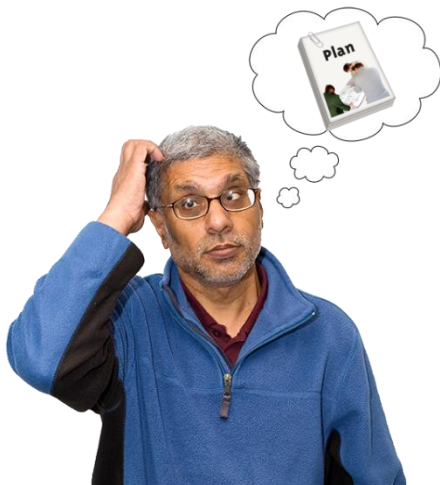


**Scottish Human Rights
Commission**



Easy Read Consultation



**We want to know what you
think about our plans for
2020-2024**

About this document



The Scottish Human Rights Commission (or The Commission) started in 2008.



It talks about and looks after everyone's Human Rights in Scotland.



The Commission is independent. This means it does not work for any other organisation.

The Commission tells the Scottish Parliament about its work.



The Commission is working on its Strategic Plan for 2020-2024.

A Strategic Plan is a document that says what our organisation wants to do and how we will do it.



To help us, we want to hear from people and organisations all over Scotland.



We would like you to answer the questions in this document.

You can send us your answers by email or post.



Our email address is hello@scottishhumanrights.com



Our post address is
Bridgeside House,
99 McDonald Road,
Edinburgh
EH7 4NS



If you use British Sign Language you can contact us through ContactScotland BSL or send us a BSL video.



Send us your answers by 12 July 2019.

Introduction



The Scottish Human Rights Commission is just over 10 years old.

This is our 4th Strategic Plan.



Human Rights are important to make sure Scotland is fair and equal for everyone.

Human Rights help to keep Scotland working well with other countries.



Too many people in Scotland still do not have all of their human rights.



We need to work to make this better.

About the Scottish Human Rights Commission



The Scottish Human Rights Commission is an independent public body.

This means we do not work for the government or any other organisation.



We follow international guidelines that say we should:

- Follow UK laws
- Cover a broad range of international human rights
- Choose the people who work with us
- Work with the public and government
- Have resources to help do all the work
- Have powers to investigate where we think human rights are not in place.



There are 3 Commissions in the UK.

What the Commission does:



The Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006 is a law that says what the Commission should do.



We help people understand what human rights are, and how to respect them.

We want Scottish organisations to respect human rights.



We work to make this better by telling people about the work of the Commission, and by training people, writing reports, and doing research.

We suggest changes to Scottish law, policy and practice.

The Commission can:



- Look at how Scottish public authorities are working and check if they have good policies.
- Enter prisons and other places where people are held as part of the justice system, as part of investigations.
- Make sure people have their human rights in court cases.



What the Commission does not do:



Our work only covers things that the Scottish Parliament works on. That includes:

- Health and social care
- Education
- Policing
- Prisons
- Some parts of social security and welfare



Our work does not cover:

- Immigration
- Defence
- Employment
- Equality



We do not give advice or help to individuals.



We are not linked to any political party.
That means we don't support any political party more than another one.



We get £974,000 from the Scottish Parliament for our work.

Our Vision

What we want to do:



The Scottish Human Rights Commission wants Scotland to be a country where people have all their human rights and can live with dignity.

Our Mission

How we will do it:



We will support organisations to follow human rights laws and make people's lives better.

Our Values

What we believe in:

We want to:

- Make a difference.
- Be independent.
- Help organisations to change.
- Work with other people.
- Give people the chance to be involved.
- Take responsibility for our work and make others do the same.



What we want to do from 2020-2024:



We have 4 main things we want to do from 2020 to 2024.

We think these 4 suggestions should be our 'priorities' but these are still being discussed:



1. Help to get more legal protection for people's rights to things like food, housing and health.



2. Make sure people follow human rights laws.



3. Get more people to know and understand human rights.



4. Make Scotland a leader in human rights compared to other countries.

Priority 1: Help more people understand their rights and get more legal protection for people.



