

# CIVIL SOCIETY IN A POST-BREXIT DEMOCRACY

*A collaborative project between the Public Law Project, Liberty,  
and the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights*



Public  
Law  
Project

Bonavero  
Institute  
of Human  
Rights



LIBERTY

PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES  
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Brexit is a landmark event in the history of the UK's constitutional development and it presents many questions for civil society organisations concerned with public law and human rights. Brexit also presents an opportunity to reflect more widely on the major challenges facing government in the next 10 years, and the corresponding challenges and opportunities for civil society.

This initiative between the Public Law Project, Liberty, and the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights seeks to create space for shared reflection and long-term thinking, and to help develop a deeper understanding of what priority issues for civil society organisations concerned with public law and human rights should be. The project will be delivered through a series of workshops over the next 12-18 months. The workshops will each include a diverse range of up to interdisciplinary experts.

Workshop one, to be held in October 2018, will focus on the question: *What are the major issues that UK civil society organisations concerned with public law and human rights need to address in the post-Brexit democracy?* The intention with this discussion is to generate an expert-informed understanding of the key challenges and opportunities in a post-Brexit UK. The seminar will involve subject experts giving short 5-10minute presentations about the key challenges they see. These presentations will be followed by an open roundtable debate with all participants. From the discussions at the first workshop, a short discussion paper will be produced and published.

Based on the first workshop, two or three specific challenges (e.g. public rights of access to information) will be identified for further discussion. There will be further workshops with subject-matter experts on these topics. The key questions at these workshops will be: *How can and how should UK civil society organisations concerned with public law and human rights position themselves in respect of the relevant issue? What are the major challenges for civil society organisations in respect of the relevant issue?*

Overall, these workshops will inform internal strategy at PLP and Liberty on an ongoing basis, and will result in the external publication of at least one report. All publications will be co-produced by Liberty, PLP, and the Bonavero Institute.

## WORKSHOP ONE

**What are the major issues that UK civil society organisations concerned with public law and human rights need to address in the post-Brexit democracy?**

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11am-5pm, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

Gilly Leventis Meeting Room, The Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, Mansfield College  
Mansfield Road, Oxford, OX1 3TF

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11am: Arrival

**11:30am: Welcome**

- Chair: Professor Kate O'Regan, Director, Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, University of Oxford
- Jo Hickman, Director, Public Law Project
- Sam Grant, Policy and Campaigns Manager, Liberty

**12:00pm: Panel 1: What are the challenges around immigration and equalities after Brexit?**

- Professor Charlotte O'Brien, Professor of Law, York Law School, University of York
- Dr Tarun Khaitan, Associate Professor, Melbourne Law School
- Chair: Professor Kate O'Regan, Director, Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, University of Oxford

1 pm: Lunch

**1:30pm: Panel 2: What are the human and fundamental rights challenges after Brexit?**

- Professor Merris Amos, Professor of Human Rights Law, School of Law, Queen Mary University of London
- Angela Patrick, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers
- Chair: Dr Joe Tomlinson, Lecturer in Public Law, King's College London and Research Director, Public Law Project

**2:30pm: Panel 3: What are the constitutional challenges after Brexit?**

- Dr Jack Simson Caird, Senior Research Fellow, Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law
- Dr Adam Tucker, Senior Lecturer in Law, Law School, University of Liverpool
- Chair: Sam Grant, Policy and Campaigns Manager, Liberty

3:30pm: Coffee

**3:45pm: Panel 4: What are the challenges around freedom of information, data, and technology after Brexit?**

- Oliver Butler, Wadham College and Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, University of Oxford
- Dr Ben Worthy, Lecturer in Politics, Department of Politics, Birkbeck University of London
- Dr Jennifer Cobbe, Researcher, Department of Computer Science and Technology (Computer Lab), University of Cambridge; Coordinator, Trustworthy Technologies SRI
- Chair: Jo Hickman, Director, Public Law Project

**4:45pm-5pm: Round-up and close**

- Jo Hickman, Director, Public Law Project
- Sam Grant, Policy and Campaigns Manager, Liberty