

## It is our duty to defend human rights

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There are moments when it is necessary to point out that there are good reasons why the UK has, since 1945, had such a strong tradition of supporting human rights.

In 1948, with strong support and leadership from the UK, the United Nations produced its [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).

Europe followed suit in 1950, with the [European Convention on Human Rights](#). The UK was once again a leading proponent, being at the forefront of creating this. It predates the European Union and has nothing to do with it.

Regrettably, it took until 1998 for the ECHR to be incorporated into UK law as the [UK Human Rights Act](#), but it did eventually happen.

Many of our essential human freedoms are now dependent upon the existence of this Act and the two international agreements that gave rise to it.

The question is, then, why were these acts created? The [United Nations](#) has the answer to that:

*The UDHR emerged from the ashes of war and the horrors of the Holocaust. The traumatic events of the **Second World War** brought home that human rights are not always universally respected. The extermination of almost 17 million people during the Holocaust, including 6 million Jews, horrified the entire world. After the war, governments worldwide made a concerted effort to foster international peace and prevent conflict. This resulted in the establishment of the [United Nations](#) in June 1945.*

**On 10 December 1948**, the General Assembly of the United Nations announced the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(UDHR\)](#) - **30 rights and freedoms that belong to all of us. Seven decades on and the rights they included continue to form the basis for all international human rights law.**

It is entirely fair to say that these codified human rights are the pragmatic achievement

of the Second World War.

When it ended, the true scale of the Holocaust, with its resulting victimisation of Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, intellectuals, communists, Poles, devout Christians and many other minority groups within the Third Reich, was appreciated, and the world said 'never again', and meant it.

Today, Nigel Farage will be announcing that it is his intention that the UK should leave the ECHR. He wants this country to have the unrestrained right to abuse the human rights of people living here, to which entitlement they have an established legal claim.

He believes that his desire to victimise "others" living in this country so that he might pursue his own political gain exceeds the right of individuals to be protected by the rule of law. This, of course, was the belief of the fascists and other dictators at whom the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ECHR were directed. He does, therefore, wish to stand amongst their number, in the process abandoning all the gains that we made as a consequence of the sacrifices made by so many in this and other countries during the course of the Second World War, including by my grandfather, who died as a result of it.

I do not believe that Farage has the right to claim that they died for a wrongful cause, which is what he will be doing today. I think that they died to end the tyranny of abuse that emerged at that time, and which is emerging again, all over the world, at present.

For him to suggest otherwise is not, in my opinion, just wrong, but is an evil act.

It is an act against his fellow human beings, which he is encouraging others to follow.

It is in affront to every recognised major religion in the world, all of which would demand that their followers respect others as much as they do themselves, even if a great many have not followed that teaching.

It is an announcement of his intention to create a new tyranny, complete with internment camps and forced deportations.

As the last of those who fought between 1939 and 1945 die, it seems that we have forgotten the lessons of history and the reason why they had to give up so much, even if they survived that war. They fought to defeat fascism. They won. And now, it would seem, people want fascism in the UK.

Of course, I object. So, I think, should everyone else.

I will continue to live in the hope that I can treat others as I do myself, even when I disagree with them.

Farage is promoting something very different, very dangerous, and very evil. He is

promoting politics based upon hate, and the destination for that is what the world saw in 1945, which is why it committed itself to the course of human rights at that time. That commitment is worth defending. We have to do so.

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## **Taking further action**

If you want to write a letter to your MP on the issues raised in this blog post, there is a ChatGPT prompt to assist you in doing so, with full instructions, [here](#).

**One word of warning, though: please ensure you have the correct MP. ChatGPT can get it wrong.**

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