

# JUSTICE PRESS RELEASE

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## **All white and all (but one) male: membership of commission on bill of rights challenged**

JUSTICE today questioned the appropriateness and legality of the commission appointed by the Lord Chancellor to consider a UK Bill of Rights.

JUSTICE queried in a letter to Mr Clarke whether he was in breach of the provisions of equality law in appointing a membership so lacking in diversity.

Roger Smith, JUSTICE's director, said:

**JUSTICE welcomes the establishment of this committee but it is all too clear that its membership has been dictated by politics. Overall, it is absurd to have a membership of nine, all of whom are white and all but one (albeit the chair of our council, Baroness Kennedy) male. This is particularly ill advised when equality is such a central human rights issue. The Equality Act may require these appointments to be supplemented to create a more diverse membership.**

For further information, contact Roger Smith on 020 7762 6412 or [rsmith@justice.org.uk](mailto:rsmith@justice.org.uk)

### **Notes for editors**

1. JUSTICE is an all-party human rights and law reform organisation which seeks to advance human rights, access to justice and the rule of law.
2. JUSTICE has published extensively on the issue of a Bill of Rights for the UK, including *A British Bill of Rights: Informing the Debate* (2007) and *Devolution and Human Rights* (2010). Electronic copies of these reports are available to download from the JUSTICE website.