Timeline of human rights in Scotland and the United Kingdom

1215 — MAGNA CARTA
First document in the UK to recognise and outline the legal rights of subjects and laws concerning the monarch. First development of a right to a trial by jury.

1679 — HABEAS CORPUS ACT
Developing the right to a fair trial, the Act protects right of detainee to be heard by a judge in order to decide whether their detention is lawful.

1689 — ENGLISH BILL OF RIGHTS
Limits the powers of a monarch and sets out rights of Parliament. Establishes the forerunners of some human rights, such as freedom from cruel or unusual punishment and the freedom to petition the monarch (political rights).

1948 — Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The UK helped develop the UDHR.

1950 — European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) adopted by the Council of Europe. The UK helped draft the ECHR.

1965 — International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) adopted by the UNGA.

1966 — The UK signs up to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) adopting the ECHR Protocol on right to individual petition, which enables citizens to take cases to European Court of Human Rights.

1966 — International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) adopted by the UNGA.

1969 — The UK ratifies the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

1973 — The UK joins the European Economic Community (later European Union).

1976 — The UK ratifies the ICCPR and the ICESCR.

1979 — Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted by the UNGA.

1984 — Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) adopted by the UNGA.

1986 — The UK ratifies the CEDAW.

1988 — The UK ratifies the UNCAT.

1989 — The Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) adopted by the UNGA.

1991 — The UK ratifies the UNCRC.

1998 — The Human Rights Act (HRA) incorporates the ECHR into UK domestic law.

The Scotland Act 1998 devolves numerous powers from the UK Parliament to the Scottish Parliament.

Further powers devolved in 2012 and 2016.

2006 — Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) adopted by the UNGA.

2009 — The UK ratifies the CRPD.

2016 — The Brexit vote takes place in June with 52% voting to leave and 48% voting to remain in the EU. In Scotland 62% vote to remain.

2019 — Scottish National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership established to develop new human rights incorporation law.

2020 — Bill incorporating the UNCRC into Scots law introduced to Scottish Parliament.