

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (“HRC”)
4th MEETING OF 2026
MINUTES
18 June 2026
CONFERENCE ROOM
HRC SECRETARIAT OFFICES**

PRESENT:

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

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Evette Burnell	Administrator/Analyst
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Minutes of the Meeting

1. Call to Order

The meeting commenced at 3:28 p.m.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2026 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

a. Education Initiatives

- i. *Social Media Campaign* – The Administrator/Analyst reported that social media engagement had remained steady for Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram over the last month and there had been a slight increase in followers on all platforms. The July draft posts were approved for Constitution Day and Nelson Mandela Day.
- ii. *Bill of Rights Training* – The Members were informed that the Bill of Rights training course had been finalised and was sent to POCS for inclusion into the Civil Servant Orientation training.
- iii. *School Visits* – The spreadsheet of all Cayman Islands schools had been constructed, so that HRC can try to visit all interested schools over the coming years. The Chairman asked that the Secretariat reach out to all the primary schools initially to try to get some presentations scheduled for the upcoming school year.

b. Migrants

The Secretariat had reached out to the Ministry for an update on the outstanding matters from the last Ministry and CBC meeting, but there was no response. The Secretariat will reach out to the DCO.

c. Prison Updates

There was no update at this time.

d. Mental Health

The HRC visited the Poinciana facility on 9 June as a follow-up to its initial visit in 2024, shortly after the facility opened. Members were impressed by the progress and improvements made since their previous visit and were encouraged to learn of plans for future expansion once additional staff are recruited. However, it was noted that current government funding constraints may limit expansion efforts, meaning the facility may need to seek private investment or sponsorship to support the development required.

While Members acknowledged Poinciana as a significant advancement in mental health services in the Cayman Islands, they also noted the continued absence of a secure facility for higher-risk patients, as well as a dedicated facility for juvenile mental health care. The Secretariat was tasked with contacting Dr. Lockhart to obtain an appropriate point of contact to whom the HRC may address its concerns regarding these issues.

e. Beneficial Ownership Register

No action at this time. Members will monitor the situation and any developments.

f. Annual Report

Members approved the draft 2025 AR and the Secretariat will arrange for it to be tabled at the next sitting of parliament.

g. GT Landfill

The Secretariat presented the HRC with potential human rights concerns relating to landfill issues. The Chairman requested that further research be undertaken on the matter and indicated that legal expertise would be beneficial in assessing the issues and any potential human rights implications.

h. Spent Convictions

The Secretariat presented a summary of the spent convictions discussion paper from the Law Reform Commission to the HRC and a draft response. The deadline for responses is 27 June.

4. Human Rights Complaints and Enquiries

- **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 regarding the delay in receiving judgement. A letter has been drafted to the Chief Justice raising this as a concern and requesting an update on the progress. No response has been received.
- **HRC-COMP-007/2025:** Complainant seeks assistance regarding denial of a dependent on her RERC. She applied for a Cabinet fee waiver to appeal the decision, but this was refused. The Complainant now has legal representation, and the Secretariat will reach out for an update.
- **HRC-COMP-007-2026:** The CBC has provided a timeline of events along with additional details regarding the current situation. The Secretariat will reach out to the Complainant, requesting that they keep the Human Rights Council informed.
- **HRC-COMP-008-2026:** The HRC received a complaint from a student who had been removed from island by CBC due to an administration issue on his visa. HRC advised reaching out to his lawyer.

5. New Business

None

6. Any Other Business

None

7. Action Items

It was resolved the Secretariat would:

- a. Publish approved social media posts for July (3.a.i).
- c. Reach out to Primary Schools for potential September Visits (3.a.iii).
- d. Request update from DCO Whittaker re CBC/Ministry last meeting action points (3.b).
- e. Revisit the prison concerns later in the year to verify if planned measures were implemented (3.c).
- f. Ask Dr Lockhart for the best contact in regards a letter on MH issues to progress (3.d)
- f. Draft 2025 AR approved by members to be tabled (3.f)
- g. Recirculate docs to members re Spent Convictions from Law Reform Commission (3.h)
- i. 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. School Visits
- b. Migrants
- c. Prisons Updates
- d. Mental Health
- e. Beneficial Ownership Register
- f. Annual Report
- g. GT Landfill
- h. Spent Convictions

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 17 July @ 3:15pm.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm.



Benjamin Tonner KC
CHAIRPERSON