

**5th MEETING OF 2012
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES
4 JULY, 2012
CONFERENCE ROOM
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT**

PRESENT:	Richard Coles	Chairman
	Cathy Frazier	Member
	Rev. Nicholas Sykes	Member
	Alistair Walters	Member
	Sara Collins	Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deborah Bodden	Manager, Commissions Secretariat
Michael Ebanks	Analyst, Commissions Secretariat
Lise Hurlstone	Analyst, Commissions Secretariat

1. Meeting called to order

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

2. Confirmation of previous minutes

The minutes of 6 June, 2012 were confirmed.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

a. Migrants Policy

Immediately prior to the meeting the Secretariat received copies from the Immigration Department of various requested documents relating to the Department's policies on migrants. Members serving on the Sub-Committee dealing with this issue were provided with copies and they indicated that they will review and discuss at the follow meeting.

b. Implications of Rights table

The aim of this document is to generally inform public officers of implications with respect to how the Bill of Rights may affect their capacity as public officers. The Chairman reviewed a draft version of the document prepared by the Secretariat, which will now be finalised and distributed to all members for commentary and approval.

c. Update on BoR Commemorative Book

The Commission has made contact with the Governor's Office in relation to obtaining funds in light of significant budget cuts that will hinder the commission's ability to engage in public education campaigns such as the commemorative book. The Commission will continue to work on the project as well as maintain contact with the artists and GIS graphic designers. The Commission will also look at ways in which the book can be digitally produced as a means in which to reduce the production costs yet allow the book to be accessible to the general public. The HRC agreed on additional pieces of artwork that would ideally be incorporated in the book. Contact will be made to each of those artists to request permission for the use of their work in the book.

4. New Business

a. Children's Rights Presentations

Member Sara Collins informed the members of her idea to support human rights education through delivering presentations within the schools. It was suggested that the presentation would be devised to allow a younger audience to understand the technical aspects of the Bill of Rights, and human rights in general. The Secretariat will draft an invitation to the Chief Education Officer and Principals (of private schools) to participate in the project. The HRC is keen to work with principals and administrators to set up a schedule and presentation format that captures the most effective and efficient means of delivery and the most appropriate audience. It was agreed that any member participating in this would undertake to present the same information.

b. Approval of Updated Informational Brochure

The Commission has agreed to maintain the informational brochure in its current format and delay issuing its updated version to coincide with the implementation of the Bill of Rights so as to reduce the costs associated with printing and distribution.

c. Enquiry from a member of the public re: Electoral Register

A member of the public raised the issue (not by way of formal complaint) of voluntary removal from the Electoral Register. Notwithstanding no complaint having been received the Commission found the matter to be of sufficient interest that the Secretariat has been requested to conduct initial research into the matter and report to the Commission.

d. Prison Indoor Smoking Policy

The HRC has been asked by Ms Aduke Natalie Joseph-Caesar (Portfolio of Internal and External Affairs) for input regarding the Portfolio's aim to implement a policy of no smoking at Her Majesty's Prisons. The HRC requested sight of the Ministry's draft policy document on the matter which will then be reviewed

5. Human Rights Complaints

a. Update on Human Rights Complaint 004/2012

Having accepted this complaint as a legitimate one which requires further investigations the Commission is awaiting further information from the complainant, which has not been received to date. The HRC will seek to clarify whether the complainant still wishes to pursue the matter.

b. Human Rights Complaint 006/2012

The Commission will make enquiries with the relevant Government Ministry and public authorities as necessary. On receipt of the response of the Ministry and public authorities, the HRC will conduct further research as may be required. Correspondence will also be sent to the Complainant to inform of the action being taken by the Commission.

c. Human Rights Query

The query was withdrawn.

d. Human Rights Complaint 007/2012

The Commission received this complaint the day prior to the meeting however the Commission will be corresponding with both the complainant and relevant Government officials on the matter.

6. Constitutional Implementation Advisory Group Update

The CIAG has now sensitised almost four thousand public officials and are in the process of finishing these sessions over the next few months in preparation for the implementation of the Bill of Rights. It is anticipated all public officials will be sensitised by November, 2012. The group has moved on to arranging the specialist sensitisation of those persons who have powers of arrest. At the request of the group, HRC Member Alistair Walters met with representatives from the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service to ensure that the workbook associated with the specialist training accurately reflects the principles and spirit of the Bill of Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights.

7. Any Other Business

a. Implementation Day

Members raised the issue of what the Commission planned to do for activities to celebrate Implementation Day on 6 November, 2012. While the activities are subject to the budget which is not yet finalised members were in agreement that they would attend media locations on that day to promote the meaning and importance of the day.

b. Membership of Commission

Members were made aware that as of 1 December, 2012 the terms of two HRC members are set to expire.

c. HRC 2011 Annual Report

The Commission was informed that its 2011 Annual Report has yet to be laid in the LA and thus is still not considered a public document. The Secretariat is unaware of when the report will be laid in the House.

8. Action Items

- a. Sub-Committee to review documents on the Immigration Department's Migrant Policy;
- b. The Secretariat will forward copies of the Draft Implication of Rights Table to all members for review and discussion at the next meeting;
- c. The Secretariat will continue to work on establishing the contents of the commemorative book including seeking artists permission where needed;
- d. The Secretariat will draft a letter regarding Children's Rights Presentations;
- e. The Secretariat will create an updated HRC informational flyer for distribution as of 6 November, 2012;
- f. The Secretariat will research the issue regarding the electoral register; and
- g. The Secretariat will research and contact the relevant parties in HR Complaints 004/2012; 006/2012 and 007/2012

9. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Migrants Policy;
- b. Implication of Rights Table;
- c. Update on Commemorative Book;
- d. Children's Rights Presentations;

- e. Informational Flyer;
- f. Electoral Register Query;
- g. Prison No Smoking Policy;
- h. Implementation Day Schedule and
- i. Human rights complaints.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 3 September, 2012 @ 3:30pm.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.



Mr. Richard Coles
CHAIRMAN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION