**History**

Magna Carta from 1215 onwards

Magna Carta, also called Magna Carta Libertatum (Great Charter of Freedom), is an English legal charter, originally issued in the year 1215 and was written in Latin.

Magna Carta required King John of England to proclaim certain rights (pertaining to nobles and barons), respect certain legal procedures, and accept that his will could be bound by the law. It explicitly protected certain rights of the King's subjects - whether free or fettered - most notably the writ of habeas corpus\*), allowing appeal against unlawful imprisonment.

\*) The writ of ‘Habeas Corpus ad subjiciendum’ is a legal action through which a person can seek relief from the unlawful detention of him or herself, or of another person.

Magna Carta has been the most significant early influence on the extensive historical process that led to the rule of constitutional law today in the English speaking world and France.  
Magna Carta influenced the development of the common law and many constitutional documents, including the United States Constitution. In the period from 1224 to 1618 many clauses were renewed throughout the Middle Ages and continued to be renewed as late as the 18th century.

The aim of the Magna Carta Institute for Human Rights and Obligations is to constantly review and develop human behaviour. MCI believes that society can only develop as a whole by developing its individual members. When it comes to human rights and obligations it eventually boils down to the right and the obligation to develop oneself.

Total societies, as well as individuals, will not develop as long as they just call for change but are unwilling to change their own habits. Therefore members of the Magna Carta Institute do not just develop themselves, but also confront leaders of society with their obligation to develop, to give the right example and to create and support an environment in which personal development is offered.

“The Magna Carta is the first rung on the ladder to freedom, followed by the great American charters of freedom - the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and The Gettysburg Address. This document symbolizes mankind’s eternal quest for freedom; it is a talisman of liberty.” - David Redden, Vice Chairman of Sotheby’s -