

# SHRC

Scottish  
Human Rights  
Commission

Annual Report 2015–16



# About the Commission

- ✦ The Scottish Human Rights Commission has a broad remit to promote and protect human rights for everyone in Scotland.
- ✦ The Commission was created by an Act of the Scottish Parliament in 2006 and is accountable to the people of Scotland through the Scottish Parliament.
- ✦ The Commission is a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) with “A Status” accreditation within the United Nations (UN) system.
- ✦ The Commission is a member of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).
- ✦ The Commission carries out research into human rights issues and provides legal and policy expertise on human rights to the Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament and a range of public authorities in Scotland.
- ✦ We also support people to understand and claim their rights through our participation and communications work and promote the use of a rights based approach to the delivery of services.
- ✦ The Commission also coordinates and supports Scotland’s National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP).

# Executive Summary

The Scottish Human Rights Commission is pleased to present this report of our work in 2015–2016 to promote and protect human rights for everyone in Scotland.



**Judith Robertson**  
Chair



**Susan Kemp**  
Commissioner



**Alan Mitchell**  
Commissioner



**Matt Smith**  
Commissioner

In a shifting constitutional landscape during this period, Scotland remained on a generally positive path when it comes to advancing human rights. There continued to be welcome progress in embedding rights based approaches into policies and overall service design. Nonetheless, significant challenges and gaps continue to be felt where it matters – in the reality of too many people’s day-to-day lives. The Commission continued to highlight these gaps and made recommendations for policy and practice changes to address them.

Law provides the foundation for the protection and exercise of human rights. This year, the Commission continued its defence of the Human Rights Act and continued to advocate for greater legal protection for human rights in Scotland. The Commission welcomes commitments made by the First Minister in December 2015 to explore the further implementation and incorporation of international human rights treaties into Scots law.

The Commission has continued to support a range of actions as part of Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP). This year, the Commission pioneered work in Scotland to use human rights to tackle poor housing conditions, developed and tested a participative method for identifying human rights priorities within local areas, and convened a Reference Group of people with lived experience of poverty to identify and guide priorities for action in this area.

The Commission works within the international human rights system, monitoring and reporting on the international treaties that create binding obligations for all levels of government and all public authorities. This year, we submitted reports to the United Nations on Scotland's implementation of three international human rights treaties – the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We were pleased to see many of the issues we identified being adopted by the relevant United Nations Committees in their own final reports and recommendations.

This year, the Commission developed its Strategic Plan for 2016–2020. Laid before the Scottish Parliament in March, this third Strategic Plan builds on our work to date, placing a continued emphasis on building a stronger human rights culture and focusing on priority human rights concerns in today's Scotland. To achieve this, the Commission will sharpen its focus on holding to account those with responsibilities to respect and protect rights. We will work in closer partnership with others to deliver our priorities. We will also do more to involve people with lived experience of the issues we are working on in our own decision making and actions, as well as those of public authorities.

The coming years will present challenges to the existing framework of human rights protections for people in Scotland. The implications for human rights of the UK's exit from the European Union are unclear, and continued threats to the Human Rights Act are of significant concern. Meanwhile, much more work is needed to improve the day-to-day implementation of human rights in practice. In this climate, the Commission will continue its work to defend, advance and strengthen human rights laws, policies and practice, so that human rights become a lived reality for everyone in Scotland.

# Strategic Priorities

The Commission's strategic priorities for 2015–2016 are set out in its second Strategic Plan for 2012–2016:

**1** Empowering people to realise their rights through promoting greater awareness and respect for human rights.

**2** Supporting the implementation of human rights in practice.

**3** Improving human rights protection in Scotland through influencing law and policy.

**4** Progressing the realisation of human rights of people in Scotland and beyond through further developing our international role.

**5** Ensuring the Commission is effective, efficient, professional and accountable.

**This Annual Report sets out our activities, progress and impact in this final year of our second Strategic Plan.**

**A third Strategic Plan for 2016–2020 was published in March 2016 and will guide our work in 2016–2017 (see page 24 for more details).**

# Empowering people to realise their rights through promoting greater awareness and respect for human rights

During 2015–16, the Commission developed a series of materials and other resources to help illustrate human rights. We also worked in partnership with a range of organisations to develop approaches to improving awareness and respect for human rights.

