



## INCLEO members call on the UK police to reverse decision on protest ban

Fourteen members\* of the International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (INCLEO) condemn the decision to ban all protests by Extinction Rebellion in London's Trafalgar Square and throughout London, imposed by the London Metropolitan Police on 14 October 2019. We are concerned that this prohibition is disproportionate and constitutes a serious interference with the *right to protest*.

As a network of defenders of civil liberties in different countries around the world, we consider the current ban a breach of the UK's obligations to uphold and protect *the right to protest* under international law.

The *right to protest* is fundamental to democracy. Demonstrations give a voice to the voiceless and raise awareness about communities' concerns. Protests rarely achieve their purpose without some degree of disruption to the everyday life of the community in question. The police in a flourishing democracy should facilitate protests rather than punish those who are merely exercising their civic rights.

**The undersigned INCLEO members call on the UK government to reverse the decision to ban these protests** and ensure the *right to protest* is upheld and protected, consistent with the UK's obligations under international human rights law.

\*This statement is endorsed by Agora International Human Rights Group (Agora, Russia), the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS, Argentina), Dejusticia (Colombia), Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC, Australia), Human Rights Law Network (HRLN, India), Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU), Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL), Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), KontraS (Indonesia), Legal Resources Centre (LRC, South Africa), and Liberty (United Kingdom).