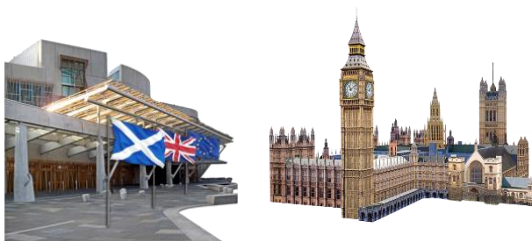
In the next 4 years the Commission wants to see more legal protection and more people making sure economic, social and cultural rights are protected. This is things like housing, health and rights to food.

We think this will help Scotland be free from poverty.

In 2020-2024 we will:



- Help towards getting economic, social and cultural rights into Scottish Law.



- Work with Parliament and Government to help Scotland prepare for new laws about human rights.



- Keep working towards getting human rights covered by public sector budgets.



- Do more of our work about looking after the civil and political rights we have.

Priority 2: Make sure people follow human rights laws.

The Commission wants to make sure everyone follows human rights laws.

In 2020 – 2024, the Commission will:



- Argue against any plans to make human rights laws weaker.
- Support plans to make human rights laws stronger.
- Help to make it easier for people to get justice: help from the Police and the legal system.
- Use our legal powers to show how to make the law better.
- Work with other organisations and community groups to tell them about human rights.
- Work with the Scottish Parliament so it will make sure human rights are followed.
- Work with other countries.
- Show where things are working well and where things could be better in Scotland.

Priority 3: Get more people to know and understand human rights.

The Commission wants to work with people who have responsibilities to uphold rights and put them into practice.

In 2020 – 2024 the Commission will:



- Tell people about our work.
- Share what we know about promoting human rights.



- Help organisations to understand how human rights can help them deliver services.



- Work with the Scottish Parliament to promote human rights.



- Support Scotland's National Action Plan on Human Rights (SNAP) group.

- Build a network of people in communities who can help our work and influence change.

Priority 4: Make Scotland a leader in human rights compared to other countries.



The Commission wants to show Scotland is a leader in human rights law.



In 2020 – 2024 the Commission will:

- Work towards better human rights for Scotland.
- Learn from other countries and share our experiences.
- Bring examples of good practice from other countries to Scotland.
- Work with the United Nations human rights system.
- Make sure the main Scottish policies follow human rights.



United Nations



Your Views



This document will now ask for your feedback on 7 questions. Please write your answers in below.



Question 1

Are the 4 priorities the right ones?

Tick one box.



Yes

☐

No

☐

Not sure

☐

If you said no, what else would you suggest? Write in here:





Question 2

Has the Commission said it would do the right things for each priority?

Yes

☐

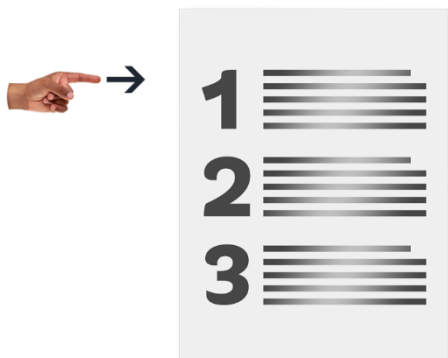
No

☐

Not sure

☐

If you said no, what is missing?
Write in here and tell us what the
Commission should be doing:



Question 3

What types of things should the Commission put at the top of its list of things to do?



Is there anything else it should add?

Write your answer here:

Question 4

How much do you know about the Commission and its work?



A lot

A little bit

Nothing

☐☐☐

Tell us why?:



Question 5

What do you think of the Commission and its work?
Tell us here:



Question 6

Are our Vision, Mission and Values right? (on page 8)

Tick one box.

Yes

☐

No

☐

Not sure

☐

What else would you like to see? Write it here:



Question 7

Is there anything else you would like to say?

Tell us about you



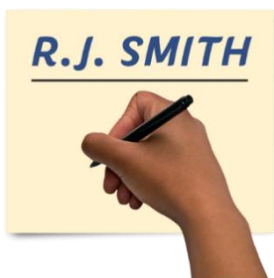
Are you answering these questions as an individual person, or are you representing an organisation?

Tick the box that describes you.

Individual

☐

Organisation

☐

What is your name?
Or your organisation's name?
Write it here:



Which local authority area are you from? Please write in.



Are you a member of a group where people share a protected characteristic?

Yes

No

☐☐

The protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation



For example, someone who is a member of 'People First Scotland' shares the protected characteristic of 'disability'.



Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions.

