



## Scotland's civil society network to defend and promote human rights

We are a network of over 200 organisations committed to human rights in Scotland being better understood, protected and realised. We actively work together to make this happen.

Our strategic outcomes drive our actions and define our impact:

**Outcome 1:** A strong, collective civil society voice to defend and promote human rights in Scotland.

**Outcome 2:** Civil society has the understanding and resources that it needs to defend and promote human rights in Scotland.

'I am so grateful to you all for the way you keep us informed, connected, engaged, challenged, educated, supported and inspired.'  
– Member of the Lived Experience Board

# What we do

- **Facilitate collaborations:** We are the key convener of diverse organisations in Scotland on human rights, and we enable them to work together for maximum impact. This looks like joint letters, partner projects, shared policy submissions.
- **Engage with key decision-makers:** We bring civil society and lived expertise voices on human rights to those shaping law, policy and practice through engaging directly with UK and Scottish Governments, Parliaments, and media.
- **Publish accessible resources:** We develop, collate and communicate excellent resources, and commission in-depth reports, to enable Scottish civil society to have all the understanding they need to be strong advocates for human rights.
- **Host high-impact events:** We host excellent meetings and events, addressing crucial topics such as the upcoming Scottish Human Rights Bill, the COVID-19 Public Inquiry, the cost-of-living crisis, access to justice, and more. More than 1000 people took part in Consortium events in 2022-23.
- **Build a human rights community:** We maintain an active digital presence, engaging with thousands through social media, and our monthly e-newsletter keeps over 650 individuals informed about the latest human rights developments.

## We believe that the way we do things, as well as what we do, is really important.

**We include and empower the many civil society voices on human rights.** Our aim is not to be the sole civil society voice on human rights in Scotland. Instead, we enable the many smaller or less usual organisations to advocate effectively for human rights.

**We seek to build a strong and supportive human rights community.** We facilitate organisations to share information, expertise, and support, breaking down silos and isolation.

‘The consultation guide from the Consortium was invaluable for our network. It made the key issues and questions in the consultation understandable’  
– Voluntary Health Scotland

**We focus on cross-human rights concerns.** There are many excellent organisations who focus on particular aspects of human rights such as women’s rights, or refugee rights - the Consortium is a unique network that works across all human rights in Scotland.

**We value equality and inclusion.** We design all that we do to include everyone who wants to take part. Our information resources are not full of jargon, but instead are seen as accessible and valuable.

‘Really fantastic work from everyone at the Consortium, you’ve done brilliantly in mobilising so many people and responding.’  
– Liberty

**We always work in partnership, including across the UK.** The Consortium has a strong reputation for partnership. We work very closely with the Human Rights Consortium in Northern Ireland, with the Wales Civil Society Forum, and coordinate regularly with organisations at a UK level including Equally Ours and Liberty.

## Our Achievements from 2022-23 include:

- **Network Growth:** We proudly boast an active and growing network of 210 diverse organisational members, representing different groups, issues and locations. For example, our members include Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland, Glasgow Disability Alliance, Grampian Regional Equality Council and Engender.
- **Strong civil society voice for enhanced human rights law:** We led significant civil society engagement around Scotland's forthcoming human rights law. For example, over 400 organisations took part on our Bill consultation events. We are active members of several Government work groups on the Bill. We coordinated joint letters to Ministers to successfully call for the Bill's development to be properly prioritised and for implementation planning to start now.
- **Lived expertise amplified:** We have raised the voice of people whose rights are at risk through expert facilitation of a Government Lived Experience Board. We are now holding the Government accountable for actioning the Board's advice.
- **UN Monitoring:** We coordinated Scottish organisations to give joint written and oral evidence to the UN Committee on Economic and Social Rights, amplifying concerns around everyday rights.
- **A clear Scottish civil society voice in UK rights debates:** Working closely with UK partners, we facilitated Scottish organisations to oppose repeal of the Human Rights Act, to improve the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill and to work together to resist the Illegal Migration Act.
- **Civil Society Conference 2022:** Our leadership brought together 80 organisations from across the UK to Edinburgh to share expertise and enable effective collaborations for change.

# Operational excellence

- **Staff:** We have a small staff team of 3.7 FTE people. We firmly believe that staff who love their jobs, plus excellent teamwork, bring maximum impact. Find out about our staff team [here](#).
- **Diverse Funding:** We have diverse funding sources, with support from esteemed organisations like the Corra Foundation and the Legal Education Foundation. View our annual accounts [here](#).
- **Excellence in Governance:** Our Board membership and strategic leadership is robust and effective. View our Board members [here](#).
- **Human Rights-Based:** We have excellent organisational policies and processes that make sure we take a human rights-based approach to all that we do. We are taking steps to develop as an anti-racist organisation.

Join us in our journey to create a Scotland where human rights are valued, protected, and championed by all.



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