

**Promoting and Protecting
Human Rights in Scotland
Ten Years in Review**



2008-2018

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Human rights, at their best, hold a mirror in front of us of a world and a humanity which we need to become and which we grow into.

That's why human rights are important, not about the law alone, but about how you and I relate to each other.

Donald MacAskill,
Scottish Care

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Introduction

The Scottish Human Rights Commission ‘went live’ on 10 December 2008, sixty years to the day since the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

We were born ten years after the Human Rights Act and Scotland Act embedded protection for some human rights into the devolution settlement. Acting as a bridge between both Scotland and the international human rights system, and between civil society and government, we have a unique position as Scotland’s National Human Rights Institution.

Now, as we turn ten years old ourselves, we take stock of Scotland’s human rights journey over the past decade and our own contribution to progress. We also look ahead to where Scotland can and must go next to fully respect, protect and fulfil everyone’s human rights.

Our work began at a time of great economic and social uncertainty. The shockwaves of the 2008 global financial crisis were coming fast and strong. Scotland’s economy was entering recession and public budgets were facing the first of many cuts.

Alongside this, the Commission’s early work flagged a range of longstanding issues in Scotland: pressures on health and social care services; poverty and social exclusion; violence against women and girls; racial discrimination and prejudice; homelessness; inequality in educational attainment; mental health stigma; access to justice and many others.

These are all human rights issues. But in 2008 few of them were understood in those terms in Scotland.

Back then, in both public and political discourse, human rights tended to be associated with a relatively narrow set of issues, mainly in areas of criminal justice and anti-terrorism legislation. Public authorities very much saw human rights as something that had to be complied with, rather than a broad framework that could help drive improvement and deliver on broader public service objectives.

Ten years on, we are in a very different place.

Increasingly, human rights principles have been embedded into law, policy and practice in areas as diverse as Scotland’s health and social care standards, land reform legislation and prison inspection standards. It has become more common for organisations to embed a human rights based approach explicitly in their work, demonstrating a deeper and more meaningful understanding of how rights can add value to the effective delivery of public services. Our National Performance Framework now reflects the vision that we protect, respect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination. This has the potential to drive further change across public policy.

Awareness and understanding of the breadth of human rights, and how they affect multiple aspects of people’s lives, has significantly expanded.



Our rights to things like food, housing, health and social security – and how best to realise them for everybody – are now discussed openly and constructively by Scotland’s law and policy makers. Human rights are being considered, applied and monitored in a growing range of contexts including advocacy, independent living, housing, community development, mental health, social care, justice, tackling poverty, the role of business, and more.

As a Commission we have been pleased to play our part in advancing and broadening the human rights agenda in areas as diverse as climate justice, business and human rights, the sustainable development agenda, human rights budgeting, and human rights and technology. As an accredited National Human Rights Institution actively involved in global networks, we have strived to both learn from and contribute to the international system of human rights protection.

Since 2013, Scotland has had a National Action Plan for Human Rights, developed and delivered through a collaborative model that has been recognised internationally as an example of best practice.

We have learnt from all of our work that rights have the most power when they are in the hands of “rights holders” sitting around the table with “duty bearers”, securing both accountability and implementation of rights through meaningful participation. This approach has been embodied through our work with survivors of historic childhood abuse, government and care institutions.

All of this progress must, however, still be tempered by the reality of people’s lived experience of day-to-day violations of their rights. Too many people in Scotland still don’t have their rights met in everyday life, nor any redress for their situation. Much more is needed for the vision of a rights-respecting Scotland to be realised in reality.

We must be ambitious in strengthening accountability and access to remedies for people to have ownership of their rights in a real and meaningful sense.

Much has changed over the last ten years - economically, politically and constitutionally. Undoubtedly the debates and outcomes of both the 2014 independence referendum and 2016 Brexit referendum will continue to shape our understanding of the sort of country we are, and want to become. Human rights have an essential role to play in the uncertain times that lie ahead, anchoring Scotland’s laws and culture as both socially progressive and internationally connected. Protecting and strengthening our human rights laws will be critical, so that rights become more enforceable and meaningful in practice. It will be equally important to support people across Scotland to engage with and own their rights, and their relevance in everyday life.



Preamble to the Universal
Declaration of Human
Rights, which was adopted
by the United Nations on 10
December 1948

Whereas recognition of the **inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights** of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of **a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want** has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the **rule of law**,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly **relations between nations**,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to **promote social progress and better standards of life** in larger freedom,



Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the **promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights** and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a **common understanding of these rights and freedoms** is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, Therefore the General Assembly proclaims this **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** as a **common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations**, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by **teaching and education to promote respect for these rights** and freedoms and **by progressive measures, national and international**, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.



Equipping people to know and claim their rights with confidence

Ten years ago

Most people had little knowledge and understanding of the full range of international human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights. This limited their confidence to assert and claim their rights.

Now

The Commission has delivered training and awareness raising on human rights to thousands of people in communities and organisations across Scotland. We have produced information about rights in a range of accessible formats including animation, Easy Read, BSL, infographic and plain English – for example, a short animation explaining the right to social security and a series of short films illustrating rights in practice in health and social care.

In Leith, Edinburgh, we have supported a group of local residents to use human rights to hold their local authority to account for their inadequate housing conditions and we are disseminating the learning from this project across Scotland. Increasingly civil society organisations use human rights as the basis for their advocacy and their own engagement with people and communities.

We also know more about people's understanding of human rights thanks to investment in a major piece of audience research, which identified considerable public support for human rights but low understanding of how protections for rights work in practice.

The next ten years

While improving people's knowledge and understanding of their rights is not enough to ensure those rights are realised, it is a crucial part of the picture. We need to build on our work so far and in particular, do more to reach people who are often excluded from accessing information about their rights. We mustn't lose sight of the empowering nature of rights to those who need them most.



right to housing



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Our housing was barely habitable. It made you feel worthless. We constantly reported repairs and sometimes they got done but mostly they didn't. It made you feel worthless. This human rights based approach to housing was critical for our community. It was vital that we got our voices heard. We've learned skills we didn't know we really had. Now the houses are safe, secure, comfortable, warm, practical.

Heather Ford
Participant in
Housing Rights
in Practice Project

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Empowering people to influence decisions that affect their rights

Ten years ago

Disabled people were leading the charge on the right to participation, summed up by the phrase 'nothing about us, without us, is for us'. However, participation was not part of the broader narrative about human rights in a meaningful way, including in our own understanding as a National Human Rights Institution.

Now

People's participation in decision making is increasingly seen as essential, valuable and important in the broader policy context. It has become more common in human rights work across the board.

At the Commission, we have begun to embed participative approaches into our own ways of working. We work with a Reference Group of people with lived experience of poverty as part of Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP). We have also developed and applied different models of participation in different contexts, including local community engagement with Perth and Kinross Council, support to local residents in our Housing Rights in Practice project, working alongside survivors on the Historic Abuse Inter Action process, and with communities across Scotland to inform the future of SNAP.

The next ten years

We need to continue to raise awareness that participation is a right, including by demonstrating good practice ourselves as a National Human Rights Institution. There is real potential for Scotland to lead the way on this within the international human rights system. Future priorities include broadening participation by a wider range of people, including voices who are seldom heard in public policy, and ensuring those are listened to.



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In advocacy we use a human rights based approach, it's a big part of the day to day work that we do. I was working with a lady who had MS (Multiple Sclerosis). The condition deteriorated and that affected her ability to communicate. Living at home in the community was really really important to her. There was pressure from health and social work services for her to move into a care home. We were able to focus on what her rights were in the situation to try and make sure her rights were safeguarded.

Olivia Fitton
The Advocacy
Project

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Increasing organisations' ability to put human rights into practice

Ten years ago

Few organisations understood how human rights could help them deliver their public service aims.