## “Putting it into practice” case studies

The Commission developed a series of five case studies illustrating how human rights have worked in practice in real-life settings. Each case study was drawn from the health and social care field and was supported by the Health and Social Care ALLIANCE and NHS Health Scotland.

The case studies took the form of short films telling the story of an individual who had used human rights to help improve the services they were receiving, or of a project that used human rights to improve services for the people they work with.

A companion booklet was also produced, detailing how a human rights based approach was taken in each case and describing the difference this had made.

The films have been shared widely online and via social media and have been used as training resources by a variety of health and social care organisations and others,

including as part of the Commission’s wider work to promote the use of a human rights based approach. The feedback received has been universally positive. We would like to thank all those who contributed to the films, particularly those who shared their personal human rights stories.

## Bringing people and organisations together in a local area

The Commission, in partnership with the Office of the Children and Young People’s Commissioner Scotland, Perth and Kinross Council, the Scottish Government, and others involved in SNAP, designed and piloted a participation process to raise awareness and understanding of human rights in a local area.

Three linked events took place over August and September to bring around 100 people and organisations together to increase awareness and respect for human rights, and to identify ways to better



realise them within the local context. The longer term impact of this approach is being evaluated and will be shared with other areas.

## Regular promotion of human rights

The Commission continued to promote human rights and its work on human rights issues through a range of communication channels including media activity, regular social media updates and our website. During 2015–16, work began on redeveloping the Commission's website, for launch in 2016–17.

The Commission's Twitter profile – [@scothumanrights](https://twitter.com/scothumanrights) – provides regular updates to a wide range of audiences, both on work of the Commission and that done in partnership with other organisations. Averaging 33 tweets a month, the account creates around 30,000 monthly impressions to an ever increasing audience.

The period 2015–16 saw an increase of more than 1,100 followers, allowing the Commission to directly reach almost 5,000 followers through Twitter alone.

The Commission also received regular coverage in traditional media with around 300 mentions of the Commission appearing in both national and local newspapers. Justice was a recurring issue with many articles appearing on the issue of police stop and search. The Commission's defence of the Human Rights Act also gained significant coverage.

Use of the Commission's website – [www.scottishhumanrights.com](http://www.scottishhumanrights.com) – remained steady with an average of just over 5,000 users per month. This was in line with the previous year, and close analysis of use over this period, including accessibility, has been used to inform the development of a new website to be launched in 2016.

“Human rights is a framework that provides a steely core to what we do. It stops us from considering that people’s ability to have their rights realised is an option or a gift. We’re manifesting their rights, we’re supporting them to do what everyone has the right to do and it’s defined in law.”

Sam Smith, C-Change Scotland

“Putting it into Practice” case study participant





“Everyone has the right to the highest attainable standard of health. This is a fundamental principle which should underline all our efforts to reduce health inequalities in Scotland. I hope that many people will find this resource to be helpful.”

**Cath Denholm, Director of Strategy at NHS Health Scotland  
Co-Convenor, SNAP Health and Social Care Action Group,  
commenting on launch of “Putting it into Practice” case studies**

# Supporting the implementation of human rights in practice

## Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP)

SNAP continues to be an important vehicle for the Commission's efforts to build a stronger human rights culture in Scotland. During 2015–16, the Commission continued to provide strategic leadership, coordinate actions and develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for SNAP. The Commission convened or contributed to a range of actions and activities delivered through five Action Groups covering Health and Social Care, Justice and Safety, An Adequate Standard of Living, Better Culture, and A Better World.

In December 2015, the Commission co-hosted, with the Scottish Government and other SNAP partners, a major conference to explore options for further implementation and incorporation of all international human rights, which was attended by a number of key European stakeholders. At the conference, the First Minister committed to embedding human rights indicators into Scotland's National Performance Framework and monitoring of progress towards delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

## Housing Rights in Practice

During 2015–16 the Commission began working in partnership with Edinburgh Tenants Federation and Belfast-based experts, Participation and the Practice of Rights, to support residents of social housing to use economic, social and cultural rights to challenge poor housing conditions. Focusing on three housing blocks in Leith, Edinburgh, this project aims to empower people experiencing poor housing conditions across Scotland, and work with them to hold public authorities to account where their rights are not being upheld.

Initial work by residents included participatory action research to establish the issues faced by both the community and individual householders. The results of the research highlighted issues such as poor heating, dampness, structural problems and poor maintenance and, in addition, a lack of opportunities to participate in and direct change.

This project is continuing into 2016–17 and will involve supporting residents to identify priorities for improvements and set human rights based indicators upon which public authorities must act. The Commission will also work with the public authorities concerned to enable them to

design and deliver services in a way that respects, protects and fulfils the human rights of people who use their services.

## Adequate Standard of Living Reference Group

The Commission wants to make sure that our work on the right to an adequate standard of living is informed by the voices of people with lived experience of poverty.

To do this, in 2015 we brought together and supported a Reference Group of people from across Scotland with different experiences of poverty. The Reference Group has identified priorities for action, which have been used to inform the Commission's own work, as well as work taking place through SNAP, including ideas for campaigns to raise awareness of the rights affected by poverty.

## Human Rights Based Approach

The Commission carried out extensive training, education and capacity building work throughout 2015–2016 on how to embed a Human Rights Based Approach in practice.

This included:

- + Working with the Mental Welfare Commission to provide training sessions, exploring with staff how to employ human rights in their work.
- + Providing training for Healthcare Improvement Scotland and taking part in a 'critical friend' pilot that has now been successfully evaluated and is being rolled out more widely across their organisation.

- + Providing training for over 100 Police Scotland staff on embedding human rights into their impact assessments.
- + Providing 'train the trainer' sessions for Scotland's Independent Prison Monitors to help embed human rights into prison monitoring.
- + Working as part of the SNAP Health and Social Care Action Group to provide expertise and a human rights reference point on the development of the National Care Standards.
- + Launching a joint report with the Mental Welfare Commission on Human Rights in Mental Health Care in Scotland, leading to a commitment from the Minister for Mental Health to take a human rights based approach to Scotland's next mental health strategy.
- + Supporting the launch of Rights for Life, an initiative to deliver the progressive realisation of the rights of people with mental health issues in Scotland today.
- + Contributing to five workshops around the country with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman and NHS Education for Scotland, providing input on how to take a human rights based approach to complaints in the NHS.
- + Working with Her Majesty's Chief Inspector for Prisons (HMCIP) in Scotland to support a human rights based approach to prison inspections, we assisted with five prison inspections across Scotland, leading to significant changes in policy and practice.

“Before, I had no idea that I had any human rights regarding my housing conditions. Through the organisations involved [in the project] I have learned a lot. They have encouraged me to involve the community as a whole and to discuss our problems in regards to our homes and environment. As a result the residents association has reformed. I have learned that housing conditions not only impacts on physical health but also on our mental health.”

Heather Ford, Member of West Cromwell, Persevere and Citadel Court Residents Association, taking part in “Housing Rights in Practice” project.



# Improving human rights protection in Scotland through influencing law and policy

In 2015–16 the Commission contributed its expertise to legislative and policy making processes encompassing a wide range of human rights issues affecting people in Scotland.

## Defending and strengthening human rights laws

The Commission continued its defence of the Human Rights Act throughout the year and also continued to drive forward its long-standing call for further implementation and incorporation of all international human rights.

Following the election of a new UK Government in May 2015, the Commission responded to plans for a British Bill of Rights in the Queen's Speech, stressing that no appetite exists in Scotland for regressive changes to human rights laws. The Commission also provided evidence on human rights laws to the Scottish Parliament's European and External Relations Committee and raised the risks of repeal of the Human Rights Act with the United Nations, Council of Europe and through international networks of National Human Rights Institutions.

## Stop and search

The Commission carried out extensive work on the issue of non-statutory police

stop and search in 2015–16. This involved a combination of working with Police Scotland and other relevant public bodies to highlight the human rights issues concerned; monitoring and reporting on the issue as part of our reporting to the United Nations on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and raising awareness of the human rights issues at stake through media and social media activity.

The Commission was pleased to welcome commitments from the Scottish Government and Police Scotland to bring the practice of non-statutory stop and search to an end. Work is continuing to monitor developments in this area.

## Land reform

The Commission contributed to the public and political debate around changes to land reform law, raising awareness of the broader international human rights framework and how it can be used as a guide to balancing different interests in land. Our activity included giving evidence to the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament on the issues, and making

public interventions through media commentary and speaking at relevant events. As a result, the Land Reform Act 2016 contains an explicit reference to international human rights and human rights expertise has been included in membership requirements for the Land Commission that is being established.

## Social justice

This year saw ideas of social justice come to the fore in Scottish political and policy debates. The Commission took proactive steps to engage with the Scottish Government's Fairer Scotland dialogue by publishing a series of policy papers outlining the benefits of using human rights to anchor policy on social justice and setting out opportunities to do this in practice, for example, through human rights based budgeting. The Commission also hosted round table discussions with key policy makers and civil society partners to stimulate thinking and develop recommendations for action.

## Historic child abuse

Following on from our support to the development of an Action Plan for Justice and Remedies for Survivors of Historic Child Abuse, the Commission this year worked with all parties concerned to ensure the implementation of key elements of the Plan. This included providing policy expertise and recommendations to the development of an Apologies Bill in the Scottish Parliament and facilitating discussions about the terms of a National Inquiry. The Commission will continue to support efforts to ensure

appropriate measures are taken to achieve justice and remedies for survivors.

## National Preventive Mechanism

The Commission is one of twenty members of the UK's National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) established under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). The NPM members work together to examine treatment of people detained, make recommendations and comment on existing or draft legislation. This year, the Commission led the NPM's work on indefinite detention, highlighting the relevant international human rights standards and calling for a time limit on immigration detention.

## Other issues

Throughout the year, the Commission contributed human rights policy and legal expertise to a range of Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament and other consultations and policy processes. This included providing evidence to consultations on the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm Bill, reforms to safeguards against deprivation of liberty, the Carers Bill and the Fatal Accident Inquiry Bill, the Scottish Parliament's Europe and External Relations Committee inquiry into how Scottish organisations engage internationally, and the Apologies (Scotland) Bill. The outcomes of our broader policy and legal work included a new statutory requirement for a review of how deaths of patients in hospital for mental health care and treatment are investigated.

# Progressing the realisation of human rights of people in Scotland and beyond through further developing our international role

## **International treaty monitoring**

The Commission monitors the implementation of international human rights treaties in Scotland and reports to the United Nations Human Rights Committee on issues and challenges.

In 2015–2016 the Commission completed and submitted a report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). We gave oral evidence to the UN Human Rights Committee in June on a range of issues. The Committee's report made recommendations on many of the issues we highlighted including adopting Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights; maintaining the protections provided by the Human Rights Act; strengthening efforts to prevent and eradicate racism and xenophobia, particularly in relation to hate crime; repealing non-statutory stop and search; improving measures to tackle violence against women; improving measures to prevent suicide and self-harm in custodial

settings; and taking steps to end corporal punishment in all settings.

We also prepared "List of Issues" reports on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). We gave oral evidence to the relevant UN Committees in October and will continue to engage with the Committees as they prepare their recommendations.

The Commission also hosted a roundtable discussion during the year for key civil society partners and government representatives, exploring lessons and opportunities for further incorporation of international treaty obligations.

## **International collaboration**

The Commission is an active member of international networks of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) which enables us to bring back good practice from other countries to Scotland and to share good practice from Scotland around the world.





In 2015-2016 the Commission continued to Chair the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), handing over the Chair in March 2016 to the Croatian NHRI. The Commission contributed to a range of ENNHRI working groups including the Legal Working Group, which has a mandate to engage with the reform of the European Court of Human Rights and *amicus curiae* interventions before the European Court.

