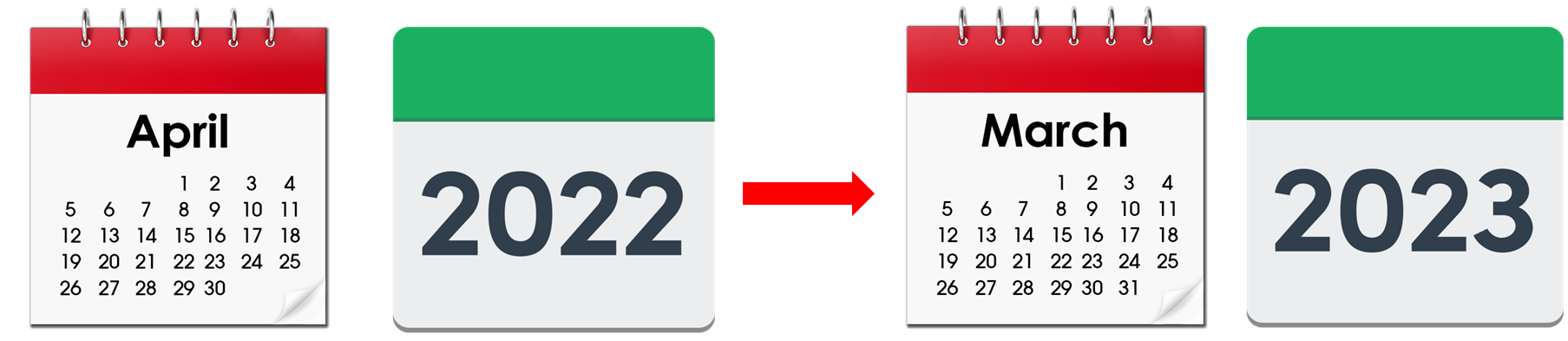


**Scottish Human Rights Commission**

**Annual Report 2022 to 2023**





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## About the Commission

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| a group of people next to the Human Rights Act law document a smiling woman giving the thumbs up and holding a clipboard with a large green tick on it | Human rights are freedoms that are protected in law.  They make sure we are treated:   * fairly * with **dignity**   **Dignity** means being treated in a way that is as thoughtful as possible.  The Scottish Human Rights Commission works in Scotland to:   * look after people’s rights * check that the Scottish Government and its organisations are looking after people’s rights |
| Scottish Parliament building  the United Nations logo - a circular world map in turquoise, surrounded by 2 olive branches | The Scottish Human Rights Commission reports to:   * the Scottish Parliament * the **United Nations**   The **United Nations** is an organisation that works with countries to keep peace and security across the world. |
| A police officer next to a law document, next to a work policy document  2 people either side of a flipchart on a stand, showing a picture of a group of people next to the Human Rights Act document  2 people discussing something - one is saying 'yes', the other is saying 'no'.  a thinking woman with a green tick and red cross in a thought bubble next to her head | The Scottish Human Rights Commission has powers to:   * help change laws, policies and the way people work * tell more people about human rights using education, training and research * take part in some **civil court** cases   **Civil court** is when 2 people or organisations go to court to sort a disagreement, but it is not a crime.   * have **inquiries** into the policies and practices of Scottish public authorities   An **inquiry** is a review into what went well and what could have been done better. |

## PANEL Principles

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| a woman giving the thumbs up next to a list with green ticks on it | The Commission uses the **PANEL** **principles** in all its work:  **Principles** are the standards for our work – what we believe in and how we want to work. |
| a group of people meeting round a table  a woman looking closely at something, next to a man writing information down.  an older woman being shouted at by a group of young people | **P: Participation**  People should take part in decisions that affect their rights.  **A: Accountability**  Human rights should be checked to see that they are being protected.  If they are not being protected, this should be changed.  **N: Non-discrimination and equality**  We must stop all forms of **discrimination**.  **Discrimination** means treating someone unfairly. |
| a man giving the thumbs up and holding a sign with a large green tick on it  a police officer next to a law document | **E: Empowerment**  Everyone should understand their rights and be able to take part in decisions that affect their lives.  **L: Legality**  The way people approach human rights should follow Scottish, UK and international laws. |

