

The Rt Hon Sarah Owen MP,
Chair of the Women and Equalities
Committee

By email only

From: John Kirkpatrick, Chief
Executive

Our ref: 20260618Owen

18 June 2026

Dear The Rt Hon Sarah Owen MP,

**Our latest work on human rights: Action needed to implement
UN recommendations to eliminate racial discrimination**

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Women and Equalities Committee to share our new report on the implementation of several recommendations made by the UN in September 2024 as part of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) monitoring process.

The UN CERD Committee asked the UK government to provide, within one year, evidence of action on three recommendations which cover:

- the right to freedom of peaceful assembly
- counter-terrorism measures
- the Windrush generation

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The Committee identified these areas as of particular concern for human rights and race equality in the UK. In our new report, we independently assess progress towards these recommendations. We have identified challenges for each.

On the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, we note that many of the recent changes to the legal framework surrounding protest, including the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, Public Order Act 2023 and Crime and Policing Act 2026, move away from the positive obligation on the state to facilitate peaceful protest and instead risk creating a hostile environment for civil society. This raises particular concerns for communities who are already more likely to face discrimination in policing contexts.

On counter-terrorism measures, we note that critical data gaps are preventing proper scrutiny of Prevent's impact on ethnic and religious minorities.

In relation to the Windrush generation, we note that although the UK government has taken steps to restore oversight and accountability for the Windrush scandal, progress towards justice remains slow and incomplete.

We are calling on the UK government, and the Welsh government where appropriate, to implement these and other CERD recommendations in order to support the elimination of racial discrimination and improve equal enjoyment of human rights across Britain.

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We have shared our report with the UN CERD Committee and other interested parties. It is also attached to this letter.

The UN's consideration of periodic reports on human rights treaties is a vital means of holding the government to account against the standards it has committed to uphold. As an A-status National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) with a statutory monitoring role, we have an important part to play in supporting this scrutiny, particularly through the CERD follow-up procedure. We are uniquely placed to provide independent analysis on the completeness of the state's follow-up report, and whether meaningful action has been taken to implement the recommendations made by the Committee.

We encourage the WEC to use our report to support their own important scrutiny of government compliance with all UN recommendations on human rights.

Yours sincerely,



John Kirkpatrick

Chief Executive

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