The Commission also helped to strengthen the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI), working with 107 sister NHRIs from around the world. As the deputy chair of GANHRI, we represented the network at the United Nations and played an important role in the creation of the Merida Declaration on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Finally, the Commission played an active role in the Commonwealth Forum of NHRIs (CFNHRI) including facilitating a joint declaration on Climate Justice to

feed into the Commonwealth Heads of Government talks on climate change in Paris in December 2015. The St Julien's Declaration represented the views of the CFNHRI membership, calling for a global response to dealing with the consequences of climate change on human rights. The Declaration was welcomed in the Scottish Parliament.

## Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP)

The Commission continued to co-convene an Action Group on International Obligations as part of our commitment to SNAP. Key activities during the year included developing a brief for a baseline assessment of business and human rights, and hosting a major international conference on the benefits and options for further implementation and incorporation of international human rights.

“I’ve learned loads of new things. I’ve learned about people’s rights and people’s perspectives on what they’re doing and how they feel about their rights.”

Robyn Simpson, participant, “Making Rights a Reality” event held in Perth





Respecting  
Others

# Ensuring the commission is effective, efficient, professional and accountable

## Accreditation as a National Human Rights Institution

In June 2015, the Commission achieved the top grade of accreditation, for the second time, from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

Known as “A Status” accreditation, the decision was made following a systematic review of the Commission’s compliance with a set of requirements known as the Paris Principles. The Principles include requirements for effectiveness and functional and financial independence from the Scottish Government and Parliament. The process was overseen by the United Nations (UN) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, for the first time, also gathered and analysed submissions from civil society organisations in Scotland. The Commission will next be reviewed in 2020.

“A Status” accreditation enables the Commission to report directly to the UN on Scotland’s implementation of international human rights treaties, make direct contributions to UN bodies such as the Human Rights Council and fully collaborate with other independent commissions from around the world.

## Appointment of new Chair of the Commission

At the end of March 2016, Judith Robertson took up post as the new Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission. Her appointment was the result of an open recruitment process. Judith took up post from the Commission’s inaugural Chair, Professor Alan Miller, whose term of office came to an end. During this period of change, Commission staff and Commissioners worked to ensure a smooth transition process.

## Accounts

The Commission’s Audited Accounts for 2015–16 and a reporting statement relating to the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 will be published in November 2016.

## Records management

In 2015–2016 the Commission developed a Records Management Plan to meet the requirements of the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011.

## Accountability

The Commission operates within a structure of good governance and strong internal controls. We strive to lead by example.

The Commission is an independent public body, established by an Act of the Scottish Parliament (the Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006).

We are accountable to the Scottish Parliament. We follow the recommendations set out by the Nolan Committee, adhering to the Seven Principles for Public Life: Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty, and Leadership.

The Commission works to a Strategic Plan covering 2012–2016 and, this year, carried out activities in line with our fourth Operational Plan, spanning 2014–16. A new Strategic Plan for 2016–2020 was developed and laid before the Scottish Parliament in March 2016.

The Commission meets throughout the year to review progress and plan ahead in line with this strategic framework. Minutes of meetings are published on our website.

An internal Finance, Risk and Audit Committee assesses the Commission's internal controls on an ongoing basis.

The Commission's management team meets monthly to review business risks.

The Commission is committed to continuous improvement and to training and professional performance. All Commission staff have access to continuing professional development and in 2015–2016, staff took part in training in torture prevention and prison monitoring, advocacy, mental health awareness and accessible communications.

The legislation that governs the Commission's work prohibits us from giving advice or assistance on individual legal claims or potential legal proceedings. However, we do signpost people to other sources of support. In 2015–16, we handled 122 public enquiries.

The Commission received and answered seven Freedom of Information requests. Three formal complaints were received and handled in line with the Commission's published Complaints Policy. One complaint was upheld and changes were made to the Commission's working practices as a result.

# Who we are

The Commission team is made up of a full time Chair, three part time Commissioners and 13 members of staff (10 full time equivalent posts).

