# Human Rights Campaigners Raise Concerns Over UK General Election Human Rights Policies



Leading human rights campaigners have voiced concerns regarding the UK's upcoming general election on July 4. Directors from major human rights organizations emphasized the significance of scrutinizing human rights policies during the election campaign. They criticized party manifestos for inadequate commitments to voter, disability, housing, social care, children’s rights, and the right to protest.

Yasmine Ahmed, UK Director of Human Rights Watch, noted that the election represents a pivotal moment for the UK, questioning the nation’s integrity regarding human rights. Sacha Deshmukh, CEO of Amnesty International UK, echoed these sentiments, stating that the world views this election as a critical juncture for UK's stance on international human rights frameworks.

Labour has pledged to uphold international legal conventions, specifically committing to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Conversely, the Conservative manifesto hinted at prioritizing national security over compliance with foreign courts, including the European Court of Human Rights.

Sonya Sceats from Freedom from Torture, criticized the UK for deviating from its historic role as a leader in human rights, while Sam Grant from Liberty highlighted concerns over voter disenfranchisement due to new voter ID rules. Svetlana Kotova from Inclusion London condemned parties for neglecting to integrate a rights framework into their manifestos.

Critics have also targeted the Illegal Migration Act 2023 and the Conservative's Rwanda plan, involving deporting migrants who arrive via small boats. Other political parties, including Labour and the Liberal Democrats, have pledged to end the Rwanda scheme, with the Greens advocating for supporting migrants to integrate into the UK.

In a related incident, Tottenham Hotspur captain Heung-Min Son addressed a racial slur made by teammate Rodrigo Bentancur on Uruguayan TV. Bentancur apologized, calling it a bad joke. Discrimination charity Kick It Out received numerous reports on the matter and highlighted ongoing issues affecting East Asian communities. Tottenham announced plans for further education for players on diversity, equality, and inclusion.

Bentancur, who joined Tottenham in January 2022, is set to represent Uruguay in the Copa America starting June 20. The incident and the responses underscore the importance of ongoing efforts to address discrimination within sports and broader society.