to privacy. It is a crucial check against unaccountable state power and vested interests, and has led to changes in the law, for example to protect the rights of old people, victims of rape and gay people.

Labour is proud of Britain's role in protecting and championing human rights across Europe and beyond. Other countries look up to the UK, and our moral authority as a member of the European Convention on Human Rights empowers us to demand change of those who have weaker human rights records. Labour will protect the laws that enshrine and protect our rights.

Labour's commitment to universal human rights will be at the heart of our foreign policy across the world. We will continue to promote women's rights. We will join with those campaigning to attain gender equality, the eradication of poverty and inclusive economic growth. We will appoint a Global Envoy for Religious Freedom, and establish a multi-faith advisory council on religious freedom within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. And we will appoint an International LGBT Rights Envoy to promote respect for the human rights of LGBT people, and work towards the decriminalisation of homosexuality worldwide.

Thank you again for taking the time to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Ed Miliband