## Chair of the Commission

**Judith Robertson** took up office on 21st March 2016.



Judith was previously Programme Director of See Me – Scotland’s national programme to end mental health stigma and discrimination. Prior to this, she had a 17 year career with Oxfam as both Programme Manager for Oxfam’s Poverty Programme in Scotland (8 years) and as Head of Oxfam Scotland (9 years). Judith has had a long-standing involvement in international issues, in social justice issues and in advocating for human rights.

## Commissioners

**Susan Kemp** is a lawyer specialising in international criminal and human rights law. She has worked extensively in Latin America, Africa and Europe with non-governmental organisations, the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, representing victims, investigating human rights abuses and providing technical assistance to state prosecutors.



**Alan Mitchell** has a background in General Medical Practice and is currently Clinical Director of the East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership. Alan also works within Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre where he is a GP providing general medical services to those held in immigration detention.



**Matt Smith** was the Scottish Secretary of UNISON (1993–2010) and served as President of the STUC (1999–2000). He is a member of a number of public bodies including the Employment Appeals Tribunal, Scottish Water and the Scottish Standards Commission. He serves as a Justice of the Peace in Ayrshire.



[www.scottishhumanrights.com](http://www.scottishhumanrights.com)

## Commission staff

The day-to-day work of the Commission is delivered by a small staff team of 13 (10 full time equivalent posts).

Our staff come from a wide range of backgrounds including international human rights law, domestic law, social policy and research, third sector campaigning, civil society advocacy and

project management, journalism and public sector management. Together, they bring combined expertise, experience and skills in promoting and protecting human rights through law, policy and practice.

The Commission's website gives full details of our staff team. Useful contacts include:

### Human rights law, policy and practice

**Kavita Chetty, Head of Strategy and Legal**  
kavita.chetty@scottishhumanrights.com

**Cathy Asante, Legal Officer – Human Rights Based Approach**  
cathy.asante@scottishhumanrights.com

**Bruce Adamson, Legal Officer**  
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**Diego Quiroz, Policy Officer**  
diego.quiroz@scottishhumanrights.com

**Alison Hosie, Research Officer**  
alison.hosie@scottishhumanrights.com

### Media, communications, outreach and participation

**Emma Hutton, Communications and Participation Manager**  
emma.hutton@scottishhumanrights.com

**Chloë Trew, Participation Coordinator**  
chloe.trew@scottishhumanrights.com

# Looking ahead to 2016–2020

**During 2015–2016, the Commission consulted on and developed its third Strategic Plan for 2016–2020.**

Our strategic priorities during this period will be:

## **Building a human rights culture**

The Commission will contribute to building a human rights culture in Scotland where human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.

## **Promoting respect for dignity and rights in health and social care**

The Commission will work with others to embed human rights in practice throughout health and social care services.

## **Promoting a rights based approach to poverty and social justice**

The Commission will influence approaches to tackling poverty, social exclusion and social justice to be human rights based at local, national and international levels.

## **Increasing accountability for rights**

The Commission will support the increased accountability of those with responsibility for human rights. This can be achieved through the development and implementation of rights based laws, monitoring, regulation and inspection frameworks.

## **Learning, sharing and promoting our work and human rights internationally and nationally**

The Commission will learn from international and national good practice in encouraging greater respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights. We will also share our learning with others domestically and internationally to promote the realisation of human rights.



## Activities planned for 2016–2017 include:

Working more closely with the Scottish Parliament to ensure it acts as a human rights guarantor through its structures and procedures, and by raising awareness of human rights with MSPs and officials.

Carrying out research into public understanding of human rights to inform future communications and awareness raising campaigns.

Dissemination of learning from previous pilot initiatives to ensure that people with lived experience of human rights issues are able to influence decisions that affect them.

Developing and supporting peer-to-peer learning events for organisations interested in taking a human rights based approach to their work.

Continued implementation and evaluation of the Housing Rights in Practice pilot project to empower social housing residents and hold public authorities to account.

Embedding human rights standards within the National Performance Framework.

Continued leadership and support to Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights.

Active participation in international networks of National Human Rights Institutions and dissemination of good practice to relevant domestic stakeholders.

