

<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION</b></p> <p><b>10 MAY 2018</b></p> <p><b>CONFERENCE ROOM</b></p> <p><b>ARTEMIS HOUSE</b></p>
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<b>PRESENT:</b> James Austin-Smith	Chairman
Lisa-Ann Hurlston McKenzie	Member
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield	Member
Joni Kirkconnell	Member
Dorothy Scott	Member

**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 3:06pm.

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

The 12 April 2018 minutes were approved.

**3. Outstanding Business****a. Draft Annual Report**

The draft Annual Report was circulated to Members on 9 May for review and comment by 16 May. The Report will then be finalised and submitted to the Legislative Assembly (“LA”) for tabling during its next session.

**b. Migrants**

The Commission discussed the Ministry of Human Resources & Immigration’s response on illegal migrants. Members noted that the response only addressed some of the Commission’s previous concerns regarding the handling of migrants and some of the information appeared outdated and in need of revising. Members agreed to review the Commission’s 2013 report on migrants, and the latest Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of the Cayman Islands and the Government of the Republic of Cuba, for further discussion at the next meeting.

**c. Prisons Inspection Board (PIB)**

The Commission noted the Deputy Governor’s response to the Commission’s queries regarding the appointment of members to the PIB. The Deputy Governor indicated that the

recruitment process had been concluded and it was expected that the new PIB will be appointed by the end of May 2018. The Secretariat was requested to follow up in due course.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **a. Same-sex Unions**

The Commission noted reports in the media regarding a same-sex couple who are taking legal action after their marriage licence application was rejected by the Cayman Islands General Registry. The Chairman and Manager will be traveling to Bermuda on 27 May to meet with stakeholders to discuss their overall experience and lessons learned from the institution of same-sex unions.

##### **b. Family Law Reform Legislation**

The Commission noted the public consultation on the Law Reform Commission's ("LRC") three draft bills on Family Law Reform. The Commission will liaise with the Cayman Islands Law Society ("CILS") and the Caymanian Bar Association ("CBA") to query whether they will be submitting any feedback on the draft bills. The Commission will, in addition, provide a general comment on the drafts.

#### **5. Human Rights Complaints & Enquiries**

##### **a. Update on Human Rights Complaints 019/2017 & 005/2018**

Members discussed the latest update from the public authority involved and agreed that the response was satisfactory but requested follow-up in three (3) months to ensure progress was being made.

##### **b. Update on Human Rights Complaint 004/2018**

Members discussed the response received from the remaining public authority involved and agreed that the response was satisfactory and requires no further action. The complaint will be closed and the complainant informed.

##### **c. Update on Human Rights Complaint 008/2018**

Whilst this file was closed on 20 April, the Commission reviewed the complainant's query received on 23 April wherein the Commission was asked to further consider the complaint. It was agreed that no new information was submitted which would change the decision.

In addition, the public authority's response to the Commission's recommendations was reviewed and it was agreed that the response was satisfactory and requires no further action. The file remains closed.

**d. Human Rights Complaint 009/2018**

The Commission reviewed this complaint and agreed that while it appears to be two-fold, more information is needed from the complainant in order to properly consider the matter. The complainant will be so advised.

**e. Human Rights Complaint 011/2018**

The Commission reviewed this complaint and agreed to correspond with the relevant public authority for additional information.

**6. Any Other Business**

**a. Radio Cayman ‘Talk Today’ – Child Month**

The Chairman will appear on a segment of ‘Talk Today’, with Sterling Dwayne Ebanks on 15 May, in honour of Child Month. Topics to be discussed include the provisions of s.17 of the Bill of Rights (Protection of children) and the two youth-related projects which the Commission is currently embarking on to raise awareness of human rights amongst youth – 1) compilation of a directory on youth protection services and 2) partnering initiatives with youth organisations.

**b. TAYA Lounge – Cayman Islands Crisis Centre (CICC)**

The Secretariat met with the Coordinator of the TAYA Lounge (“TAYA”) to learn more about TAYA’s youth programme and to discuss partnering initiatives.

**c. Youth Protection Services Directory**

Members were informed that the information received thus far for the Commission’s ‘Youth Protection Directory’ has been uploaded to the website. The directory is a work in progress and will be updated as information is received.

**7. Action Items**

Members were asked to:

- a.** Review the Draft Annual Report and revert with comments by 16 May;
- b.** Review the Commission’s previous report and other relevant documents for discussion at the next meeting;
- c.** Provide available dates for presentations to TAYA Lounge; and
- d.** Review and approve any draft correspondence (Chairman).

The Secretariat was asked to:

- a.** Submit the Annual Report to the LA once finalised;
- b.** Follow-up with the Deputy Governor to confirm the appointment of new PIB members;
- c.** Draft correspondence to the CILS, the CBA and the LRC as detailed above;
- d.** Liaise with the TAYA Lounge Coordinator to facilitate presentations as detailed above; and

- e. Draft correspondence or conduct research in all human rights complaints and enquiries as detailed above.

**8. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting**

- a. Draft Annual Report
- b. Migrants
- c. Same-Sex Unions
- d. Prisons Inspection Board (PIB)
- e. Family Law Reform Legislation
- f. Community Presentations
- g. New and outstanding human rights complaints

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the HRC has been scheduled for 21 June 2018 at 3:00pm at the offices of the Commissions Secretariat.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.



**James Austin-Smith**  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**