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.
The system introduced by the Human Rights Act 1998 is fully explained, providing a cohesive and authoritative account of the new legal rules and procedures which form the basis for protecting basic freedoms. The role of fundamental values such as equality, autonomy, dignity and community is discussed and key topics such as rights to life and physical integrity, privacy, freedom of expression etc are examined in light of legislation such as the Disability Rights Act 1995 and the Police Act 1997. The result is a coherent, detailed and comprehensive text for students. It is also a valuable refere