

Evaluate if citizen's rights are protected in the UK.

Human rights - Human rights are norms or moral principles describing certain standards of human behaviour, and thus protected as legal rights in national and international law.

Yes	No
Human Rights legislature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRA 1998 • Freedom of information act 2000 • Equality Act 2010 	Legislature restricts human rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 has been proposed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Would drastically reduce the right to peaceful assembly by limiting protests. • Right to social security - in October 2021 the government withdrew a £20 per week increase to social security, which was estimated to push 500,000 people into poverty
Supreme Court upholds human rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the most important roles of the SCOTUK is to uphold the 1998 human Rights act - there is an expectation that if legislation contradicts the act, parliament will modify it • Civil Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ June 2018 the Civil Partnerships Act 2004 was ruled incompatible with the HRA, as same sex couples could not enter into one. The government accepted that this was discriminatory. 	Parliament remains sovereign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentary sovereignty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Principle of the UK constitution that means Parliament is the supreme legal authority in the UK which can create or end any law. Generally, the courts cannot overrule its legislation, and no Parliament can pass laws that future parliaments cannot change • Can just add a law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ In response to the Belmarsh case, the gov passed the Terrorism Act 2005, allowing terrorist subjects to be detained for an undefined period without charge. • Judges can only recommend action - which can be ignored by the government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 2006 Hirst vs UK the Supreme Court declared that the blanket ban on British prisoners exercising the right to vote was incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. However, this did not result in a change in the legislation regarding prisoner voting, •
Pressure Group Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Has existed since 1934. ◦ They claim many successes, including the 	Pressure group activity reliant on Parliament to create change. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If the government is hostile to the pressure group's aims the pressure group will fail

	<p>advisory report for a UK Vision for 2030</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSPCA worked with the government on regulation regarding the EU after Brexit on the movement of animals between borders • 	<p>despite strong opposition from the BMA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Conservative-Lib Dem Coalition did not change its stance on raising tuition fees for students, despite widespread protests from student organisations, such as the National Union of Students.
Thinktanks	<p>Think tanks have a big impact</p> <p>Definition: Think tanks are public policy research organisations that seek to influence government policy.</p> <p>There are influential think tanks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservative MPs have attended the Institute for Economic Affairs' monthly meetings. • Centre for Policy Studies, • Centre for Social Justice • Adam Smith Institute. • The Legatum Institute helped draw up a letter with Boris Johnson and Michael Gove to PM Theresa May which outlined certain Brexit demands. <p>Legatum members held private meetings with civil servants and were referred to as having an influence by Michael Gove in the House of Commons</p> <p>Think tank members even become appointed into government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iain Duncan Smith, for example, was the founder of the Centre for Social Justice. Not only did his group have a great influence on the government, but he was later even appointed in 2004 as the Works and Pensions Secretary. 	<p>Influence of think tanks is dependent on the government in power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today, because the Conservatives hold most of the power, left-wing think tanks, such as the Fabian Society and the Institute for Public Policy Research, have almost no influence on government policies. • The Government Department for International Development published a 2018 paper on the limits of think tanks, citing quality of research and financing.
Lobbyists and Corporations	<p>Lobbyists on the behalf of corporations have a big impact:</p>	<p>Increasing links between lobbying and corruption</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>UK has a range of political parties - power spread between different ideas and more representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 Electoral Commission showed the number of registered political parties in Great Britain and Northern Ireland over 400 • The Labour Party increased its membership from 190,000 in 2014 to 552,000 in 2018. 	<p>FPTP is not proportional, so the results don't reflect the wide ranging views in the UK.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only around 3% of the UK population is now a member of a political party. • In 2019 over 22 million votes (71%) were ignored because they went to non-elected candidates or were surplus to what the elected candidate needed
<p>Referendums allow the public to guide the government's actions - contributing to pluralist democracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the 2016 Brexit referendum – public voted 52% leave vs 48% remain whereas within parliament there was a large majority of MPs who voted remain (479 MPs) with only 158 MPs voting leave. However, despite this clear majority, many MPs chose to vote leave to honour their constituents' votes. • 2011 AV referendum 	<p>Referendums don't ensure a pluralist society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only three national referendums have ever been held across the whole of the UK, 1975, 2011 and 2016 • 1979 Devolution for Scotland referendum was only offered for tactical purposes in order to overcome backbench opposition in Parliament to the Governing labour party. Result was yes, but the Laboru government didn't follow the result and didn't introduce devolution.