

Andrew Dismore MP

Labour Member of Parliament for Hendon

www.andrewdismoremp.com

andrewdismoremp@parliament.uk

ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

**“Hendon’s constituency MP:
a local champion with a national audience”.**



Joint Select Committee on Human Rights

Yes, I know – human rights have a bad name – they’re all about terrorists and criminals, and not ordinary people’s needs. Or so the urban myth goes!

As a now senior MP, I was asked to chair this influential Parliamentary Committee in 2005. Then, I used to think the same. Now I know better. Human rights provide vital protection for us all. Over the last year, we’ve presented important recommendations, on the rights of the elderly in hospitals and care homes to decent treatment, or about the victims of people trafficking, for example. We’ve just finished our inquiry into services for adults with learning disabilities. And we’ve produced new ideas to help ensure alleged terrorists are effectively prosecuted through the courts.

Our reports can be seen on our website <http://www.parliament.uk/jchr>

Corporate Manslaughter Act

I played a key role in the debates for this new law – the culmination of a 20 year campaign I started, when I was a young lawyer representing the victims of the King’s Cross fire. Companies who negligently kill their employees or the public can now be prosecuted. You may have read my article in the local “Times” group about it—it’s reproduced on my website.

Private Members’ Bills

In Parliament, I am recognised as the ‘expert’ on Private Members’ Bills. Other MPs regularly consult me for advice on procedure and tactics.

In the last Parliamentary year, I promoted two Bills – the first on the Civil Service, to ensure those who apply for posts are recruited on merit, by getting rid of unfair discriminatory rules – unfortunately, this was blocked, when time for debate ran out.

The second, following the human rights theme, was to ensure that elderly residents of care homes have the full protection of the Human Rights Act. This would help ensure they are treated with dignity, and do not face unfair eviction or closure of their home, for example. The Government has now agreed to take this issue up as a priority, but I am keeping up the pressure, by reintroducing my Bill again, in this year’s session.

London

As Chair of the London Group of Labour MPs, I was very involved in the debates about the Greater London Authority Act, as it went through Parliament. This was the first major review of the powers of the London Mayor and Assembly, since their creation. I particularly raised issues relating to waste and recycling, housing and planning.