



# SNAP: Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights

Building a human rights culture through law, policy and practice

## YEAR THREE REPORT



December 2016

SNAP is Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights.

It is a programme for collective action across Scotland to make all human rights a reality for everyone.

SNAP was launched in December 2013 as an initial four-year plan.

Annual Reports have been produced each year on progress made towards outcomes. This Year Three report summarises activities during 2016 and looks ahead to 2017 and beyond.

For more information about SNAP, visit [www.snaprights.info](http://www.snaprights.info)

# Introduction

SNAP enters the final year of its first cycle at an important time for human rights in Scotland, and across the world. The need for human rights to be collectively owned by everyone in society is stronger than ever. With the potential loss of human rights and broader social protections following the UK's exit from the European Union and the continued threat to the Human Rights Act, it is critical that we understand the real value human rights bring to people and society.



Last December, on SNAP's second anniversary, the First Minister of Scotland recognised that making the United Nations international human rights treaties enforceable in domestic laws is an "important part of the debate in ensuring people's rights are at the heart of everything government does." This was then carried forward with a pledge to "a broad collaborative process, engaging with people across Scotland and learning from best global practice in participatory democracy, to advise on the guaranteed protections we should seek to enshrine in law." SNAP can contribute to realising this commitment by helping build a wider and deeper understanding of what these international protections mean and how they can be both incorporated into law, and implemented in practice.

This year's SNAP report profiles examples of SNAP actions that link very explicitly to some of these international human rights standards – the right to health, the right to housing and the right to an adequate standard of living. The report also summarises current activities across SNAP, and sets out future ambitions and plans to enable SNAP to evolve in response to the human rights issues of the day.

We hope you find the examples provided helpful in developing a fuller understanding of human rights in practice, and the contribution that people and organisations involved in SNAP are making to help realise them. We look forward to continued and sustained work with all those currently involved in SNAP, and beyond, to ensure rights are given the value they deserve and made a lived reality for all.

**Judith Robertson**

Chair, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Chair, SNAP Leadership Panel

# Activities and Outcomes

This section summarises some of the activities currently taking place and link to the range of medium and long-term outcomes that SNAP aims to achieve.

EXAMPLE ACTIVITIES JAN 2016 – DEC 2017	MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES BY 2020 (DRAFT)
<p>Systematic review of UN treaty body concluding observations and recommendations relevant to Scotland by SNAP partners, and consideration of how they can be implemented in practice.</p> <p>National Baseline Assessment published to develop evidence base and stimulate dialogue to develop a Business and Human Rights Action Plan in Scotland.</p> <p>Establishing working group to consider the benefits, challenges, opportunities and process towards the incorporation of international treaty standards.</p>	<p><b>LAW</b></p> <p>There is increased implementation of international human rights standards and law.</p>
<p>Supporting the Scottish Government's development of new social security system by using a human rights based approach.</p> <p>Supporting the integration of human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals within the National Performance Framework.</p> <p>Engaging with the review of the National Care Standards through training, discussions and practical recommendations.</p> <p>Engaging with review of NHS Complaints procedures.</p>	<p><b>POLICY AND MONITORING</b></p> <p>An increased number of key policies and budgets explicitly reference human rights standards and principles and objectives.</p> <p>An increased number of monitoring and performance accountability mechanisms reference human rights standards and principles.</p>
<p>Sharing of participatory action research project to explore the concept of health citizenship with people who are marginalised.</p> <p>Applying a human rights based approach through Housing Rights in Practice project with Edinburgh Tenants Federation.</p>	<p><b>PRACTICE AND CULTURE</b></p> <p>An increased number of local bodies acknowledge, understand and act on the importance of participatory approaches to the realisation of rights in practice.</p> <p>People whose rights are affected by public bodies practice better understand the relevant mechanisms to hold public bodies to account.</p> <p>Human rights standards or principles are explicitly attributed to a change in public body leading to the better realisation of rights.</p>



... through SNAP, and those planned for 2017. It shows how these ... to achieve.

OUTCOMES	LONG TERM OUTCOMES BY 2030
<p>...ation and incorporation of ... standards into domestic policy</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Each of us is empowered to understand and embrace the value of human rights, asserting them in all parts of our lives.</li> <li>2. Each of us can participate in shaping and directing decisions that affect our human rights.</li> <li>3. Organisations providing public services contribute to a human rights culture by valuing and putting human rights at the heart of what they do.</li> </ol>
<p><b>MONITORING</b></p> <p>... government strategies and ... embed human rights ... demonstrate delivery.</p> <p>... monitoring, regulation, complaint ... liability frameworks reflect ... principles.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Scotland increasingly implements its international human rights obligations, influences and learns from international experience and promotes human rights in all of its international engagements.</li> <li>5. All organisations are held to account for the realisation of people’s rights through international and domestic laws, regulation and monitoring.</li> </ol>
<p><b>CULTURE</b></p> <p>... authorities and public ... stand and demonstrate the ... and rights based approaches ... practice.</p> <p>... cted by law, policy or ... their rights and use the ... public bodies to account.</p> <p>... principles are directly ... cy or practice by a public ... alisation of rights.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Each of us has access to and can enjoy quality public services, which respect our dignity, irrespective of who we are or where we live.</li> <li>7. Each of us experiences improved opportunities and life outcomes whilst Scotland experiences an overall reduction in inequality of opportunity and outcomes.</li> </ol>

# Looking ahead – SNAP beyond December 2017

With its first four year cycle coming to an end in December 2017, SNAP is evolving to respond to challenges and increase its future effectiveness. As we look ahead to the next cycle of SNAP, people and organisations involved in SNAP have agreed they would like to see SNAP become stronger in the following areas:

## Increasing participation

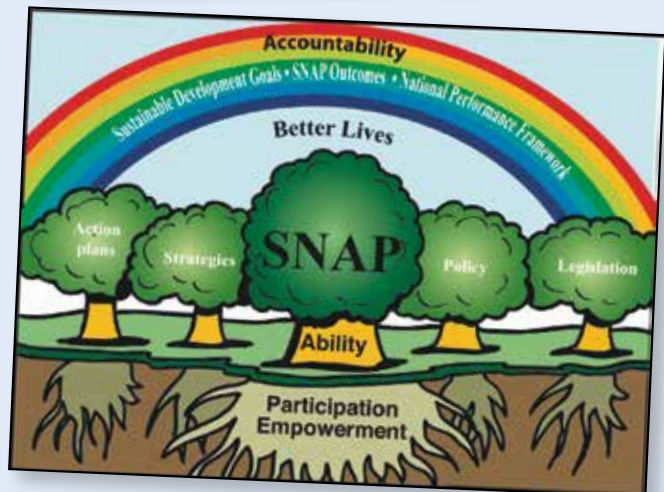
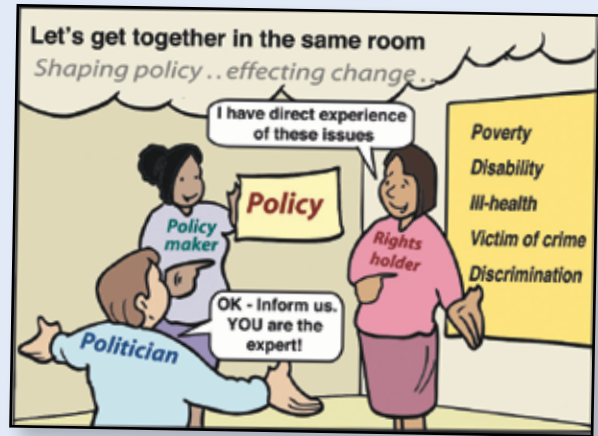
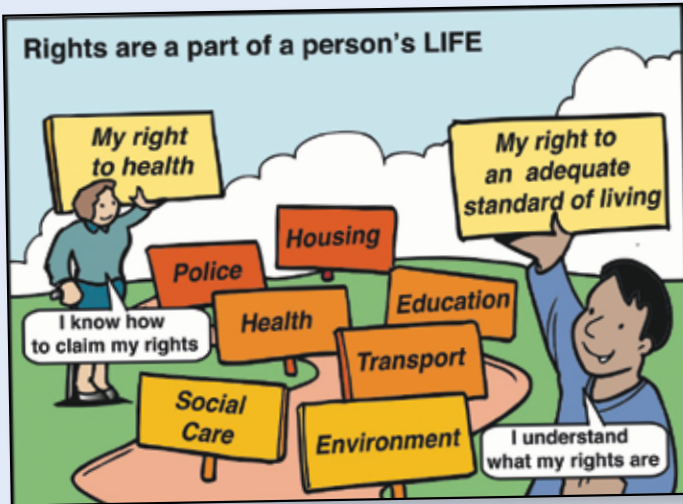
SNAP relies entirely on the commitment and resources of those involved. We would like SNAP to reach out to others to build their understanding of what a human rights based approach means in practice. We also have more to do to ensure that people with lived experience of the issues SNAP is working on, can take part in shaping and guiding SNAP's strategy, management and actions.

## Making strategic choices

By its collaborative nature, SNAP gravitates towards the issues that are most important to those involved. This is both a key strength and potentially a weakness, as there is a need to make strategic choices about priorities based on a broader evidence base. In the future, we intend to take into account and align SNAP activity with the United Nations Universal Periodic Review 2017 recommendations, and all outstanding recommendations for Scotland from international human rights treaty bodies.

## Demonstrating change

SNAP has an agreed set of long term outcomes and a more recently developed draft set of medium term outcomes that will be used to drive decisions about key activities. This 'logic model' approach will be further supported by the Scottish Government using an improvement methodology to help us be sure we can make the changes we all want to see. Building on this, we hope to be better equipped to monitor progress against agreed indicators.



SNAP is Scotland's National Action Plan  
for Human Rights.

Find out more at [www.snaprights.info](http://www.snaprights.info)

You can also email  
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