

## **The Civil Society Brexit Project: *Information***

Here is information about the European Union Withdrawal Bill.

**European Union** This is a group of 28 countries that work together and make some laws together.

**Withdrawal Bill** This is a new law that says that the United Kingdom will not be in the European Union any more.

In 2016, people in the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. The government now need to agree Brexit with the other countries in the European Union.

**Brexit** This is the name for the United Kingdom leaving the European Union.

The government also need to pass a new law for Brexit to happen. This new law will be called the European Union Withdrawal Bill.

**Withdrawal** This means to leave something.

This new law is not agreed yet.

This new law will mean that:

- ✓ our country is no longer part of the European Union
- ✓ puts all the European Union law into United Kingdom law
- ✓ sorts out any legal problems with leaving the European Union.

This new law is difficult. This is because there are a lot of European Union laws. It gives the government new powers to make laws without MPs voting on them.

**European Union** This is a group of 28 countries that agree to work together and make some laws together.

**MPs** These are people who make decisions about the United Kingdom's new laws. They get voted for in elections.

Many MPs want to change this new law.

MPs will talk about these changes in November and December 2017.

The House of Lords will then talk about changes to the Bill in January.

The new law needs to be agreed before Brexit happens.

**House of Lords** This is the name for a group of people who can suggest changes to our country's new laws. They are not voted for in elections.

**Brexit** This is the name for the United Kingdom leaving the European Union.

Some organisations want the new law to be changed before it is agreed to.

Here are some of their concerns about the new law:

- ✓ The government will be able to change our laws without MPs agreeing.
- ✓ It might take away some of our rights.

- ✓ It might mean that we will have less rights in our country than in European Union countries.
- ✓ Decisions in our courts might be more difficult.
- ✓ People in the United Kingdom might not be part of some European Union activities. This includes things like students being able to learn in other European countries.
- ✓ After Brexit, MPs will be able to decide changes to more areas of law. Some people want more of these law decisions to be taken by the Scottish Parliament.
- ✓ Many people from other countries work in jobs that help disabled people and ill people in the United Kingdom. Brexit will mean that there will be less people from other countries living here. There will be less people to care for disabled people and ill people.

It is important that organisations tell everyone about the changes they want to the new law.

You can do this by:

- ✓ Talking to your MP about these changes
- ✓ Working with others who also want change
- ✓ Write about your concerns and send these to MPs or to MSPs.

The Civil Society Brexit Project can help you to understand Brexit. We can also help you to be able to tell others about your concerns.

You can email us at [hrcscotland@gmail.com](mailto:hrcscotland@gmail.com)

Or telephone us at 0131 357 8590.

*This paper was written in November 2017.*