**Our Annual Report for 2016–2017 will report against progress towards these strategic priorities.**

# Getting involved in our work

**The Commission welcomes the opportunity to work with people and organisations affected by human rights issues, and our work to promote and protect human rights more generally.**

You can keep in touch and get involved in our work in the following ways:

## Website

The Commission's website [www.scottishhumanrights.com](http://www.scottishhumanrights.com) contains all of our policy submissions, reports to international human rights treaty bodies, case studies, training materials and other resources.

## Twitter

The Commission's Twitter feed [@scothumanrights](https://twitter.com/scothumanrights) is updated regularly with latest news, information about our work and links to other relevant human rights information and developments.



## E-newsletter

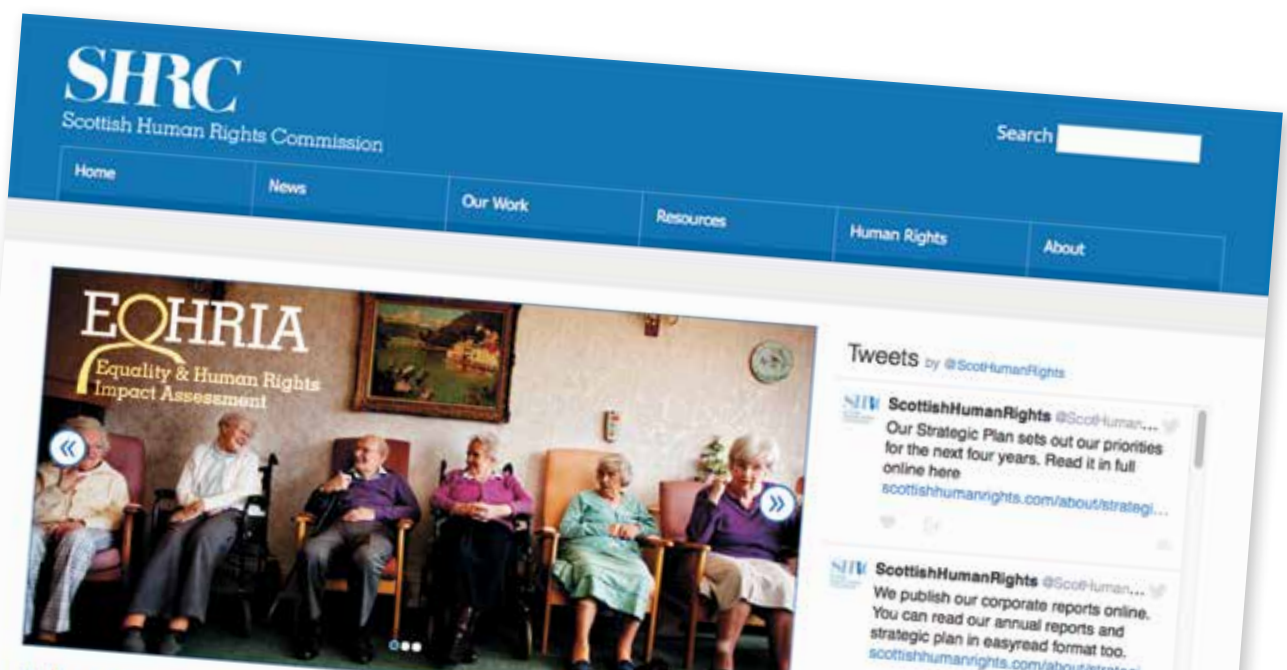
Subscribe to our e-newsletter to receive regular updates about our work. Please email [hello@scottishhumanrights.com](mailto:hello@scottishhumanrights.com) to sign up.

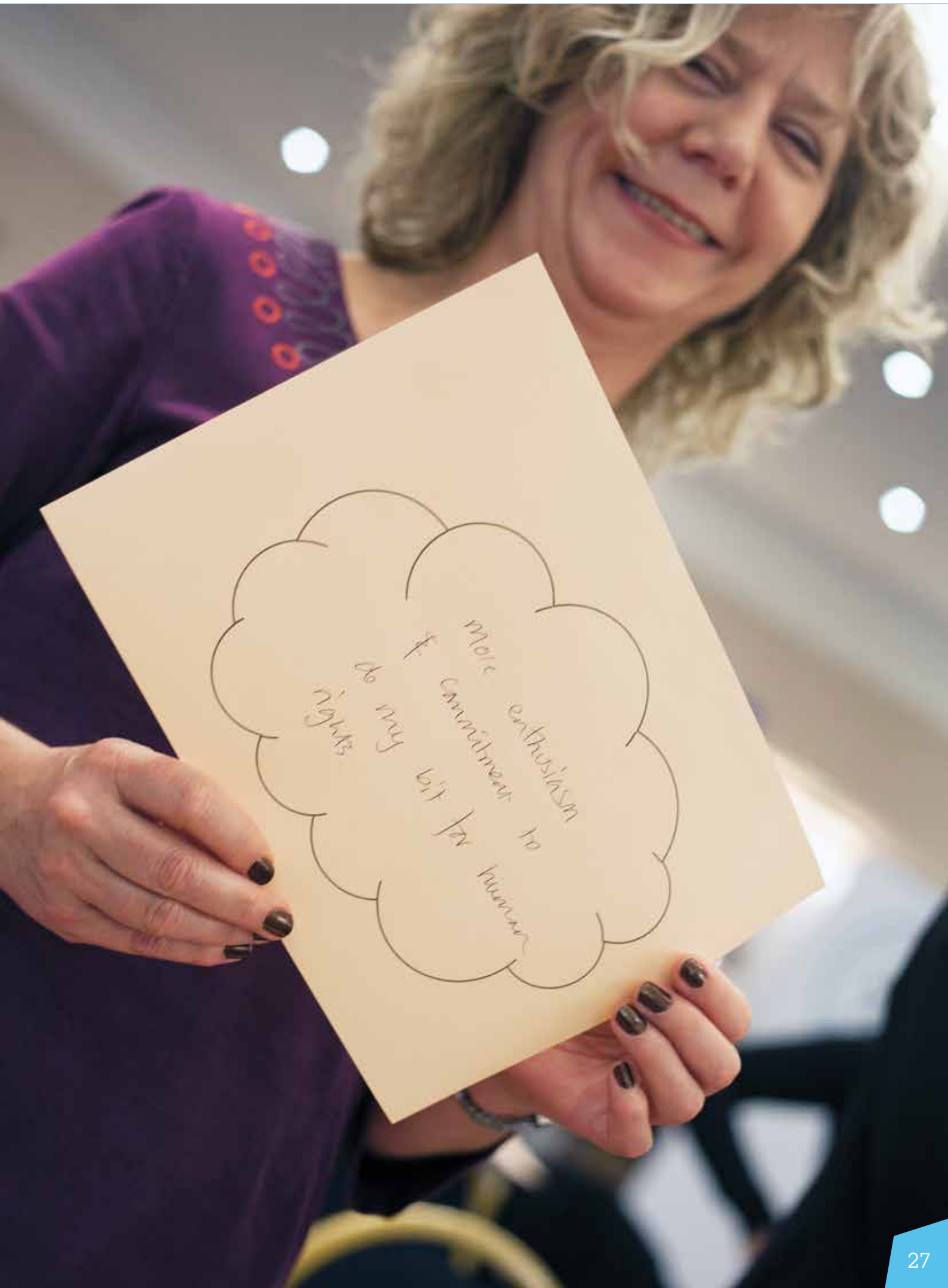
## Events

The Commission hosts and takes part in events about relevant human rights issues throughout the year. Please follow our website and Twitter feed for full details.

## Projects

If you would like any more information about any of the projects or policy areas we work on, please contact the relevant member of our team, or email [hello@scottishhumanrights.com](mailto:hello@scottishhumanrights.com).





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rights bit for human

## Scottish Human Rights Commission

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SHRC/2016/02

Laid before the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Commission for Human Rights in pursuance of Section 15 (1) of the Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006 on 27 October 2016.

Design by [www.graphics.coop](http://www.graphics.coop)

Photography by Michael Rea, Keathbank Photography, Maverick Photo Agency