## How the Commission plans its work

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| a person asking another person questions and writing information down - above their heads is a plan document | The Commission’s fourth Strategic Plan was published in March 2020 after we had asked a lot of people and organisations what they think.  A strategic plan is a document that gives details of:   * what we want to work towards in the future * how we will do this   The plan has 4 priorities for 2020 to 2024: |
| a man with his fist in the air, next to a police officer and a law document  a woman giving the thumbs up and holding a sign with a large green tick on it, next to a group of people and the Human Rights Act document | **Priority 1**: Making sure more people understand their rights, and they are protected by making the law stronger.  **Priority 2**: Making sure more organisations follow human rights laws. |
| a group of people with their fists in the air, in front of speech bubbles 2 groups of people meeting and talking | **Priority 3**: Making sure more people understand and protect human rights.  **Priority 4**: Making sure we share what we know about human rights and learn from others around the world. |
| a judge in a courtrooma police officer and a law documenta woman putting a comforting hand on the shoulder of a woman who looks upseta smiling woman giving the thumbs up and holding a sign with a large green tick on it, next to a group of people and the Human Rights Act law document | In 2022 to 2023 the Commission also made a new plan called Purpose, People, Performance.  This includes new projects including:   * **access to justice** for human rights problems   **Access to justice** meansbeing treated fairly by the law, and having access to police, courts and organisations that give legal advice and support   * human rights of people in prisons in Scotland, with a focus on mental health support * human rights of people with learning disabilities and autism who stay in hospitals and other places |
| a group of people in front of a map of Scotland with red rings around the Highlands and Islands. | * the rights of people in the Highlands and Islands |
| a question mark surrounded by 6 grey silhouette heads | In 2022 to 2023 the Commission had:   * a new Executive Director called Jan Savage * 1 Chair who works full time * 3 Commissioners who work part time * 21 members of staff |

## Our work in 2022 to 2023

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| a group of people next to a Human Rights Act law document, with a Scottish Saltire flag on it | This is a summary of our Annual Report from April 2022 to March 2023.  The Scottish Government has promised to introduce a new Human Rights Bill for Scotland, to make sure everyone gets important rights like good housing, healthcare and education.  We did lot of work to support the Human Rights Bill, offering advice on how to make sure the new laws protect human rights as strongly as possible. |
| a man speaking loudly through a megaphone | We spoke out when the UK Government said it wanted to remove the Human Rights Act and were pleased when it decided not to do this. |
| a frowning woman giving the thumbs down and holding a clipboard with a large red cross on it  3 people who look sad and afraid, inside a house | We told the UK Government we did not like the Illegal Migration Bill which would make it harder for **refugees** to come to the UK.  We think this is against international human rights law.  **Refugees** are people who have left their country to escape from war or violence to find safety in another country. |
| a plan document with the Human Rights Act law document on the front page3 people giving the thumbs up | In March 2023 we helped to launch Scotland’s second National Action Plan for Human Rights, called SNAP2.  It asks organisations like the Scottish Government to make sure everyone can live a life with dignity, including a good standard of living, employment and education. |
| a woman with a lightbulb 'thought' beside her head | There are 54 ideas in SNAP2.  The Commission will work to make sure they actually happen. |
| the United Nations logo about a thinking woman with images of money, and a basket of food in thought bubbles above her head | This year we went to the United Nations to report on Scotland’s human rights performance.  We talked about the rising cost of living.  This is making it harder for people in Scotland to have enough money to heat their homes or buy food. |
| 2 report documents | We also delivered 2 reports to the United Nations on the rights of people with disabilities.  We wrote one and the other was written by the Scottish Independent Living Coalition (SILC). |
| Two people wearing winter clothes inside, some overdue bills and a gas firea woman holding her head next to a graph showing Covid risinga map with European countries in dark blue, except for Britain and Northern Ireland which are in white | Our report showed the effect of:   * the cost of living * COVID-19 * leaving the EU |
| a workplace with images of people doing different jobsa man pointing to himself with the wording 'my house' underneath him | Our report called for more protection of disabled people’s rights to:   * employment * independent living * a fair standard of living |
| a person behind bars, a worried woman next to the Mental Health Act law document, and a group of people next to the Human Rights Act law document, with a green tick beside it | The Commission did other activities in 2022 and 2023 including:   * work to improve human rights in prisons * giving advice to organisations trying to improve the human rights of people experiencing mental ill health as part of the Scottish Mental Health Law Review   When the Review’s findings were published, we were pleased to see it focused on human rights. |
| a police officer and a law document | * giving advice on many policies the Scottish Government is thinking about bringing into law |
| money - coins and notes - and a finger pushing buttons on a calculatorScottish Parliament building | * going to the Scottish Parliament to talk about how law makers should put human rights first when making decisions about how money will be spent   The Commission believes this will help to build a fairer, more equal Scotland for everyone. |
| a man speaking into a microphone taking part in a podcast | * speaking to newspapers, radio and TV programmes to tell more people about how important human rights are in Scotland |

## Find out more

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| A computer with a screen showing the SHRC logo  Email on a computer screen | You can find out more:   * on our website   [www.scottishhumanrights.com](http://www.scottishhumanrights.com)   * email: [hello@scottishhumanrights.com](mailto:hello@scottishhumanrights.com) |
| Social Media on a laptop, phone and tablet | * on X @ScotHumanRights   X used to be called Twitter.     * or find us on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube |

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