**Rewriting our rights? Human rights and the UK constitution**

**4-6pm, Monday 12 November 2012**

**British Academy, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH**

Tumultuous and politicised debate about human rights protections in the UK led the Government to appoint a Commission on a Bill of Rights to consider the future of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the possibility of introducing a British Bill of Rights. As the UK awaits the Commission’s report to be published at the end of the year, the British Academy, the Equality and Diversity Forum (EDF) and the EDF Research Network are holding an open discussion on developments around human rights in the UK.

The event will consider how those who campaign, research or make policy on this issue should build their respective cases using solid and effective evidence and will cover:

* criticisms of the Human Rights Act and whether they have any grounds;
* the cost of tampering with a functioning system;
* the legal complexities surrounding this issue;
* what a new Bill of Rights might mean for the UK.

Our key speaker is Colm O’Cinneide, Reader in Law, UCL, who will introduce his recently published British Academy report [Human rights and the UK constitution](https://www.britac.ac.uk/policy/Human-rights.cfm), in which he examines how human rights are currently protected within the UK’s unwritten constitutional system. A panel (tbc) from the media and non-governmental organisations will respond before opening the event up to discussion by participants from research institutes, the voluntary sector, think tanks, the media and elsewhere.

The discussion will be chaired by Professor Sandra Fredman QC, Oxford University, EDF Research Network co-chair, and member of the British Academy steering group for the report.

The event will be followed by a drinks reception for invitees to continue discussion at their leisure.

Places are limited, so please [register online here](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NTNGQKW) before 22 October, stating any access or other special requirements. Confirmation with agenda and venue details will be emailed to participants a fortnight before the event. Any queries should be sent to [policy@britac.ac.uk](mailto:policy@britac.ac.uk).

‘Human rights and the UK constitution’ can be downloaded from the British Academy website: <https://www.britac.ac.uk/policy/Human-rights.cfm>