Civil Liberties and Human Rights in England and Wales

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Civil liberties and rights are underpinned by our legal system and you may not have noticed just how much legislation has arrived, especially since 2000, that in essence attacks those basic freedoms granted to our citizens. Our liberties and rights are designed to prevent the government abusing their powers and curb interference into our lives. Recent legislation goes counter to these principles, such as these few of many examples 1215: Another of the earliest and most commonly cited milestones in the history of human rights in the UK is the Magna Carta – an English Charter issued in 1215 which contained the writ of habeas corpus, allowing people to appeal against imprisonment without trial. Protected civil liberties include the right to due process, equal protection, and a prohibition against any state law that supersedes federal law. The difference between civil rights and civil liberties becomes important to understand, as navigating the governmental and legal system in regards to these issues can be confusing. Only a handful of citizens took action on their alarm over the dreadful civil liberties and civil rights violations. This was the birth of the American Civil Liberties Union, also known as the ACLU. For nearly a century, the American Civil Liberties Union has worked toward its stated purpose of defending and preserving the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States.
Written by one of the most highly respected academics on this field, this authoritative textbook provides a detailed account of the English law of civil liberties and human rights. It takes full account of the jurisprudence of the European Convention on Human Rights; discusses key legislation such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and analyses key cases including the

The difference between human rights and civil liberties may be largely semantic. It could be said that human rights are those fundamental rights considered to be universal to all people. Civil liberties, however, may be those rights and freedoms recognised by a particular country. Civil liberties are the rights and freedoms that protect an individual from the state and which are underpinned by a country’s legal system.

Whilst the UK may not have a written constitution, setting out the civil liberties and rights of its citizens, it has a long common law history of recognising certain freedoms. Indeed, many written constitutions around the world are based on the rights long upheld by the British courts.