

MINUTES
7th MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
13 JULY, 2010
CONFERENCE ROOM
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT: Richard Coles Chairman
Rev. Nicholas Sykes Member
Catherine Frazier Member

APOLOGIES: Sara Collins Member
Alistair Walters Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deborah Bodden Manager
Michael Ebanks Analyst

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

2. Confirmation of previous minutes

- i. Mention made that the Human Rights Commission's website is live for public access at: <http://www.humanrightscommission.ky> but that there is an issue with Government users accessing the site at this time. Once all of the proxy settings have been worked out by Computer Services, the Secretariat will issue a press release.
- ii. A member questioned whether the complaints procedure in relation to prisoners had been agreed upon between the Chairman and the Director of the Prisons. We have had no confirmation from the Director as to setting up a meeting.
- iii. The minutes of the 6th June, 2010 meeting were approved by the Commission.

3. Outstanding Business

a. Update on Mental Health Research

- i. The Secretariat reported to the Commission that research is on-going into the subject matter, and data gathering continues to progress through information exchange with various authorities relating to the matter.
- ii. The Commission was informed that the Ministry of Health has formed a Task Force comprising of Public-Private membership to address aspects including, although not limited to, policy framework and legislation.
- iii. Research by the Secretariat on the subject matter will continue with intention of generating a synopsis of the current situation for the Commission to make a final decision regarding conducting a full investigation and preparing a report.

4. New Business

a. Feedback on Criminal Justice Bills

The Chairman gave a summary of the proposed changes in each of the Bills and a letter-of-response to the Attorney General's Office on the review of The Evidence (Amendment) Bill, 2010 and The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) (No.2) Bill,

2010 prepared by the Secretariat in conjunction with the Commission was reviewed, and agreed upon, by the Commission.

b. Education of Public on Bill of Rights, Freedoms & Responsibilities

- i. The Secretariat and the Commission made mention of exploring mechanisms to promote public awareness and knowledge of the Bill of Rights in the short and long term.
- ii. The Ministry of Education will be contacted to gain an understanding by the Commission as to the steps currently in place and/or forecasted to address education of school children and students in relation to the subject matter. The HRC would like to encourage the inclusion of the BoRF&R in the school curriculum and will set out what assistance the HRC may be able to provide to the Ministry.
- iii. The search for an official logo of the Commission continues; in the interim, mention was made to strategically place the Commission's Human Rights awareness banners at various locations within the islands to further promote the subject matter.

c. Training of Commission Members

- i. The Secretariat had previously e-mailed the members pamphlets on possible training opportunities by the Australian Human Rights Commission, however no feedback has been received from two of the members and one reported that the time given is not convenient for them.
- ii. Response from the entire Commission will further the discussion and scheduling of such training will take place accordingly.

d. Human Rights Complainants

The Commission discussed a follow up response to complaint 008/2010 and discussed two new complaints (001/2010 and 002/2010). It was decided that initial investigations would be conducted into both of the new complaints based on possible breaches or infringements of rights in accordance with the ECHR.

5. Any Other Business

a. Constitution Week 2010

Appreciation was conveyed to the Secretariat from the Commission in relation to the various activities and promotion aspects of Constitutional Week.

b. Role of the Commission and the Secretariat

The Secretariat is responsible for providing analytical and administrative support to the Commission; maintaining and keeping custody of all records and property of the Commission in accordance with the Commissions policies; and procuring the arrangements of any resource the Commission deems as necessary. The Secretariat shall, at all times, ensure that the decisions of the Commission are followed up and implemented and will be responsible for managing the finances of the Commission which shall include working with the Chairman to create an appropriate budget for submission six months prior to the end of the fiscal year. The HRC has no responsibility for the hiring, terms of employment, or disciplinary procedures of the Secretariat staff as all personnel issues are dealt with in accordance with the Public Service Management Law (2007 Revision) by the Chief Officer, Portfolio of Internal and External Affairs.

c. Radio Show – 96.5 - Talk Live

Mr. Coles has accepted an invitation to be a guest on Talk Live on 9th August at 7:30am.

d. Human Rights Day, 2010

The Secretariat mentioned that "Human Rights Day" is 10th December 2010 and asked that all members make note of this date as they will be asked to participate in an event on this day i.e. Daybreak, Talk Today, etc.

6. Items to be discussed at the next meeting

- a. Meeting between Chairman and Director of Prisons;
- b. Progress report by the Secretariat on mental health research;
- c. Public Education Campaign Ideas;
- d. Training of Commission Members;
- e. Progress report by the Secretariat on HR Complaints 001/2010 and 002/2010; and
- f. Appearance on Talk Live.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th August, 2010 @ 3:30pm in the Commissions Secretariat Boardroom.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.



Mr. Richard Coles
CHAIRMAN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION