

APPG on the Rule of Law

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 19 June 2015 (for immediate release)

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MPs and Peers establish new All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Rule of Law

- **Dominic Grieve QC MP will chair the new APPG**
- **More than 35 MPs and Peers are founding members**

An All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Rule of Law has been established at Westminster.

To be chaired by former Attorney-General Dominic Grieve QC MP, the group's purpose is to promote parliamentary and public discussion of the rule of law as a practical concept. The group's first meeting will be held before the summer and will discuss non-violent extremism and the rule of law, this being particularly topical with the government's legislative programme to include a new Extremism Bill.

Over 35 parliamentarians have joined to establish the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Rule of Law. A full list of the founding members, including office-holders, can be found at the Group's web page: www.biicl.org/bingham-centre/appg-rule-of-law.

Chair of the new All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Rule of Law, Dominic Grieve QC MP, said:

"In the month when we are commemorating the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, I am delighted that the APPG on the Rule of Law has been set up. It will allow for an active debate on its preservation and promotion."

Secretariat support for the APPG will be provided by the independent Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law.

Sir Jeffrey Jowell QC, Director of the Bingham Centre said:

"I am delighted by the establishment of an All-Party-Parliamentary Group on the Rule of Law. The rule of law is a common value in all parts of the



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United Kingdom. Parliament is the front-line of defence of the rule of law. The All Party Group will ensure rule of law values are always kept in mind in the interest of laws that are clear, accessible and able to be implemented fairly and equally."

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE APPG PLEASE CONTACT:

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. **An All-Party Parliamentary Group** consists of Members of both Houses who join together to pursue a particular topic or interest. They cover a diverse range of subjects and are established for a rich variety of purposes. They provide a valuable opportunity for Parliamentarians to engage with individuals and organisations outside parliament who share an interest in the subject matter of the group. The register of All-Party Parliamentary Groups is maintained by the Commissioner for Parliamentary Standards. All-Party Parliamentary Groups are not however official parliamentary bodies and should not be confused with select committees.

2. **The proposed Extremism Bill was outlined in the Queen's speech.** The government has announced that Bill will include:

- Banning orders: a new power for the Home Secretary to ban extremist groups
- Extremism Disruption Orders: a new power for law enforcement to stop individuals engaging in extremist behaviour
- Closure Orders: a new power for law enforcement and local authorities to close down premises used to support extremism

More details in Queen's Speech Background Briefing notes:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/430149/QS_lobby_pack_FINAL_NEW_2.pdf

3. **The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law** was launched in December 2010 to honour the work and career of Lord Bingham of Cornhill, a great judge and passionate advocate of the rule of law. It is the only international centre of excellence solely dedicated to the study, promotion and enhancement of the rule of law worldwide. It does this by:

- Defining the rule of law as a universal and practical concept
- Highlighting threats to the rule of law
- Promoting high quality studies and training and supporting capacity-building on the rule of law
- Demonstrating how the rule of law upholds respect for human dignity and enhances economic development and political stability.

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