

Answers to our Human Rights Bill consultation questions

Easy Read Version

January 2024

Scottish Government



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About this document



This is an Easy Read document.



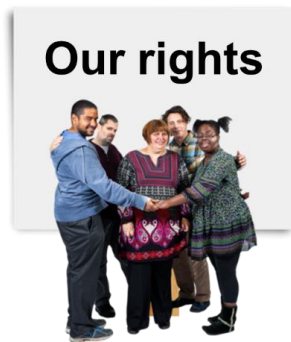
It will tell you what people and organisations answered to questions we asked.

The questions were part of the **Human Rights** Bill Consultation.



Human Rights mean the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world.

About the consultation



The **Human Rights Bill** is a new set of human rights laws that we want to happen in Scotland.



A **consultation** is when the Scottish Government asks people for their views before important changes are made.



The Human Rights Bill Consultation asked the public what they thought about new human rights laws in Scotland.



The consultation was open from 15 June 2023 to 5 October 2023.



The consultation had 52 questions.



People could answer the questions in different ways:



- online using Citizen Space



- by email



- in an Easy Read document or a child-friendly document



- by post
- at consultation events



Nearly 400 people and organisations answered the consultation.



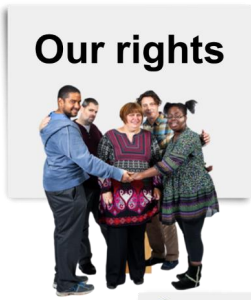
There were 7 events organised by the Scottish Government where anyone could come and join in the discussions.

Answers came from:



- people
- local councils
- organisations
- schools and university staff
- lawyers
- businesses
- charities





The consultation asked about:

- putting rights into law
- the right to a healthy environment
- other rights and equality
- duties
- getting justice
- putting the law into action



Some of these tricky words will be explained later in this document.

Putting rights into law



This part of the consultation is about putting 4 **treaties** into Scots law.



Treaties are human rights laws that have been agreed by lots of countries around the world.

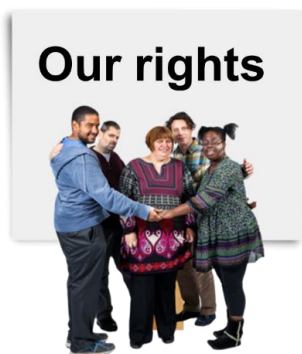
The 4 treaties are:

1. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, called ICESCR for short.

ICESCR is a big list of human rights to try and make our lives better.

They include rights about:

- our work
- our education
- our basic needs



2. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, called CEDAW for short.

CEDAW is a big list of rights for women.

It says that women and girls should be treated equally.



3. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, called CRPD for short.

CRPD is a big list of rights for disabled people.

It says that disabled people have the same rights as everyone else.



4. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, called ICERD for short.

ICERD is a big list of rights to stop people being treated differently because of their **race**.



Race means our background and things like:

- coming from different places
- having different skin colours
- having passports from different countries

What people told us about putting rights into law



Lots of people said they liked having **human dignity** in the new laws.

Human dignity means being treated as a whole person, with feelings and needs.



Some people asked for clearer information about:

- human dignity
- how human dignity becomes part of the **Minimum Core Obligations**



Minimum Core Obligations are the basic levels of human rights that must always be given.



People also liked some of the ways we are putting the treaties into Scots law.

This is also called the model of incorporation.



They liked that we are putting the rights into law.

But some people want to see stronger protections for **vulnerable** groups, especially disabled people.



Vulnerable groups are groups of people who may need extra protection because of reasons like:

- their age
- their disabilities
- their risk of being hurt or harmed



Most people agreed that there should be a first step for public organisations like hospitals, schools and police to plan for human rights.



And then have a second step where human rights must happen.

The right to a healthy environment



This part is about the right to a healthy **environment**.

Environment means the things around us, like:

- the places where we live and work
- the places we like to visit
- the air we breathe
- the water around us



What people told us about the right to a healthy environment



Most people agreed that this should be a human right in Scotland.

People also said they wanted to make sure these things were included in the right:



- healthy and safe food



- clean water



- good ways of dealing with our waste water

Other rights and equality



Equality means everyone getting the same chances to do what they can.

Some people may need extra help to get the same chances.



This part is about how we deal with other rights, including **civil and political rights**.

Civil and political rights are rights that protect everyone's freedom to do things like:



- express themselves
- vote for a political party



This part of the consultation is also about making sure that:

- human rights are accessed equally by everyone, without leaving anyone out
- everyone has a say about how the Bill is put into practice



What people told us about other rights



Lots of people said they wanted the Human Rights Act – which has civil and political rights in it – to be part of how the Bill is put into practice.



Lots of people said they wanted us to put a new right in – the right to have a say in how the Bill is put into practice.

Many people said it was important that there is equal protection of everyone's rights.



Many people wanted certain groups to be protected by new laws:



- **LGBTI** people – this means people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex
- older people



Lots of people asked for clearer information about how to put the Bill into action so that everyone can know.

Duties



This part is about the **duties**.

Duties mean who needs to do what, to make sure that these new human rights happen.

What people told us about the duties



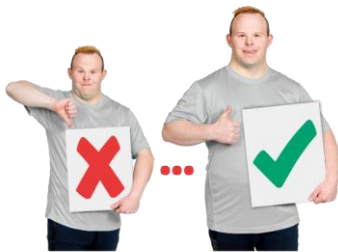
Lots of people said they liked:

- the plan about duties
- having a few steps to put human rights into place over time
- the Minimum Core Obligations



Many people asked for clearer information about:

- who has these duties
- what organisations need to do
- the details of the plan



Many people want to see stronger duties on the rights in CRPD.

This would help people get justice when their rights have not been met.

Getting justice



This part is about people being able to get **justice** when their human rights have not been respected.

Justice means making things right when the law has not been followed.

What people told us about getting justice

Lots of people said they liked:



- the plan on how to deal with complaints
- the changes that will be made to some organisations so they can check how well human rights are being put into action.



Many people asked for clearer information about:

- these plans
- how things might change
- how organisations will work together

Many people said that there will need to be enough:



- money and staff
- training
- advice services
- **advocacy services**



Advocacy services offer someone to speak up for you, when you cannot speak up for yourself at that time.

Putting the law into action



This part is about how the Human Rights Bill will be put into action.

Action will happen in stages so that there is enough time for organisations to prepare.

What people told us about putting the law into action



Lots of people said they liked:

- having several stages to put human rights into place over time
- the Minimum Core Obligations



Many people said that these people should help with the plan:

- organisations like charities
- people from groups who most need their human rights protected



They also said that there needs to be clear information that everyone can understand.



People said there should be information in:

- audio
- braille
- British Sign Language
- Easy Read
- large print



Many people said that there needs to be good planning ahead so that the right levels of money and training are in place in the future.



Some people also wanted details like times, dates and actions in the plans.



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