



## BRIEFING

# WHAT IS DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING, AND IS THE UK AT RISK?

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### Summary

- Democratic backsliding is recognised internationally as the process by which states become gradually less democratic over time. It tends to manifest through increasing concentration of power in the hands of the executive, and erosion of political and constitutional norms.
- Various commentators, civil society institutions and experts are now expressing concerns about the risk of democratic backsliding in the UK.
- The internationally recognised features of backsliding have been evident in the UK to some degree in recent years





