

# Human Rights Bill



## Report from the Human Rights Bill Lived Experience Board in May 2022



## Easy Read





The Scottish Government set up a Lived Experience **Board**.



In this document a **Board** is a group of people who go to meetings together.



People who have **lived experience** of **human rights** difficulties were invited to join this Board.



**Lived experience** means people have had challenges in their life.

## Our rights



**Human rights** are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to everyone in the world.



This Board is a group of people who will give advice to the Scottish Government.

## Our rights



**Law**



This advice is on new law on human rights.



## Meeting



There were 3 Board meetings in May 2022.



These meetings were organised by the Human Rights Consortium Scotland.



The group was asked how they felt about how to get **justice** when things go wrong.

In this document **justice** means things like:

- making a complaint
- going to court

## 1. Problems people told us about getting information



**Inclusive communication** needs to be used at all times when people are part of a justice process.

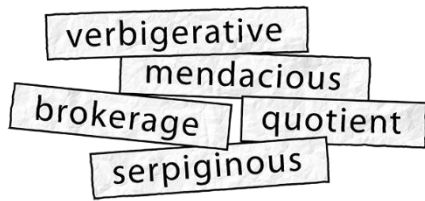
**Inclusive communication** means being offered things like:

- British Sign Language
- documents in a different language
- Large Print
- braille
- Easy Read

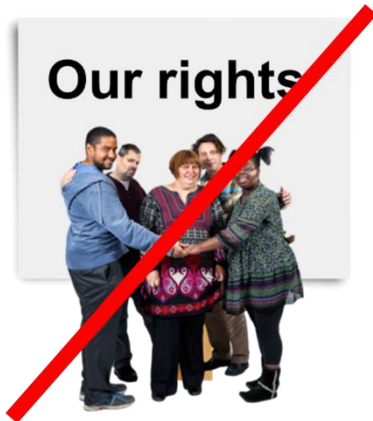


It is hard to get **interpreters** when you need them.

An **interpreter** is someone who takes information in one language and repeats it in another language.



It is a big problem when words used are long and complicated.



It is a problem when:

- someone doesn't know their human rights
- someone doesn't know who to speak to about their rights



Everyone needs to learn about human rights.

It is hard to get advice and about rights.



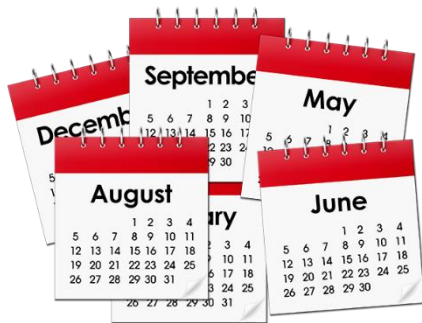
It can be hard to find a lawyer.



It is harder to get advice and support if you have a **complicated situation**.

A **complicated situation** means that you might have many problems all at the same time.

## 2. Problems people told us about time



Some people said that court processes – like hearings – take too long.



### 3. Problems told us about money



Some justice cases are about a larger group.

But the cost is paid by just 1 person.



If people can't afford to use the internet then they can't get the information they need **to access justice**.

Poverty stops people getting to justice.



There are costs like:

- not working while a case happens
- needing childcare



## 4. Problems people told us about emotional stress



Emotional stress is feelings like:

- worry
- anxiety
- overwhelm
- panic
- fear



When someone has to fight for justice it is very stressful in ways like their:

- emotional wellbeing
- mental health
- money worries



You get seen as a troublemaker if you say there are problems.



There needs to be support so that people feel:

- less alone
- that there are others who have had the same kind of experience



There needs to be **advocacy** for everyone.

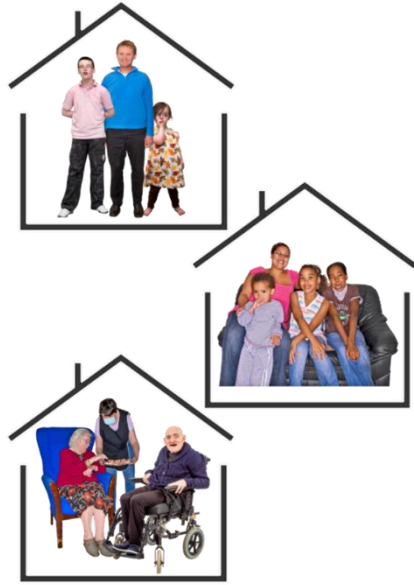
**Advocacy** means making sure that people can tell other people and services what they want and need.



An **independent advocate** is someone who is not on one side or the other side. They stay fair.

These places should welcome **independent advocates**:

- courts
- care homes
- public organisations – like police, schools and hospitals



Advocates should be there for:

- parents
- whole families
- carers



Many people who are trying to access justice have experienced **trauma**.

**Trauma** means the upsetting feelings someone can keep having, after something bad has happened to them.



It is important that people's trauma is thought about when they access justice.



Emotional stress was a big part of everyone's feedback.

So the Scottish Government should think about having another aim or principle.

They could call it 'supporting' or 'empowering'.

## **5. Problems people told us about getting justice and ideas for change**



It is unfair when 1 person at a time has to fight for change, on their own.



There are many things that put people off getting justice through a court.



There is racism against Gypsy Travellers in all parts of the law system.



Often, **asylum seekers** do not get their rights.

**Asylum seekers** are people in crisis from other countries who are asking permission to live in the UK.



People want different kinds of solutions to rights problems.



They all need to help someone feel they have more **dignity**.

**Dignity** means how respected someone feels.



When authorities don't give human rights, something should happen to make everyone know that wasn't right.



Public authorities and care homes should:

- get better at dealing with complaints
- ask for feedback



We need to get it right in the first place so that problems don't need to go to court.



**Rights**

Public authorities need to do more to respect human rights.



## 7. Listening to people



Not everyone can reach their politician for support.



Public authorities need to be listening to everyday people to see what feedback is saying.



People who make decisions need to listen more.