

## **The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship**

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The Institute was asked by the former Attorney General Lord Goldsmith to undertake research on a project on the Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship. His independent study formed part of a wider review of Governance in Britain conducted by the United Kingdom's Ministry of Justice. Specifically, Lord Goldsmith's task was to generate discussion with regard to what it means to be a British citizen in order to promote its meaning and significance. In order to accomplish this, Lord Goldsmith commissioned five pieces of research, one of which was completed by the Institute.

Our task was to assess the rights and responsibilities of citizenship based on a pre-designated list of what are deemed 'hallmarks' of citizenship, ie the right to vote, the right to healthcare, the right to education, etc. These hallmarks were studied against an international, European and national legal backdrop. Specifically, the Institute examined international law as it applies to traditional principles of citizenship; European citizenship and its influence on State policy towards its citizens; and national principles of citizenship in Australia, Denmark, France, Spain and the United States. As a final part of the study, the Institute's team briefly explored the new trend toward policies in the Nordic States aimed at improving the quality of life of all members of society, regardless of their country of origin. Such policies have overwhelmingly taken the form of citizenship education initiatives.

The Institute presented its report to Lord Goldsmith on 20 December for publication alongside Lord Goldsmith's final report. The Institute's report was very well received by Lord Goldsmith and the Institute's citizenship team was invited to the formal launch of the Report which took place on 11 March. The launch was intended as an opportunity for Lord Goldsmith to present his findings and entertain relevant questions from the audience.