

JUSTICE PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

We need a written constitution, says eminent QC

Rabinder Singh QC today called for a written constitution in a lecture for JUSTICE.

Mr Singh was concerned to argue that the notion of Parliament as 'sovereign' should be challenged:

It may even be that there are certain express laws which it would be within the power of Parliament to enact, if they strike at the very heart of our constitutional arrangements, eg to abolish Parliament itself; to repeal the principle of universal suffrage; to abolish the courts or their power of judicial review.

The answer was not to leave the boundaries of these powers to the courts but to agree a written constitution:

I would agree with those who have suggested that it would be better for the courts not to take on the task of deciding that the powers of Parliament are limited under our common law constitution and for there to be public debate about these issues. Ultimately, there should be a written constitution adopted and approved by the people in a referendum setting out the powers of Parliament and the other branches of the state.

For further information, ring Roger Smith on 020 7762 6412.

Notes to editors

1. Rabinder Singh QC was giving the JUSTICE / Tom Sargant memorial annual lecture 2010 at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.
2. A transcript of the lecture will be published on the JUSTICE website in due course.