

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ("HRC")
3rd MEETING OF 2025
MINUTES
10 April 2025
CONFERENCE ROOM
HRC SECRETARIAT OFFICES

PRESENT:

Benjamin Tonner KC	Chairperson (In Part)
Nicholas Quin	Member (Acting Chairperson)
Alecia Johns	Member
Nicholas Dixey	Member

APOLOGIES:

Jennifer Hunter	Member
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SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melanie McField	Manager
Evette Burnell	Administrator/Analyst
Jessica Ebanks	PR & Education Coordinator (in part)

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting commenced at 3:45 pm.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2025 were approved.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**a. Education Initiatives****i. Social Media Campaign**

The PR & Education Coordinator presented last month's social media statistics and followers have remained steady. The next batch of social media posts were drafted and given to Members for approval during the next meeting.

ii. Bill of Rights Training

Since the last meeting there have been 23 new enrolments on the Bill of Rights (BOR) interim course. This interim training is being offered until the comprehensive course becomes available.

The Secretariat provided an update on the comprehensive training course currently in development. It was confirmed that the new Chair of the Constitutional Commission has agreed to be the narrator for this course.

The Secretariat has obtained quotes from three different specialists who specialise in online course production and the potential providers are in Jamaica and the UK. Once the provider has been chosen the Secretariat will send the filmed content to the

provider so it can be turned into an online course. Management is in contact with the Portfolio of the Civil Service regarding the project budget for this project and will be provide an update at the next meeting.

iii. School Visits

The HRC visited the Cayman Islands Further Education College (CIFEC) and gave a presentation on Human Rights. This consisted of two separate assemblies on April 1st and 2nd. The students are between 16 and 17 years old.

There are currently no other school visits scheduled, but the Secretariat will reach out to Red Bay Primary School who had previously expressed an interest.

b. Migrants

Members were informed that a call had taken place with the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association (CILPA) regarding a list of lawyers willing to provide legal assistance to asylum seekers on a pro bono basis. The CILPA representative advised that although a list of potentially interested parties was received, formal approval by CILPA would require: establishing a subcommittee with a Chairperson for this purpose, developing a manual and guidance documents to potential volunteers and verifying the scope of involvement and time commitment expected from Members. The Secretariat will write to CILPA with a briefing outlining the requirements for each stage of the process.

The Secretariat has not yet received a conclusive response from the Governor's Office's UK contacts to determine if there is a written rationale for providing interpreters and legal representation in the UK.

The HRC had previously requested a breakdown of the migrant figures provided by CBC to compare the current trends to those from before the changes to the CBC Act. In addition, Members had requested an amendment to one of the asylum interview questions noted in the last CBC meeting. The Secretariat followed up on both of these action points but have yet to receive a response. These issues will be addressed in the next CBC quarterly meeting.

c. Prison Updates

There were no updates to provide at this time.

d. HRC Annual Report

Members had been provided with the first draft of the 2024 Annual Report, which was emailed to Members after the last meeting. Member Quin has provided his feedback and other Members will do so before the next meeting.

e. Child Safeguarding

A Detective Inspector in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) provided the policy and procedure document that officers should follow when interviewing minors. Members had expressed concern that this policy may not always be followed, based on awareness of some potential breaches. The Secretariat followed-up with the Detective Inspector to clarify additional queries and the responses were received. Members were satisfied with the responses and the enquiry will now be closed.

f. Mental Health

HRC Members Hunter and Johns visited the Poinciana mental health facility on March 11th and Member Johns reported on the visit. Members were impressed with the accommodation and

facilities. There are currently eight (8) residents at the Poinciana and the max capacity is 54 persons. The living accommodation comprises of nine (9) cottages and each cottage is able to house up to six (6) people. Each cottage has a Mental Health Nurse located on premises 24 hours a day and a dispensary. The facility also includes a canteen, an education building and a therapy wing. There is currently no secure wing at the facility; however, discussions are ongoing with the Ministry about potentially including one in the future.

4. Human Rights Complaints and Enquiries

OLD:

a. Update on Human Rights Enquiry 002/2019

The Members decided the enquiry will be closed.

b. Update on Human Rights Complaint 001/2023

Members reviewed section 81 (3) of the Police Act and determined that the guidance relevant to this complaint should be gazetted. Management received an update stating that the publication would go live by the end of the week. The Secretariat will follow up to confirm if it was published.

c. Update on Human Rights Complaint 002/2024

An appeal related to this complaint is underway. The parties are waiting on the outcome of the appeal. The Secretariat will continue to monitor this case.

d. Update on Human Rights Complaint 010/2024

No response has been received to the request for additional information. The Commission decided to issue a 30-day notice to the Complainant.

e. Human Rights Complaint 001/2025

The Director of the department in question has been in contact regarding this complaint and had agreed to review a new application. Extra time has been extended to the parties. The Secretariat will follow up by the 15th April.

f. Human Rights Complaint 002/2025

The issue raised in this complaint has since been rectified, however, the HRC will write to Cabinet to inquire further about the delay. The Secretariat will email the signed letter to Cabinet Office and provide an update at the next meeting.

g. Human Rights Complaint 003/2025

There does not appear to be a current human rights issue related to this complaint; however, the Secretariat will follow up with the Complainant.

NEW:

h. Human Rights Complaint 004/2025

The Secretariat will contact the Complainant to request evidence of a denied work permit.

5. New Business

None

6. AOB

None

7. Action Items

It was resolved the Secretariat would:

- a. Progress the BOR training and provide an update at the next meeting, as outlined in 3.a.ii (PR and Education Coordinator and Management).
- b. Draft a briefing for CILPA regarding the requirements, for review by Members, as outlined in 3.b. above (Administrator/Analyst and Management).
- c. Engage with MoBCLC and CBC to reschedule the next quarterly meeting to discuss the issues outlined in 3.b. above (Administrator/Analyst).
- d. The Members will provide their feedback on the draft 2024 Annual Report, as outlined in 3.d. above (Members).
- e. Draft correspondence for all complaints and enquiries as detailed above (Administrator/Analyst).

8. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. PR & Education Initiatives
 - i. Social Media Campaign
 - ii. Bill of Rights Training
 - iii. School Visits
- b. Migrants
- c. Prisons Updates
- d. HRC Annual Report
- e. Mental Health

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 22nd May 2025.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.



Nicholas Quin
ACTING CHAIRPERSON
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION