

The Human Rights Act: Important rules for making sure our rights are made real in the UK



This Easy Read report was checked by Kirklees Involvement Network.

Stop Hello Eat
Words
Person Day Open

We have explained some of the words that are used a lot in this report:

Human rights are rules to protect people, that every person has just because they are human.

Human rights are about making sure people are listened to and treated with dignity and respect and fairness.

Human rights are in a UK law called the Human Rights Act.



This report is about what people have told us and we have given this information to the **Independent Review of the Human Rights Act**.

We call it "**our report**" or "**this report**."



The Independent Review of the Human Rights Act is a group of 8 lawyers and people that study the law. The UK Government has asked them to look at the Human Rights Act to decide if it is working well. We call it "the Review".



The people doing the Review have asked people what they think about the Human Rights Act and if it is working well. The questions look at how the Human Rights Act works in courts.





We use the words **"staff and officials"** in our report.

This means people who work in services like health and care. It also means officials such as social workers, police and teachers.



Who are we?

When we say **"we"**, we mean the British Institute of Human Rights.

We sometimes shorten our name to BIHR.

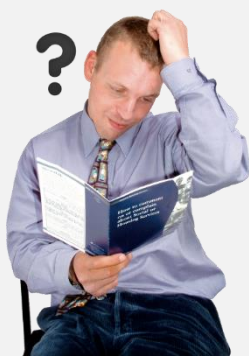
We are a human rights charity that works across the UK.



What our report is about

The Independent Review of the Human Rights Act is looking at how the Human Rights Act is working in the UK.

At BIHR we were worried that the questions asked by the Review were very hard and not too clear. The questions focused on using the Human Rights Act in courts and didn't ask people to share how they have used the Human Rights Act in their everyday lives.





We organised 5 workshops on Zoom to tell people about how the Human Rights Act works and asked people to share their views of using the Human Rights Act. We also asked people to fill in a survey.



Over 400 people came to our workshops and completed our survey.

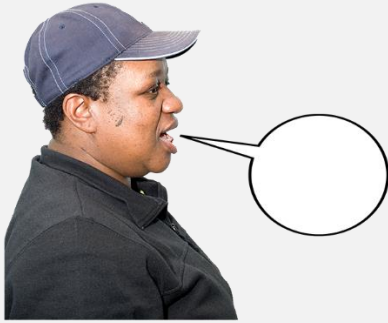


Thank you to everyone who came to a workshop or completed our survey.

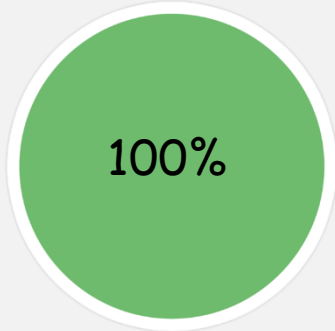


This report is about what the people who joined our Zoom workshops and filled in our survey told us about how they have used the Human Rights Act.

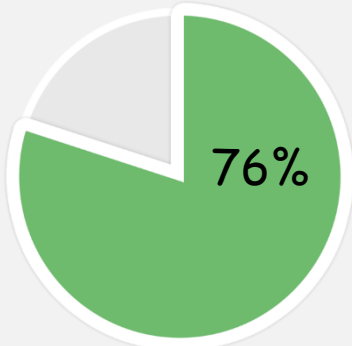
This report also includes BIHR's own views on the Human Rights Act.



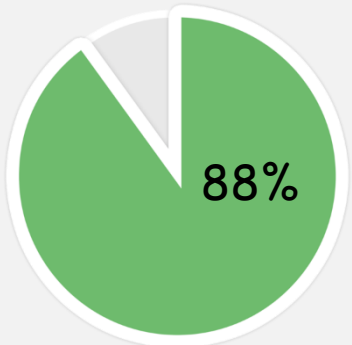
What people told us



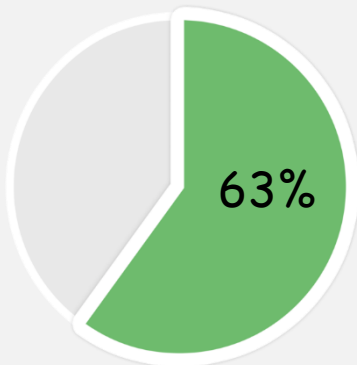
Everyone who filled in our survey or joined our workshop said that the Human Right Act was important to them.



76% have either used the Human Rights Act in their life or work to help change things for the better or know someone who has.



88% are worried that this Review might mean that their rights are not looked after as much.



63% of staff who work in public bodies and services have used the Human Rights Act to help change the way the way people are treated and make policies better, (these are rules that organisations have to work by).

What we think needs to happen



Everyone we spoke to about the Human Rights Act agreed that it was a good piece of law that works well.

At BIHR we agree with this, but we know that the government still have to make some changes to make sure that everyone has their rights made real every day.



The Human Rights Act says that all staff working in public services have to look after and respect people's human rights. But, lots of staff are not properly trained and supported to use the Human Rights Act.

We think that instead of changing the Human Rights Act the government should look at supporting people to understand and use it.



When the government is looking at the Human Rights Act, they must make sure that people who use the Human Rights Act every day are listened to.



When the government is looking at the Human Rights Act, they must also ask about how it works outside of the court rooms. For example, they should look at how the Human Rights Act works in public services like the NHS, the police, and social services.



Anything that looks at how The Human Rights Act is working (this is called a review) must look at how the Human Rights Act works in the different nations of the UK (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales).



The Government must show a good example and be good leaders by making sure that people get their human rights and must do more to make sure this happens.



The government should not change the Human Rights Act. The government should look at the reasons why people are not having their human rights looked after and respected in the UK. They should take action to make sure that we all have our human rights protected and respected, every day.



Contact us

To talk to us about the report please get in touch with Carlyn Miller by email. Carlyn's email is cmiller@bihr.org.uk