



Ministry
of Justice

Sir Oliver Heald QC MP
Minister of State for Justice

René Cassin
853 Finchley Road
London NW11 8LX

MoJ ref: MST36081

20th September 2016

Dear René Cassin,

HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

Thank you for your kind welcome letter of 26 July 2016 to the Secretary of State for Justice, expressing your interest in human rights issues and the connection between these and Jewish values and experiences. The Secretary of State has shared your letter with me as I am the lead minister for human rights.

The government remains committed to upholding human rights, which underpin any civilised society. We therefore want to ensure there is an effective system to protect them in which the public can have confidence.

I note that René Cassin are opposed to any repeal of the Human Rights Act, are concerned that any reduction in human rights protections in the UK would serve to undermine human rights progress around the world and believe that this would have worrying ramifications for vulnerable Jewish communities across Europe. I appreciate the concerns you have raised. As the Prime Minister said in launching her leadership campaign, withdrawing from the European Convention on Human Rights is not something that will be pursued.

These matters do of course require careful consideration and I, along with the Justice Secretary, have been considering the question of reform of UK human rights law carefully. We will set out our proposals for a Bill of Rights in due course and we will consult fully on our proposals. Once the consultation is published, I would be happy to engage with you further and my officials will be in touch to make the necessary arrangements at that time.

SIR OLIVER HEALD QC MP