

# A HUMAN RIGHTS MANIFESTO

## Wales 2026

Amnesty International UK's proposals  
for the next Welsh government

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## Introduction

Since the last Senedd election, pressures on living standards have intensified and inequality has widened. Life has become harder, leaving many struggling to secure the basics needed to live with dignity. But none of this is inevitable. It is the result of political choices.

An inquiry by the Senedd's Cross-Party Group on Human Rights in 2025 found everyday rights violations were a day-to-day reality of life in Wales.<sup>1</sup>

These include poverty and inadequate social security, alongside barriers to accessing healthcare, adequate housing, education and justice. Direct and indirect discrimination, in society and systems, compound to further deny the rights of women, disabled and racialised people.

As the 2026 Senedd election approaches, the political climate at home and internationally is being shaped by growing authoritarianism and division. Narratives that pit us against our neighbours and seek to rewrite the rules on whose rights and lives deserve protection.

This narrative isn't new. Instead of dealing with rising poverty, inequality, the housing crisis and soaring living costs – instead of protecting our basic rights – blame is being shifted onto those most in need.

Yet in communities across Wales, people know that injustice and the denial of dignity are not inevitable. Recent polling found that more than eight in 10 adults say human rights protections are as important or more important today than when the European Convention on Human Rights was created after the Second World War.<sup>2</sup>

Amnesty is calling on the next Welsh government and Senedd to champion human rights. We set out three key priorities for the next Welsh government to defend and extend human rights at home and abroad.

If we want a Wales that values dignity, equality and justice, we need the next Welsh government to prioritise human rights as the foundation for delivering a fairer future for all.

## We urge the next Welsh government to:

- Deliver a human rights act for Wales.
- Support human rights through public procurement and investment.
- Promote and protect human rights internationally.

### AMNESTY WALES

**Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 10 million people committed to creating a future where human rights are enjoyed by everyone. United by our shared humanity, we know the power to create positive change is within all of us.**

**Amnesty Wales works locally and nationally. We work with the Welsh government, Senedd and organisations, while local Amnesty groups campaign in communities across Wales. Together, we campaign to strengthen human rights.**

## A human rights act for Wales

### The next Welsh government should:

- Introduce a human rights act for Wales to incorporate internationally agreed rights into Welsh law.
- Place clear, enforceable duties on Welsh public bodies to respect, protect and fulfil human rights.
- Ensure protections are as strong as possible within devolved competence.

The last Welsh government committed to incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People and the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women into Welsh law.<sup>3</sup> However, the Welsh government failed to bring forward legislation to deliver this commitment.

The Senedd's Cross-Party Group on Human Rights inquiry called on the next Welsh government to go further and deliver a human rights act for Wales to strengthen the safety net of legal protections for our everyday rights by incorporating:

- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

A human rights act for Wales would place dignity, fairness and equality at the centre of decision-making and provide meaningful routes to justice when people's rights are violated.

## Support human rights through public procurement and investment

### The next Welsh government should:

- Introduce human rights checks across Welsh public procurement and investment.
- Halt procurement and investment in companies listed in the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory's report<sup>4</sup> and the UN database of companies contributing to illegal settlements<sup>5</sup>.
- Work with local authorities in Wales to ensure ethical and human rights supporting investment of public sector pensions.

The Welsh government has a legal duty to act with global responsibility. Decisions on grants, investments and procurement should and must be made in a way which supports global wellbeing.

Public money in Wales should never be used to support companies contributing to Israel's genocide, apartheid or illegal occupation. Despite this, Amnesty research published in July 2025 showed that a £500,000 grant was awarded by the Welsh government to a company that exports arms to Israel<sup>6</sup>. Following this revelation, hundreds of people contacted their MPs to demand justice for Palestinians and action from the Welsh government.

## Promote and protect human rights internationally

### The next Welsh government should:

- Publish a strategy to support human rights defenders internationally through existing and developing relationships and partnerships.
- Prioritise those at greatest risk, including women, indigenous leaders, environmental defenders and LGBTI+ people.
- Actively promote women's rights, LGBTI+ rights, and sexual and reproductive rights in international engagement.

While foreign affairs are reserved, the first minister takes responsibility for international relations and delivering the Welsh government's International Strategy. Amnesty International is calling on the next Welsh government to prioritise the protection of human rights defenders and ensure international engagements strengthen, rather than undermine, human rights.

Around the world there is an unprecedented surge in attacks against human rights defenders – people who protect and promote human rights. The Welsh government should, through a dedicated strategy and its existing partnerships, take action to protect and support human rights defenders.

## ENDNOTES

- 1 Progress on Human Rights in Wales: Inquiry Report 2025, [www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/progress-human-rights-wales-inquiry-report-2025](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/progress-human-rights-wales-inquiry-report-2025)
- 2 'Never Again' still matters – public backs ECHR, [www.amnesty.org.uk/latest/never-again-still-matters-public-backs-echr-21-politicians-threaten-exit/](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/latest/never-again-still-matters-public-backs-echr-21-politicians-threaten-exit/)
- 3 Programme for government: update, [www.gov.wales/programme-for-government-update](http://www.gov.wales/programme-for-government-update)
- 4 2025: From Economy of Occupation to Economy of genocide, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/a-hrc-59-23-from-economy-of-occupation-to-economy-of-genocide-report-special-rapporteur-francesca-albanese-palestine-2025/>
- 5 UN Human Rights Office updates database of businesses involved in Israeli settlements in occupied West Bank, [www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/un-human-rights-office-updates-database-businesses-involved-israeli](http://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/un-human-rights-office-updates-database-businesses-involved-israeli)
- 6 Welsh Government accused of funding weapons supplier that exports arms to Israel, <https://nation.cymru/news/welsh-government-accused-of-funding-weapons-supplier-that-exports-arms-to-israel/>

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