

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7R884H

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Submission Text:

We are against the Government introducing a Charter of Rights, because we believe that our rights are already protected in our present constitution and system of government. In Australia we enjoy as much freedom as anywhere in the world. We believe that passing a law for a charter of rights could restrict rather than protect our freedoms. We are also suspicious of the Government, if they get the go-ahead to do this, they might slip in other clauses which many people would not agree with.

A statutory charter of rights could:

- create uncertainty by empowering judges to change the plain meaning of existing laws
- transfer power from elected parliaments to unelected, unaccountable judges;
- allow bad decisions by United Nations committees to be used to overturn Australian laws;
- weaken rights we currently enjoy by expanding the meaning of other rights;
- enable criminals to exploit so-called rights to avoid or delay prosecution.

Instead of giving more power to unelected judges, we should defend the current system.

Zimbabwe has a fine-sounding charter of rights, but the charter has failed to protect the Zimbabwean people from confiscation of their property, imprisonment without trial, horrific slaughter, untreated epidemics and starvation.

We are unable to attend any of the community consultations as we will be away.

Yours sincerely
Harry & Sue Worzfeld