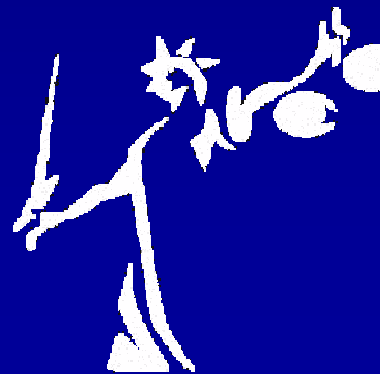


A Bill of Rights for the UK?



Political Context

- The Labour Party

Part of Gordon Brown's plans
for constitutional reforms



Rights and Responsibilities:
developing our constitutional
framework

Presented to Parliament
by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
by Command of Her Majesty

March 2009

Political Context

■ The Conservative Party

Cameron has pledged to repeal HRA and replace it with a 'British Bill of Rights'



- 1 We will work with councils to freeze council tax for two years - saving over £200 for the typical family.
- 2 We will reassess 2.6million people on Incapacity Benefit to see if they are fit for work. Every out-of-work benefit claimant capable of doing so will be expected to work or prepare for work.
- 3 We will replace the Human Rights Act with a new British Bill of Rights to strengthen Britain's traditional liberties.
- 4 We will cut the number of MPs by ten percent, ministers pay by five percent and reduce the number, size, scope and influence of quangos.
- 5 We will honour the Military Covenant we have with our brave troops and make sure they are properly equipped to do their jobs. We will also introduce a free sports and entertainment Tickets for Troops programme.
- 6 We will cut corporation tax to create jobs, reform inheritance tax to encourage saving and build a stronger society by rewarding marriage and families in the tax and benefit system.
- 7 We will get to grips with national debt and public spending to keep interest rates lower for longer and boost investment - this is vital for the recovery.
- 8 We will help restore discipline to schools by giving heads the final say on exclusions. Our NHS is special so we will protect its budget.
- 9 If the Lisbon Treaty is not yet in force at the time of the next general election we will suspend ratification, hold a referendum and campaign for a No vote.
- 10 We'll double magistrates' sentencing powers from six months to a year and make sure knife offenders can expect to go to jail. And we will get more police officers on the street by slashing paperwork, including the stop and account form.



Political Context

- The Liberal Democrats

The Lib Dems see a Bill of Rights as part of a UK Written Constitution



Political Context

- **JUSTICE** at the party conferences
 - Need for consensus
 - ECHR plus
 - Responsibilities?
 - The Human Rights Act



Why would we need a Bill of Rights?

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

- *Less rights*
- *More rights*
- *Clarification of rights*

Why would we need a Bill of Rights?

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES: Less Rights

- *“Fewer Rights, More Wrongs”*
- *To deport people that we don't like*
- *Rebalance rights and responsibilities*

Why would we need a Bill of Rights?

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES: More Rights

- *HRA not enough*
- *'British' rights*
- *Socio-economic rights*

Why would we need a Bill of Rights?

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES: Clarification of Rights

- *Updating for 21st century*
- *Privacy vs Free Expression*
- *Proportionality and limitation of rights*

Why would we need a Bill of Rights?

PROCEDURAL ISSUES

- *Section 2 HRA*
- *Sections 3 and 4 HRA*
- *Section 6 HRA*
- *Sections 10 and 19 HRA*

Why would we need a Bill of Rights?

COSMETIC ISSUES

- *The Media and the HRA*
- *Popular Myths*
- *Euroscepticism*
- *Public Authorities*
- *A culture of rights*

Why would we need a Bill of Rights?

MINIMUM CONDITIONS

- *ECHR plus*
- *HRA mechanisms*
- *Consensus*
- *Devolution*
- *A culture of rights*

A Bill of Rights for the UK?

