

The Rt. Hon. Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP
10 Downing St
London
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11 July 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

At this General Election, millions of people were not correctly registered to cast their vote. The [Electoral Commission's 2023 report](#) states this could be up to 8 million people. Many were unable to have their say because, for the first time in a UK General Election, they were required to show photographic ID.

Millions of those unable to shape our collective future were young or elderly, disabled, racialised and minoritised ethnicities or migrants, facing poverty or insecurely housed.

We call on you and your Government to make it easier for people to vote by introducing an automated voter registration system, removing the administrative barrier to taking part in our democracy and bringing the UK [in line with most democracies around the world](#).

The current creaking, Victorian registration system is described as “both ineffective and inefficient” by a [cross-party select committee](#) of MPs. Election after election, this affects certain people in our society more than others, leading to democratic inequality.

To enable all eligible voters to take part, the Government must also remove the requirement to show photographic ID at polling stations, which a [cross-party group of MPs](#) has said “disenfranchises more voters than it protects”. Evidence from the local elections shows the damage to participation this policy has caused. The [Electoral Commission have raised concerns](#) that it disproportionately affects disabled and unemployed people. [Observers noted](#) that 70% of those turned away for a lack of ID appeared not to be white.

Underparticipation in elections has been stubbornly high for decades: millions do not have any say over who represents them or the consequent decisions and policies that shape their lives. A commitment to introducing automated voter registration in this parliamentary term and to removing Voter ID requirements will make it easier for people to have their say, and will save the public purse money.



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We call on your Government to take these actions to address political inequality and to make 2024 the last General Election in which millions were disenfranchised.

This letter is sent by The [UK Democracy Fund](#), a pooled fund hosted by the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust, on behalf of the following signatories.

38 Degrees
Black Equity Organisation
Child Action Poverty Group
Citizens UK
Crisis
Electoral Reform Society
Generation Rent
Gingerbread
HACT (Housing Associations' Charitable Trust)
Involve
Migrant Democracy Project
Muslim Council of Britain
My Life My Say
National Union of Students
Operation Black Vote
POMOC
Save the Children UK
The Advocacy Academy
The Hope Collective
The Runnymede Trust
Traveller Movement
UK Youth
United Response
Unlock Democracy

cc The Rt Hon. Angela Rayner MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government