

What is the Human Rights Commission (HRC)?

The HRC was established under section 116 of the 2009 Constitution as an independent body responsible for promoting understanding and observance of human rights in the Cayman Islands.

What do I do if my rights have been breached or infringed?

The Commission will receive 1) all complaints of breaches or infringements of any section of the Bill of Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities committed by a public official; 2) all complaints of breaches or infringements of common law and statutory human rights and freedoms committed by public officials; and 3) all complaints that any international human rights treaty extended to the Cayman Island has been breached or infringed by the actions of public officials or by legislation to which the treaty applies.

It is important to note that the Commission will only accept complaints of alleged breaches of the Bill of Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities which have occurred after 6 November, 2012. This may be a one off event that has occurred after 6 November 2012 or may be a continuing infringement of a right. In all cases, unless there is clear evidence that the alleged infringement is continuing, the Commission will not accept a complaint in relation to an alleged infringement that has taken place more than one (1) year prior to the date of the complaint.

Cayman Islands Human Rights Commission

2nd Floor Artemis House
67 Fort Street
P.O. Box 391
George Town, Grand Cayman KY1-1106

Tel: 1.345.244.3685

Fax: 1.345.945-8649

Email: info@humanrightscommission.ky

Web: www.humanrightscommission.ky

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cihrc

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These materials are for informational purposes only and do not constitute legal advice. These materials are intended, but not promised or guaranteed to be current, complete, or up-to-date and should in no way be taken as a replacement for referring to the Constitution itself.

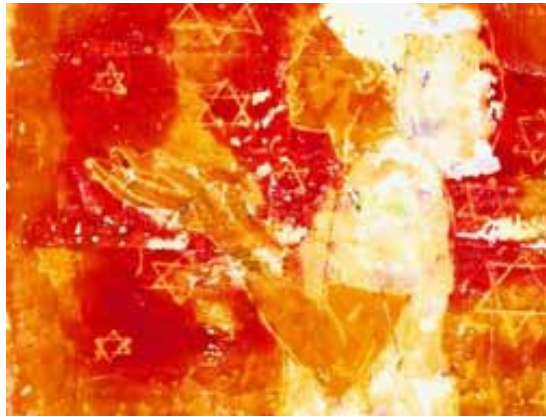


promoting, protecting and preserving human rights



CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

Cayman Islands
Human Rights Commission



In Simple Terms

You are free to hold particular beliefs, and to practice your religion.

No one can tell you what to think or believe about God or religion, unless your beliefs could harm others.

You have a choice. You should take the time to understand the differences among religions and respect the choices of other people.

This right protects you, and your children, from being forced to receive religious instruction that does not follow your, or their, personal beliefs.

This right is a qualified right.

Type of Right

Qualified Rights

Qualified rights are rights that can lawfully be restricted or taken away by the government in certain broadly defined circumstances. Usually, the right is set out and followed by a list of criteria which explain the general circumstances when it will be lawful for the state to interfere with or restrict the right, balancing those rights against the rights and interests of others.

A Few Examples

- This right allows church schools to continue teaching their religious principles to willing children, regardless of whether or not the schools receive government funding.
- This right also allows schools and community educational institutions to impose requirements on employment, admission, or curriculum design, in order to maintain the schools' religious beliefs, subject to the laws in force.
- Under this right you can not be forced to take an oath which is contrary to your religion or belief.
- Children cannot be forced to receive religious instruction or participate in religious ceremonies that relate to a religion other than their own.

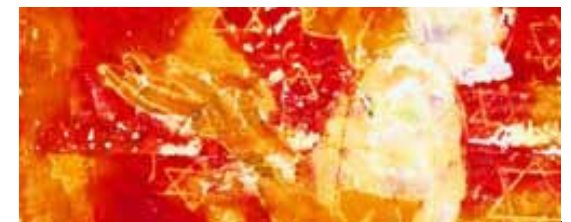
What are human rights?

Human rights are the essential rights and freedoms that belong to all individuals regardless of their nationality and citizenship. These rights are considered fundamental to maintaining a fair and just society. The preamble to the 2009 Constitution details the values of the Cayman Islands upon which this legislation was drafted.

How are human rights applied in the Cayman Islands?

Human rights in the Cayman Islands only apply vertically which means that a person's rights are enforced against the Government only and not against private individuals.

It should be noted however, the Government will have to take account of the human rights set out in the Constitution when passing local laws, so there will be 'indirect' horizontal application of human rights principles to private individuals. This means that they will not pass laws which knowingly allow one private individual to violate another private individual's rights even though you could not take the human rights case to court.



Original artwork by Nassaria Suckoo Chollette