

# ELECTING WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Race Equality Matters Cymru

43 Glenroy Street  
Cardiff  
CF243JX  
remwales@gmail.com

**Free speech**  
**Hard facts**  
**Real debate**

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Dear

Wales's social fabric rests on a strong bedrock of democratic political discussion. The freedom to debate and argue the issues of the day, great and small, gives lasting strength to our elected institutions.

That bedrock is threatened by those who abuse open debate and stir up prejudice and fear. Such activities make individuals the targets of violence and abuse. They obscure the real issues at stake, sowing mistrust and misunderstanding instead of open, public debate in which all can take part. Such activities, and those who pursue them, should be rejected by all.

Every voter wants to know that an election campaign was a fair one, however hard and passionately it may have been fought. Every voter has the right to the facts upon which to base their decision on the rival solutions offered by different candidates. Every candidate has the right to have their proposals considered objectively.

All of us have a role to play in seeing that an election campaign gets to the heart of the issues. Candidates, political parties, local councils and other public bodies, voluntary, community, charitable and trade union organisations, can all contribute to an election campaign that gets to the heart of the issues and is conducted in a responsible manner.

Racism, racial hatred, prejudice and misunderstanding are serious dangers in Britain today. We call on all who have a role to play in ensuring that our elections are fair and truly free, to join us in supporting this call for an election campaign rid of the exploitation of prejudice.

We are asking you as the leader of your party to sign up to these values and to commit yourself and your party to supporting the Rule of Law and commit to legislation and international conventions and treaties. These instruments underpin all that the National Assembly will enact over the next five years, to address the international challenges we face as well as the many domestic ones. This is why we must be sure of the commitment of our elected leaders and their parties.

Yours sincerely

Hanef Bhamjee OBE

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**I, ..... commit myself and my Party to supporting the following conventions and treaties, and will speak out publicly against those who seek to erode these conventions and rights or who promote racism and seek to divide communities.**

## **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)**

The UK and devolved Governments have committed to protect and promote the civil and political rights of people in the UK. These include the right to privacy, the right to a fair trial, and the prohibition of slavery and trafficking.

## **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)**

The UK and devolved Governments are prohibited from inflicting torture and other forms of cruelty on people. This includes using torture for interrogation, even in a time of war, physical punishment in schools, and poor healthcare that could be degrading, for example, to older or disabled people.

## **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**

The UK and devolved Governments have committed to protect and promote the human rights of children in the UK. These rights include the right to health, the right to education, and the right of children to participate in decisions that affect them.

## **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)**

The UK and devolved Governments have committed to promoting and protecting the human rights of ethnic minorities in the UK. These rights include the right to be free from discrimination, the right to health and the right to education.

## **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

The UK and devolved Governments have committed to promoting and protecting the human rights of women in the UK. These rights include the right to live free from discrimination, the right to equal pay for work of equal value, and freedom from gender-based violence

## **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**

The UK and devolved Governments have committed to promoting and protecting the rights of people with disabilities in the UK. These rights include the right to an adequate standard of living and social protection, and the right to participate in decisions that affect them.

### **European Convention on Human Rights**

This Convention, properly called the 'Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms', is an international treaty under which the member States of the Council of Europe promise to secure fundamental civil and political rights, not only to their own citizens but also to everyone within their jurisdiction. It was signed in Rome on 4 November 1950 and entered into force on 3 September 1953. The United Kingdom ratified the Convention on 8 March 1951.

### **Equality Act 2010 and the Wales and the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009.**

It requires equal treatment in access to employment as well as private and public services, regardless of the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

### **The Human Rights Act 1998**

The Human Rights Act 1998 came into force in the United Kingdom in October 2000. It is composed of a series of sections that all public bodies (such as courts, police, local governments, hospitals, publicly funded schools, and others) and other bodies carrying out public functions have to comply with the Convention rights.

This means, among other things, those individuals can take human rights cases in domestic courts; they no longer have to go to Strasbourg to argue their case in the European Court of Human Rights.

### **ILO Convention on Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation**

Each Member for which this Convention is in force undertakes to declare and pursue a national policy designed to promote, by methods appropriate to national conditions and practice, equality of opportunity and treatment in respect of employment and occupation, with a view to eliminating any discrimination in respect thereof.

### **ILO Convention on Migration for Employment**

Requires ratifying states to facilitate international migration for employment by establishing and maintaining a free assistance and information service for migrant workers and taking measures against misleading propaganda relating to emigration and immigration.

Signed:

Date:

Please return to [remwales@gmail.com](mailto:remwales@gmail.com) or to 43 Glenroy Street, Cardiff, CF24 3JX.

**Produced by Race Equality Matters 2016**