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From the Editor
SHAHID NAQVI



We must be wary of stealthy steps to state control

A significant moment in UK history happened last month with the introduction of a Bill of Rights in parliament.

Whether or not you believe the government's assertion that it will save taxpayers' money by preventing "trivial human rights claims", the bill, in effect, cuts Britain off from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). And that is a worry. For adherence to the ECHR provides important checks and balances against a government taking the law into its own hands.

And once the principle of a UK-made Bill of Rights is established, who's to say a future government won't seek to 'reform' it in a way that places more power into the hands of politicians?

A parallel concern might be seen in England's social work regulator issuing standards for the "knowledge, skills and behaviours" of newly qualified social workers.

Social Work England says the move is prompted by feedback that the current range of guidance – including the BASW held professional capabilities framework – is too confusing. But when a government-funded regulator becomes established as the sole keeper of the rule book, isn't there also a danger of future revisions bringing guidance closer to political agendas – and further from social work's values and ethics?

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