

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**9 JUNE 2016**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**ARTEMIS HOUSE**

<b>PRESENT:</b> James Austin-Smith	Chairman
Ben Tonner (in part)	Member
Reverend Donovan Myers	Member
Lisa-Ann Hurlston-McKenzie	Member
Danielle Coleman	Member

**APOLOGIES:** N/A

**COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Deborah Bodden	Manager
Sheila Alvarez	Administrator/Analyst
Lise Hurlstone	Administrator/Analyst

1. **Meeting called to order**  
The meeting was called to order at 2:44pm.
2. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**  
The 5 May 2016 minutes were approved.
3. **Outstanding Business**
  - a. **Response to Labour Relations Bill**  
The draft letter to the Minister of Education outlining the Commission's concerns with the Bill was approved by all with minor amendments. The Secretariat will finalise the draft letter with these comments and submit it to the Ministry on the Commission's behalf.
  - b. **Mental Health Educational Pamphlets**  
The pamphlets were approved with no changes. The Secretariat will move ahead liaising with Government Information Services for assistance with finalising the layout and design of the pamphlets for hard-copy and electronic publication for the use of mental health professionals.
  - c. **Response to Discussion Paper on Bullying**  
The draft letter was approved by all with minor changes. The Secretariat will finalise the draft letter with these comments and submit it to the Cayman Islands Law Reform Commission (CILRC) on the Commission's behalf.

**d. Operation of the Human Rights Commission**

Members noted the large volume of work the Commission is currently facing and agreed the best way forward to meet the necessary deadlines.

**e. Prohibited Immigrants Report**

The Commission discussed the report and provided feedback on the issue of prohibited immigrants, which relates to several cases currently before the Commission. The Commission was informed that the draft legislation and policy related to this issue is still in progress with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Secretariat will update the report and send it back out for further consideration in order to finalise it at the next meeting.

**f. CCTV Report**

- i. Members approved the draft letter to the Chief Officer of the Ministry of Education regarding their review of the human rights implications of the policy governing the use of CCTVs and video surveillance in schools. The Secretariat will finalise the draft letter and submit to the Ministry on the Commission's behalf.
- ii. The Commission discussed the report and requested further research be conducted in some of the areas regarding the report. The Secretariat will conduct the necessary research, update the report and send it back out for further consideration in order to finalise it at the next meeting.

**4. New Business**

**a. Migrants**

The Commission recently corresponded with the Chief Officer of the Ministry of Home Affairs, comprehensively identifying the concerns raised for the Commission over the past seven months since it became heavily involved with migrants. The Commission also discussed improvements to its own processes of accepting complaints from migrants and the concept of a legal aid clinic set up by the Department of Immigration when migrants request legal representation.

**b. Use of Taser Policy**

The Commission, today, released a statement as requested by a member of the media in response to the use of a Taser on an individual by the RCIPS. It was agreed that no further action is required of the Commission at this time.

**c. Viewpoint Re: Environmental Concerns**

The Commission has noted a viewpoint (released on Cayman News Service on 2 June) concerning environmental claims regarding the George Town landfill. It was agreed that no further action is required of the Commission at this time.

**d. LGBT Conference**

The Commission was reminded about the upcoming "Queering Paradigms" conference that is being held at the Chamber of Commerce conference room this weekend. Members also discussed the call from multiple MLAs this week for a referendum on the issue of same sex marriage. It was agreed that no further action is required of the Commission at this time.

**e. World Refugee Day**

The Commission agreed it would release a statement to mark the observation of World Refugee Day 2016 on 20 June 2016.

**5. Human Rights Complaints**

**a. Update on Human Rights Complaint 014/2013**

The Commission was updated on this complaint which is now closed. However, the public authority has indicated that they wish to provide a response on the Commission's decision on the matter. It is noted that member Ben Tonner continues to recuse himself from this complaint.

**b. Update on Human Rights Complaint 006/2014**

This complaint was deferred until the next meeting. In the interim, the Secretariat will make amendments to the report as requested, per the feedback of Commission members.

**c. Update on Human Rights Complaint 014/2014**

This complaint was deferred until the next meeting. In the interim, the Secretariat will make amendments to the report as requested, per the feedback of Commission members.

**d. Update on Human Rights Complaint 002/2015**

This complaint was deferred as the Commission is awaiting further information from the complainant.

**e. Update on Human Rights Complaint 003/2015**

This complaint was deferred until the next meeting. In the interim, the Secretariat will make amendments to the report as requested, per the feedback of Commission members.

**f. Update on Human Rights Complaint 004/2015**

Members agreed the research on this matter had been completed and a discussion took place on the same. The Secretariat was asked to incorporate feedback from members into the draft report and send it back out for further consideration in order to finalise it at the next meeting.

**g. Update on Human Rights Complaint 008/2015**

Having not had a response from the complainant's legal advisor, the Commission agreed to close this case, which is currently before the Courts. The complainant will be notified. It is noted that member Ben Tonner continues to recuse himself from this complaint.

**h. Update on Human Rights Complaint 009/2015**

The Commission is awaiting one point of clarification from the public authority however it was agreed that there is no evidence of a breach of the complainant's human rights. Following the receipt of the clarification the Commission agreed that the file should be closed. The complainant will be notified.