# Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in the Highlands and Islands

A map of the united kingdom

Description automatically generated

**Easy Read**

Easy Read logo of woman smiling and reading an Easy Read
 

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| Report by the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) |  |

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## Background

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|  | We are the Scottish Human Rights Commission. |
| A green and white calendar with numbers  Description automatically generatedA blue background with white text  Description automatically generated | In 2023 we reported to the United Nations. |
|  | We said there was not enough housing in the Highlands and Islands and that it was expensive. |
| A hospital building with ambulances parked in front of it  Description automatically generated | We also said there were problems with accessing health care and education. |
| A green and white calendar with numbers  Description automatically generatedA person holding a clipboard  Description automatically generated | In April 2023 we decided to do more work in the Highlands and Islands. |
| A white notebook with black text  Description automatically generated | We have now published a report to tell people what we found. |

## Our approach

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| A white cruise ship in water  Description automatically generatedA group of people sitting around a table  Description automatically generated | We did this work by traveling and meeting many people. |
| A person holding a clipboard with a green check mark on it  Description automatically generatedA person holding a clipboard with a red x on it  Description automatically generated | Our report says what is happening to the human rights in the Highlands and Islands. |

## Our findings

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| A person holding a clipboard with x and red cross marks  Description automatically generated | Our report says that there are big challenges for some human rights in the Highlands and Islands. |
|  | We say there are serious issues with things like food, housing, and healthcare. |
| A person in a red shirt pointing her finger  Description automatically generated | We also say that things seem to be getting worse for human rights. |
| A person standing next to a white board with red x marks  Description automatically generated | We say that many public services are having problems. For example, healthcare services. |

## Our recommendations

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| A blue square with a white number on it  Description automatically generated | We have made 8 recommendations. |
| A silver scale with a black background  Description automatically generated | The Scottish Government should make stronger human rights laws. |
| A clock with a red triangle and a black background  Description automatically generated | Some things are urgent and the Scottish Government and other organisations who are responsible should act now. |
| A person holding a sign with a green tick and red cross  Description automatically generated | All public services need to be improved. Thinking about human rights when planning public services would help with this. |
| A person holding her hand to her ear  Description automatically generated | The organisations responsible for human rights in Scotland, such as the government and local authorities, need to listen to people more often. |
| A person standing next to a group of sheep  Description automatically generated | Plans for delivering things like healthcare, education and housing need to be flexible, so they work well everywhere, including rural areas. |
| A person talking to a person  Description automatically generated | When the organisations responsible for public services are doing their planning, specifically 'impact assessments', they must look at human rights. |
| A black arrow in a target  Description automatically generated | The Scottish Government must have a set of goals to improve human rights. |
| Bags of money with currency symbols  Description automatically generated | People who are deciding how much money is available to spend on public services need to think about human rights. |

## Conclusions

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| A blue logo with a black background  Description automatically generatedFlags from a roof  Description automatically generated | We are asking the Scottish Government and Parliament to consider our report. |
| A group of people sitting around a table  Description automatically generated | We plan to do more work like this report in other parts of Scotland. |
| A person holding a sign with a green tick and red cross  Description automatically generated | We hope our report can help make things better. |
| A computer with a blue screen  Description automatically generated | You can read the full report on our website at [www.scottishhumanrights.com](https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/projects-and-programmes/spotlight-projects/economic-social-and-cultural-rights-in-the-highlands-and-islands/) |