

Scottish Human Rights Commission Animation

Background

This is a transcript of a short animated film by the Scottish Human Rights Commission. In it, two people have a conversation about human rights in Scotland and the work of the Scottish Human Rights Commission itself. The first voice (Voice 1) is that of an older man, and the second voice (Voice 2) is a younger woman.

Transcript

Voice 1: Scotland's big on human rights, right?

Voice 2: Right. The Scottish Human Rights Commission was set up by the Scottish Parliament in 2006 to promote and protect human rights for everyone in Scotland. We are an independent National Human Rights Institution - one of over 100 around the world. We work with and support public authorities to uphold the highest possible human rights standards.

Voice 1: And challenge them when they don't?

Voice 2: Right. We challenge them and hold them to account.

Voice 1: Human rights aren't that important though, are they? After all, this is Scotland.

Voice 2: Human rights affect everyone in Scotland and shouldn't be taken for granted. We all have rights like the right to housing, education and health. Privacy, safety and liberty are all rights too.

Voice 1: So do you help with individual human rights cases?

Voice 2: No. We're not a complaints body. But we can signpost you to other sources of help.

Voice 1: So, what do you do then?

Voice 2: We work to improve the laws, policies and day-to-day practices that affect people's rights.

Voice 1: The bigger picture, as it were?

Voice 2: Right.

Voice 1: You're the people who know about stuff like law and policy?

Voice 2: Right. We do a lot of work on law and policy. But we also do practical work with community groups and public authorities.

Voice 1: So you just work in Scotland?

Voice 2: We're a bridge between Scotland and international human rights. We share experiences from Scotland around the world, and we bring back good ideas.

Voice 1: So Scotland gets a voice at the top table?

Voice 2: Right, we're recognised by the United Nations, which means we can speak at the UN Human Rights Council.

Voice 1: Now that's good.

Voice 2: Right. It means we can promote and protect human rights in Scotland at the highest level.

Voice 1: When you're that important, you must be hard to work with. Right?

Voice 2: We work hard to involve people in our work. We try to be inclusive and empowering.

Voice 1: So to do all this, you must be a big organisation?

Voice 2: Not too big. We have a full time Chair, three part time commissioners and the equivalent of ten full time staff.

Voice 1: You're small but you have big ambitions?

Voice 2: Right. We want to see a Scotland where everyone can live with dignity. That's what human rights are all about. Sounds good, right?

Voice 1: Right.

More information

For more information www.scottishhumanrights.com or follow us on Twitter @scothumanrights