The Rt Hon. Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Tuesday 17th November 2026

Dear Prime Minister,
Cc. The Rt Hon. Kanishka Narayan, Minister of State (Minister for Artificial Intelligence)

We are writing to you, as organisations and experts working across human rights, AI and tech policy, to express our deep concern with the Government's continued failure to deliver human rights-based AI regulation, and urge your Government to **swiftly rectify its approach.**

Two months ago, the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) published their report into human rights and the regulation of AI, following their Inquiry into what has been widely accepted as one of the most pressing human rights issues of our time.

In it, they identified three key principles as fundamental to the protection of human rights in this area:

1) equality and non-discrimination,
2) privacy and personal data protection,
3) the right to an effective remedy.

They also set out a clear blueprint for how the risks to these human rights from AI technologies should be addressed.

An official Government response was due to be published by Saturday, 14th November 2026. As yet, despite AI being a major priority for the Government, no response to the JCHR's recommendations has been issued. We are concerned that this may be reflective of how the Government's current approach systematically overlooks the human rights implications of AI technologies.

In the JCHR's own words, AI systems "further entrench and compound discrimination", deepening existing disparities across society, and exacerbating unfairness and injustice. These impacts are being felt most keenly in communities that already experience marginalisation: from systems that have led to Black people being denied access to housing

and welfare, to those being used without proper scrutiny to make life-changing decisions on people seeking refuge. There are numerous examples of rights infringements in the development and deployment of AI throughout the public and private sector, and everything to suggest that these sorts of tools will only continue to be rolled out at pace - without comprehensive legislation that would introduce meaningful safeguards.

The Government's approach thus far to AI regulation fails to address the demands supported from across the political spectrum, civil society, industry, and the public, for transparency and accountability in the age of AI. And the lack of response gives us little confidence that the Government is committed to addressing the well-documented risks.

In order to ensure the public's rights are protected, the Government **should introduce a human rights-based AI Bill** which, at minimum:

1) Places mandatory obligations on actors across the AI lifecycle,
2) Prohibits AI technologies which are fundamentally incompatible with human rights,
3) Guarantees an independent, regulatory oversight body with the capacity, power and resources to effectively ensure accountability,
4) Ratifies the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, and
5) Does not include any exceptions or exemptions that would reduce the ability to meaningfully protect rights.

During your speech at the Labour Party Conference, you promised to be "clear-eyed about [AI's] risks." The task now is transforming the spirit of that promise into robust human rights-based regulation.

Polling has consistently made clear that the public supports AI regulation. We urge you to commit to being the Government to provide it.

Yours sincerely,

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Beckett LeClair, Head of Technology, 5Rights Foundation
Dr Jeremy Crook OBE, Chief Executive, Action for Race Equality
Silkie Carlo, Director, Big Brother Watch
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Professor Gina Neff, Executive Director, Minderoo Centre for Technology & Democracy, University of Cambridge

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