

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (“HRC”)
4th MEETING OF 2025
MINUTES
29 May 2025
CONFERENCE ROOM
HRC SECRETARIAT OFFICES**

PRESENT:

Benjamin Tonner KC	Chairperson
Nicholas Quin	Member
Alecia Johns	Member
Nicholas Dixey	Member
Jennifer Hunter	Member

APOLOGIES: None

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Evette Burnell	Administrator/Analyst
Francis Kearns	Deputy Manager

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting commenced at 3:26 pm.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2025 were approved.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

a. Education Initiatives

i. Social Media Campaign

The Deputy Manager presented last month’s social media statistics. There was an increase of 11% in followers and there have been 13,000 views on posts during the most recent period, of which 92% came from boosted posts. The boosted posts seem to have been successful and will continue. The next batch of social media posts will be circulated to Members by the PR and Education Officer.

ii. Bill of Rights Training

Since the last meeting there have been 16 new enrolments on the Bill of Rights (BOR) interim course, bringing the total to 409 enrolments. 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. The Secretariat has chosen a UK-based provider.

The chosen provider will produce a full comprehensive course instead of a scripted video as initially planned. The provider will also include an assessment at the end of the course. The provider will be using the script drafted initially as the basis for the training. The timeline to produce the training course is estimated at between 5 to 12 weeks.

iii. School Visits

The next HRC school presentation is planned to take place at Red Bay Primary School on June 25th. Members Hunter, Johns and Dixey will be presenting. There are 77 children in year 6 between 3 classes. Members plan to present to each class separately. The Secretariat will email the presentation to the teachers in advance to display on the smartboard. The Secretariat will confirm a start time; Members agreed that early morning would be best.

b. Migrants

Members were updated that the briefing for the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association (CILPA) was sent. The briefing breaks down the requirements for migrant legal representation into two stages: Representation requirements on arrival/detention and representation requirements for appeal hearings. The Secretariat are awaiting a reply.

The Secretariat has not 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. There seem to be published guidelines on the website but no specific legislation.

The HRC have still not received the requested migrant statistics from CBC or an update on the requested amendments to the migrant interview questions. Both of these points will be followed up in the next quarterly meeting (QM). In addition to this, the HRC would like to confirm with CBC if there is a policy establishing a minimum term between denial of asylum and deportation, which would allow for legal consult if needed. The next QM with CBC is still to be rescheduled. The Secretariat contacted CBC to establish a suitable date and is waiting to hear back. Members agreed that the first or last week of August would be best. The Secretariat will follow up with CBC.

c. Prison Updates

Members requested that the Secretariat provide an update at the next meeting on the progress of recruiting a replacement for the Rehabilitation Coordinator role at the prisons.

In addition, Members would like to revisit the plans for the new prison and discussed if there will be any changes to these plans under the new government. The Secretariat were asked to look into what has previously been said publicly about when the new prison will be built.

d. HRC Annual Report

Members provided feedback and suggested amendments on the first draft of the 2024 Annual Report. The Secretariat will update the report accordingly. The Chairman agreed to review the Chair's Message and revert with any changes.

e. Mental Health

Member Johns provided a recap on the visit to Poinciana for Members who were not present at the last meeting. Even though this is a huge improvement for the provision of mental health care in Grand Cayman it will not provide critical care for high risk patients, or care for those who require a secure facility, which is still greatly needed for the community.

Members discussed the fact that there is no properly constituted mental health court in the Cayman Islands and there is a need for such a court. Members requested that the Secretariat look into the remit of the Mental Health Commission, their role and powers. The Secretariat will research this and provide Members with an update at the next meeting.

4. Human Rights Complaints and Enquiries

OLD:

a. 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 has since received a copy of the publication, which was published as a public advisory on the RCIPS website on 11 April 2025. This complaint will therefore be closed.

b. 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.

c. Update on Human Rights Complaint 010/2024

A response was received from the Complainant, but no evidence has been provided. The file will be closed with the potential to re-open the file should the Complainant provide the requested evidence.

d. Human Rights Complaint 001/2025

This complaint is now concluded. The department in question has granted the Complainant's request. However, the HRC would like to know more about the policy and timeframe between appeals being denied and deportation. The Secretariat will follow up.

e. Human Rights Complaint 002/2025

The Secretariat will follow up on the letter sent to Cabinet and stress to the new government that this still remains a live issue.

f. Human Rights Complaint 003/2025

This agenda item was deferred.

g. Human Rights Complaint 004/2025

The Secretariat will follow up with the department in question in regards to this work permit complaint.

5. New Business

None

6. AOB

The Deputy Manager updated Members on progress with the recruitment process to replace Members whose terms are coming up later in the year.

7. Action Items

It was resolved the Secretariat would:

- a.** Distribute the next batch of social media posts to Members for approval, as outlined in 3.a.i (PR and Education Coordinator and Management).
- b.** Progress the BOR training and provide an update at the next meeting, as outlined in 3.a.ii (PR and Education Coordinator and Management).
- c.** Contact Red Bay to confirm a time and the arrangements for the 25 June presentation, as outlined in 3.a.iii (PR and Education Coordinator and Management).

- d. Follow up with CILPA regarding the briefing provided, as outlined in 3.b. above (Administrator/Analyst and Management).
- e. Engage with MoBCLC and CBC to reschedule the next quarterly meeting to discuss the issues outlined in 3.b. above (Administrator/Analyst).
- f. Research the prison queries, outlined in 3.c. above (Administrator/Analyst).
- g. Update the draft 2024 Annual Report, as outlined in 3.d. above (Administrator/Analyst).
- h. Provide the HRC with details of the role and powers of the Mental Health Commission, as outlined in 3.e. above (Administrator/Analyst).
- i. 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 3rd July 2025.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33pm.



Benjamin Tonner KC
CHAIRPERSON
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION