

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (“HRC”)
9th MEETING OF 2025
MINUTES
18 November 2025
CONFERENCE ROOM
HRC SECRETARIAT OFFICES**

PRESENT:

Benjamin Tonner KC	Chairperson
Alecia Johns	Member
Nicholas Dixey	Member
Mike Gibbs	Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Evette Burnell	Administrator/Analyst
Melanie Mcfield	Manager

Minutes of the Meeting**1. Call to Order**

The meeting commenced at 3:38 p.m.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2025 were approved.

3. Matters Arising**a. Education Initiatives**

- i. *Social Media Campaign* – The Administrator/Analyst reported that social media statistics remain consistent, though engagement continues to be slow. The November post, previously approved, will be boosted to improve visibility. The Secretariat will also explore establishing a LinkedIn profile for the HRC. A draft post for Human Rights Day (10 December) was presented and approved.
- ii. *Bill of Rights Training* – The Secretariat reported that the video recordings for the BOR training course have now been integrated into the final course. Assessment questions have been drafted and Members approved them with a few amendments.
- iii. *School Visits* – Chairman Tonner and Member Dixey will present at Sharon Marie Martin Primary School on Human Rights Day (10 December). The Secretariat will confirm assembly times and liaise with CIG Communications to request media coverage.

b. Migrants

- CILPA issued a call for pro bono attorneys to support migrants, and some responses have been received.
- CILAC submitted a proposal outlining its service offerings. Members agreed to schedule a joint meeting with CILAC and CILPA to discuss next steps.
- CBC has been contacted regarding the next quarterly meeting, but no response has been received. Members recommended proposing a date in mid-January 2026.

c. Prison Updates

Members agreed on 30 January as the preferred date for a visit to Northward Prison. The Secretariat will confirm availability with the Director and issue a calendar invitation.

d. HRC Annual Report

The 2023 and 2024 Annual Reports have been tabled in Parliament and published on the HRC website.

e. Mental Health

Members discussed the letter sent to the Ministry regarding mental health concerns in prisons. A meeting with the Chairman and CO Ebanks is still pending, with early December as the target timeframe.

f. Beneficial Ownership Register

A UK barrister was engaged to provide an opinion on the potential public beneficial ownership register, taking into account constitutional and Cayman-specific considerations. His opinion has been circulated to Members.

g. Immigration (Transition) Amendment and Validation Bill 2025

The Bill was released for public consultation, with submissions due by 14 November. Members reviewed the Bill, and a response outlining key human rights concerns was circulated.

Human Rights Complaints and Enquiries

OLD:

- **HRC-COMP-002/2025:** Appeal ongoing; Secretariat monitoring. A supplementary complaint regarding judgment delays has been filed.
- **HRC-COMP-006/2025:** Supplementary complaint linked to COMP-002/2024. A letter confirming that judgment will be delivered at the next sitting has been received. The Secretariat acknowledged receipt.
- **HRC-ENQ-001/2025:** WORC provided details regarding jobseeker support. The Secretariat followed up with the complainant, who has now applied for an Employment Services Officer.
- **HRC-COMP-007/2025:** Complainant seeks assistance regarding denial of a dependent on her RERC. She has applied for a Cabinet fee waiver to appeal the decision and awaits a response.
- **HRC-COMP-008/2025:** The Commission advised the complainant to pursue available legal channels for appeal or challenge. A closure letter was issued.
- **HRC-COMP-009/2025:** The complainant, a homeless migrant, is now employed. The Secretariat will follow up to confirm his residency status.
- **HRC-COMP-010/2025:** Complaint about prison conditions. A prison visit is scheduled for the new year. An acknowledgement was sent, and the matter has been closed.

NEW:

- **HRC-COMP-011/2025:** Member Dixey recused himself from this Complaint. The complaint is regarding lack of financial assistance for asylum seekers. The complainant has submitted an asylum application and cannot legally work. The Secretariat will contact CBC to clarify available support.
- **HRC-COMP-012/2025:** The Commission closed the complaint, advising the complainant to seek legal aid if they wish to pursue a cause of action and cannot secure representation.
- **HRC-COMP-013/2025:** Complaint regarding delays in Naturalisation processing exceeding one year. The Secretariat will request an update from the relevant department.

New Business

None.

Any Other Business

Members discussed repeat submissions by complainants whose cases have already been closed. It was agreed that repeat complaints will not be accepted unless new circumstances present a potential human rights concern. The Secretariat will write to the complainant in the most recent case to advise them to follow the appropriate process.

7. Action Items

It was resolved the Secretariat would:

- a. Publish/boost approved social media posts for November and December and look into Linked-In (3.a.i).
- b. Progress the BOR training and provide updates at the next meeting (3.a.ii).
- c. Confirm presentation time with Sharon Marie Martin Primary School and book CIG Comms to cover event (3.a.iii).
- d. Arrange call with CILPA and CILAC regarding migrant support initiatives (3.b).
- e. Schedule the next quarterly meeting with CBC for January 2026 (3.b).
- f. Arrange a meeting with the Ministry of District Administration & Home Affairs to discuss prison mental health concerns (3.c).
- g. Draft correspondence for all complaints and enquiries discussed (4).

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
- f. Beneficial Ownership Register
- g. Immigration Transition Act

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 11 December 2025.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.



Benjamin Tonner KC
CHAIRPERSON