Now

We have seen progress thanks to considerable work to increase knowledge and understanding of human rights in a range of public service settings. The Commission's Care About Rights training for social care providers, launched in 2010, is still one of our most popular resources. In 2014, we launched an Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment tool for public authorities.

Government, public bodies and civil society organisations are making increasing efforts to take a human rights based approach to their work. For example, rights are being further embedded in prison inspection standards, health and social care standards and approaches to public health.

However, while progress has been made, people's lived experience of using public services in practice still falls far short when it comes to respecting, protecting and fulfilling all of their rights. From mental health treatment to social security to the justice system and more, the Commission regularly hears evidence of failures and breaches of people's rights by public services.

The next ten years

The biggest challenge we face is sustaining and embedding culture change within public authorities. A step change is needed if we are to move beyond pockets of progress to embed human rights systematically in how Scotland's public services are delivered. This needs investment in building the capacity of organisations, particularly when it comes to expanding their understanding of their broader international human rights obligations.



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The standards for inspection and monitoring of prisons were reviewed in collaboration with the Commission. The challenge for me as a prison person was to take the step back and look at the environment I was used to working in in a different manner. The support of the Commission allowed me to look at it through a different lens. Not the lens of an operational process but through the lens of human interactions, human feelings.

Jim Farish
Former Deputy
Chief Inspector of
Prisons, HMIPS

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Defending and strengthening legal protection for human rights

Ten years ago

The Human Rights Act was ten years old, as was the Scotland Act which embedded human rights into devolution.

Now

Over the last ten years, the Commission and others in Scotland have defended the Human Rights Act in the face of threats to it from the UK Government. We have consistently articulated and explained its value, both as a legal tool to support people to access justice and obtain remedies, and as a foundation for building a stronger human rights culture. More recently, we have contributed our expert analysis and concerns about the risks to rights protections as a result of the UK leaving the European Union.

Throughout this time, the Commission has also focused on the positive opportunities and the need to strengthen legal protection for rights in Scotland. We have led dialogue and debates on how to incorporate a wider range of international human rights into Scots law. Real progress has been made here, most recently through the work of the First Minister's Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership and its expected recommendations.

The next ten years

We want to see all international human rights fully incorporated into domestic law. This would close the accountability gap for those rights which currently have the most impact on people's lives but the least bite in law, such as rights to housing, food, social security and health.



right to adequate standard of living





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The dignity and worth of a human being is a subject worth everyone's time. Having no food, no shelter, just cannot be tolerated in a modern Scottish society. Our group is made up of people from ordinary walks of life, people that have experienced poverty, people that have experienced living off benefit, people that have experienced homelessness. I take real pride when I see the discussions that we have among our group being incorporated into the Commission's work that gets taken forward to The Scottish Parliament.

Alan Gray
Reference Group
on the Right to
an Adequate
Standard of Living

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Embedding rights in public policy and decision making

Ten years ago

There was limited systematic consideration of human rights in public policy making. Where they were considered, human rights were generally seen as something that created a duty to comply, rather than a framework to help drive improvement.

Now

The Commission has developed and shared human rights policy analyses on public policy in areas as diverse as social security, food policy, taxation, land reform, policing, criminal justice and major sporting events. Increasingly, parliamentarians, civil society organisations and government officials are engaging with and seeking input on the potential human rights aspects of policy. Examples include mental health and incapacity legislation, stop and search practices, and police use of 'cyber kiosks'.

There has also been positive change when it comes to embedding human rights in strategic policy processes, most notably with the development of a human rights outcome and associated indicators within the revised National Performance Framework. Work is also underway to develop human rights based budgeting and budget analysis indicators, with strong interest from policy makers in this approach. The Commission's Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment tool is also a key resource.

The next ten years

We want human rights to be seen as a means of supporting effective delivery of public services and a lens through which budget decisions are made. We hope public bodies will increasingly take account of the full range of international human rights, and that we can work together to address some of the challenges that brings.





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The right to health means people achieving the highest attainable standard of health for them and there's two factors that affect that. One is making sure that people have access to the services that you need when you are not well, and secondly, that all of us are enabled by the kind of houses we live in, the environment we live in and the income that we have to live as long and healthy lives as possible.

Cath Denholm
NHS Health Scotland

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Securing accountability through dialogue when things go wrong with people's rights

Ten years ago

Human rights were predominantly seen as restrictions on power, adversarial and debated mainly in courtrooms. Their broader potential to secure accountability and define solutions to issues was not well understood by government and public authorities.

Now

We have sustained efforts to strengthen and build on human rights laws in Scotland. And human rights have also begun to be used beyond the courtroom as a means of securing accountability when things go wrong with people's rights. A key example of this has been the Commission's work, alongside many other people and organisations, to secure justice and remedies for survivors of historic child abuse. This involved developing a human rights analysis of the issues, facilitating an 'InterAction' dialogue process between survivors of abuse, government, religious leaders and institutions, and the development of an Action Plan with recommendations now being taken forward by government.

The next ten years

The Historic Abuse InterAction Action Plan Review Group will continue to have a crucial role in ensuring the continued implementation of remedies for survivors. More broadly, the Commission wants to see the Scottish Parliament play a stronger, more systematic role in ensuring accountability for human rights.



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No matter how long ago a crime takes place or how long ago an injustice has happened, everybody has the right to justice. The InterAction process brought together people who had been abused as children in care, as well as care providers, academics and Scottish Government to look at finding ways forward so that survivors could access justice. On 23rd October [2018] the Scottish Parliament announced they were going to have a redress scheme. That was a massive day for survivors.

Helen Holland
In Care Abuse
Survivors

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Monitoring and reporting to the United Nations on human rights in Scotland

Ten years ago

Scotland did not have a National Human Rights Institution that could report directly to the United Nations on devolved human rights issues.

Now

The Commission achieved accreditation as an A-status National Human Rights Institution in 2010, giving us speaking rights at the United Nations Human Rights Council. In our first decade we have gathered and submitted evidence to the UN on the implementation of all relevant international human rights treaties in Scotland. This is a critical part of ensuring state accountability. In some cases, UN recommendations flowing from our engagement have contributed to changes in policy and practice – for example bringing an end to non-statutory stop and search by the police.

We have also engaged in two cycles of the UN's Universal Periodic Review of the implementation of all human rights in Scotland, with the subsequent recommendations reflecting many of the key issues identified. Our treaty monitoring work is designed to add to and complement engagement by civil society organisations. The Commission has also carried out training and capacity building to raise awareness of international treaty system in areas where current civil society engagement is weaker, for example, the Convention Against Torture.

The next ten years

We would like to see the Scottish Parliament take a more systematic approach to following up the implementation of UN treaty body recommendations and concluding observations. We also see more potential to support rights holders and civil society organisations to engage more systematically with monitoring and reporting both at the UN and following up in Scotland.



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The UN Convention has an Article around Independent Living and disabled people are involved in reporting on whether that Convention is being progressed, whether Governments are doing what they need to. What the Scottish Human Rights Commission does, that's where we go to get that really broad, in depth experience around human rights. And what we have to offer is what the lived experiences of those rights are in practice. And I think together, that becomes really really powerful.

Dr Sally Witcher
Inclusion Scotland

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Connecting Scotland and the international human rights system

Ten years ago

Scotland did not have a systematic way of engaging with the international human rights system.

Now

As an A-status National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), the Commission represents Scotland's experiences and interests within the United Nations human rights monitoring system. Beyond that we also bring Scotland's perspective to key discussions about the global development of human rights protections. For example we have engaged with the UN Older Persons Working Group on Ageing and many of the UN special procedures, such as Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts.

We are part of a broader network of our peer NHRIs and have contributed our leadership and practical support in several ways. As Chair of the European Network of NHRIs we helped establish its long-term future, secretariat and sustainability. As Vice Chair of the Global Alliance of NHRIs we engaged with our peers on strategic global human rights issues including climate change and business and human rights. We have also brought international human rights expertise and learning to Scotland.

Most recently we secured EU funding for a Human Rights Budgeting project which has brought international learning on this topic to Scotland through training, developing resources and an online portal. Our work to advance economic and social rights has been supported by the New York based Center for Economic and Social Rights in New York. Finally we have hosted fact-finding and capacity building visits to Scotland by several United Nations experts including on the right to food, extreme poverty, torture prevention and economic, social and cultural rights.

The next ten years

The international human rights system faces significant challenges including rising populism, climate change and narratives that devalue internationalism and the very idea of universal human rights. It is vital that Scotland continues to support, engage with and show leadership within the international human rights system, as well as learning from progressive approaches being taken elsewhere.



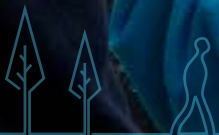
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The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions brings together NHRIs from all over the world. We are 110 worldwide and our mandate is to promote and protect human rights and that means that we advise governments, we monitor the human rights situation on the ground and we hold governments to account.

As an accredited National Human Rights Institution, the Scottish Human Rights Commission can bring their experience to the Human Rights Council, to the UN Treaty Bodies, to share the experience from Scotland with other states and other actors.

Prof DR Beate Rudolf
Global Alliance of
National Human
Rights Institutions

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Working with others to build Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights

Ten years ago

There was no framework for collective, strategic action by government, civil society and public bodies on human rights in Scotland.

Now

SNAP - Scotland's first ever National Action Plan for Human Rights was launched in 2013, following five years of research, development and participation by government, civil society and public authorities. SNAP's development and evolution has been coordinated and supported by the Commission.

In its first four year cycle, SNAP was home to a wide-ranging set of actions and initiatives on issues ranging from housing rights to the right to health to police stop and search. Around fifty organisations were involved in SNAP's governance and delivery. Internationally, SNAP has been cited as a model of good practice for its collaborative approach.

As SNAP moves into its second phase, everyone involved is now applying the learning from the experimental nature of its first four years. The next version of SNAP aims to be more focused, more grounded in the lived experience of people whose rights are affected and more realistic about the resources needed to achieve sustained impact.

The next ten years

With sustained, long-term commitment and investment from across government, the public sector and civil society, SNAP has the potential to create lasting change in Scotland's human rights structure, processes and outcomes in people's lives.



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As an adult, I know how important the right to privacy is to me. I know that there's information that I don't want lots of people to know about me. I want to know that I have control of that information and that people listen to me and take my views into account.

It's exactly the same for children and young people.

Through SNAP we had a Justice and Safety Working Group and this brought together rights holders and duty bearers, including children and young people who had issues around their right to privacy and around stop and search for example.

Juliet Harris
Together - Children's
Rights Alliance
for Scotland

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Broadening engagement with human rights in Scotland

Ten years ago

Engagement with human rights standards and principles was limited to a narrow sphere of issues in Scotland, and a relatively small network of institutions and actors.

Now

The Commission has led thinking and dialogue in Scotland about the relevance, value and importance of human rights in a broad range of contexts. We have been actively involved in advancing the business and human rights agenda, working with government, civil society and business networks to develop an emerging National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. The Commission was also instrumental in supporting Scotland to become one of the first countries to embed human rights in its policy response to climate change. The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games was the first in Games history to develop and adopt a human rights policy, with the Commission's support. Our policy work, our rights based training and our participation and outreach work have all led to a growing network of people and organisations with an interest in and appetite for taking human rights into their own sphere of activity.

The next ten years

Rapid environmental and technological changes are already creating new frontiers in Scotland's human rights landscape. Keeping pace with the challenges and opportunities this presents will be a key priority for both the Commission and the broader human rights community in Scotland.



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We've got an amazing human rights sector in Scotland which is not just made up of human rights activists and experts. It's community workers, it's teachers, it's police officers, it's people who are involved in every walk of life as human rights defenders. They might not know that language but if they're standing up and saying, 'actually we want to be able to change systems in our society', then that's a fantastic alliance of people that we can build on and strengthen in this country to enable rights to become real.

Clare MacGillivray
Community
Development
Practitioner

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Looking ahead

Where will Scotland be on its human rights journey in another ten years? What will the global human rights landscape look like as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebrates its 80th anniversary?

How will the Commission and others respond to both the challenges and opportunities of the 2020s?

Throughout this review we have laid down some markers of where progress is needed in the decade ahead, challenges to overcome, and opportunities to harness. These include:



Ensuring rights are owned and understood by everyone

Enabling people to participate in decisions that affect them and their rights

Embedding and sustaining a rights based culture within public services and across public policy

Closing the accountability gap so that all international human rights are incorporated into domestic law

A stronger role for the Scottish Parliament in ensuring accountability for rights

Deeper and broader engagement by civil society in the United Nations human rights system

Rising to global challenges such as populism and climate change by showing leadership from Scotland

Strengthening collective, strategic action through Scotland's National Action Plan on Human Rights

Keeping pace with the new human rights frontiers being opened up by technological and environmental changes

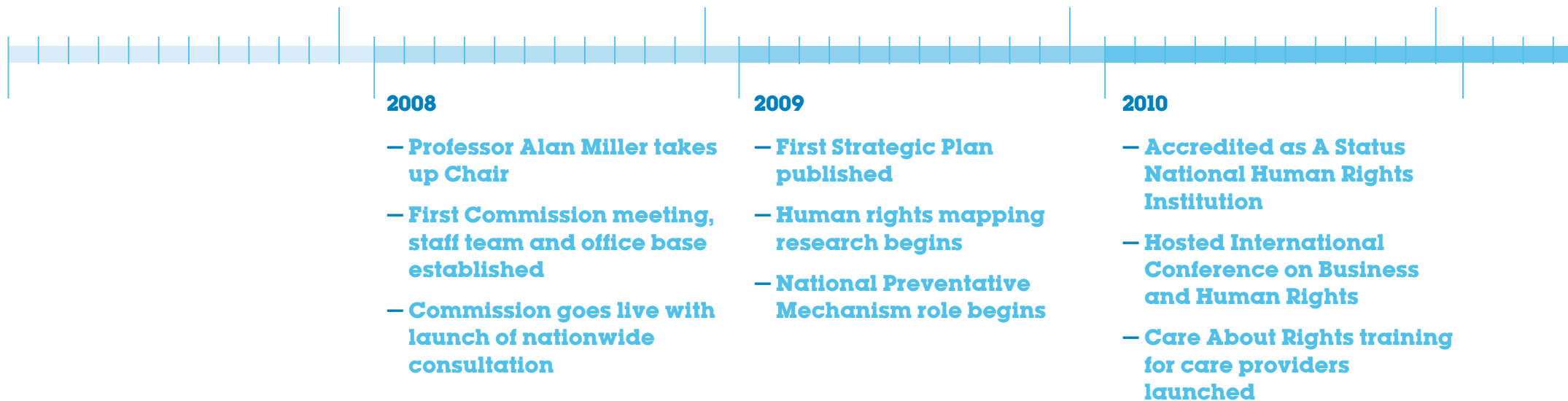
Scotland in 2018 is, for the most part, a positive place to be a human rights defender. The ambitions for human rights that are expressed in politics, the Commission's own work, and frameworks like Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights make us the envy of other countries.

And yet there is still so much to be done to close the gap between that ambition and the dismaying reality of too many people's lived experience of day-to-day failures to realise their rights. With all that we have learned in our first decade, we – the Commission and all of its stakeholders – must make closing this gap our overarching priority.

We are well-placed in Scotland to both learn from and contribute to human rights leadership at a global level. So by 2028, we hope and expect to see Scotland with much stronger laws to protect people's rights, and a much more systematic approach to embedding human rights throughout policy, and – crucially – much better outcomes for people's rights in their everyday lives.



2008 - 2018: Key Milestones



Policy issues engaged with:

...national care standards, social housing, social security, welfare reform, Brexit, mental health, historic childhood abuse, land reform, adults with incapacity, stop and search, armed policing, parliamentary reform, child poverty, police strategy, taxation, climate change, social security, offensive behaviour at football, electronic monitoring, land reform, biometrics, prison inspection standards, violence against women, public procurement...

2008

Human rights treaties monitored and reported on:

Universal Periodic Review, Convention on Rights of the Child, Disability Convention, Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Convention Against Torture, Convention on Civil and Political Rights, Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

2011

- Elected as Chair of European Group of National Human Rights Institutions

2012

- **Getting it Right?** mapping research published
- **Second Strategic Plan** published
- **Engaged with the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of the UK**

2013

- **Historic Abuse InterAction** process begins
- **SNAP: Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights** launched



2014

- Reaccredited as A Status National Human Rights Institution
- Supported Glasgow 2014 to develop first human rights policy for Commonwealth Games

2015

- Housing Rights in Practice project launched
- Held National Innovation Forum on Incorporating International Rights
- Programme of rights-based prison inspections starts

2016

- Judith Robertson takes over Chair from Professor Alan Miller
- Third Strategic Plan published

Events held:

...National Participation Day for Disabled People; National Innovation Forum on Poverty and Human Rights; National Innovation Forum on Incorporating International Human Rights; National Participation Event; International Conference on Human Rights and Climate Change; Rights at Risk Conference on Brexit; Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Workshop Series; Responsibility and Rights Conference – Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games...



Publications & Resources produced

...Care About Rights Training; Human Rights at the State Hospital Research Report; Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment Tool; Putting it Into Practice Case Studies; Audience Insight Research Findings; Getting it Right? Research; SNAP Progress Reports; SNAP Case Studies; Human Rights in Scotland Animations; Disability Convention Animation; Ten Wee Commandments Film Series; Models of Incorporation & Justiciability of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights...

2017

- Engaged in third United Nations Universal Periodic Review of the UK
- National Participation Process to inform future of SNAP

2018

- Ran Human Rights Budgeting Project with EU funding
- Joined newly-established First Minister's Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership

2018

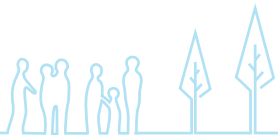


On behalf of the Scottish Human Rights Commission, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our first ten years of impact as Scotland's National Human Rights Institution, including all members of the Commission past and present, and our founding Chair, Professor Alan Miller.

Particular thanks must go to our staff team – a small team that delivers a huge amount of work on behalf of the Commission, and whose combined expertise, skill and knowledge is one of our biggest strengths.

Strong independent human rights institutions are one of the benchmarks of a rights-respecting society. Over the next ten years, we at the Commission look forward to playing our part, along with all of you, in the next stage of Scotland's human rights journey - a journey with people, and their rights, at its heart.

Judith Robertson
Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission



Members of the Commission, past and present

Judith Robertson **Chair of the Commission, 2016 - present**

Professor Alan Miller **Chair of the Commission, 2008 - 2016**

Jane-Claire Judson **Member of the Commission, 2017 - present**

Alan Mitchell **Member of the Commission, 2015 - present**

Susan Kemp **Member of the Commission, 2015 - present**

Matt Smith OBE **Member of the Commission, 2010 - 2017**

Professor Kay Hampton **Member of the Commission, 2008 - 2015**

Shelagh McCall **Member of the Commission, 2008 - 2015**

John McNeill **Member of the Commission, 2008 - 2010**





Scottish
Human Rights
Commission

The Scottish Human Rights Commission is the National Human Rights Institution for Scotland. We are an independent public body, accountable to the Scottish Parliament, with a mandate to promote and protect human rights for everyone in Scotland. We are accredited with A-Status within the United Nations human rights system.

www.scottishhumanrights.com

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