

Chapter 3: Human rights law

The body set up in place of the race, gender, and disability rights commissions is the Equality and Human Rights Commission, which is charged with advising on and enforcing good practice in all aspects of human rights and discrimination, including types of discrimination not covered by the previous bodies (see www.equalityhumanrights.com).

Human rights

Liberty is the leading organization monitoring the effectiveness of the HRA and bringing test cases. It has a range of useful information at www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk.

BASW has produced a very useful practice guide to human rights for social workers. Published in December 2019 it illustrates the importance of human rights in a range of social work settings.

You can locate it here

<https://www.basw.co.uk/system/files/resources/Social%20Work%20and%20Human%20Rights%20A%20Practice%20Guide.%20DEC%202019.pdf>

The United Nations has all of the international charters on human rights and discrimination issues at www.un.org/en/rights.

Useful guidance to the HRA includes the following:

- The EHRC *Human Rights, Human Lives: A Guide to the Human Rights Act for public authorities* (2014)
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/human-rights-human-lives-guide-human-rights-act-public-authorities>
- British Institute of Human Rights: *Your Human Rights Guides* (2006) at www.bihhr.org.uk).
- Ministry of Justice: *Human Rights, Human Lives: A Handbook for Public Authorities* (October 2006)
www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/human_rights_human_lives_a_guide_for_public_authorities.pdf.
- J. Watson and M. Woolf, *Human Rights Act Toolkit* (2nd edn, Legal Action Group, 2008).
- N. Kang-Riou, *Confronting the Human Rights Act 1998: Contemporary Themes and Perspectives* (Routledge, 2012).
- K. Starmer, *European Human Rights Law: The Human Rights Act 1998 and the European Convention on Human Rights* (2nd edn, Legal Action Group, 2010).
- J. Wadham, H. Mountfield, E. Prochaska, and R. Desai, *Blackstone's Guide to the Human Rights Act 1998* (7th edn, Oxford University Press, 2015).

A useful text on the practice of human rights written for social workers is D.K. Androff *Practicing Rights : Human Rights-based Approaches to Social Work Practice*

The value of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is considered by U. Kilkelly and L. Lundy, 'Children's rights in action: using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as an auditing tool' (2006) *CFLQ* 18(3): 331.

An interesting article exploring student social workers understanding of human rights in practice settings is Julie A. Steen, Mary Mann, Nichole Restivo, Shellene Mazany, Reshawna Chapple 'Human Rights: Its Meaning and Practice in Social Work Field Settings' (2017) *Social Work*, 62 (1) 9.

There is a brief commentary on the importance of balancing human rights during the pandemic, 'How to operationalise human rights for COVID-19 measures' by N Hostmaelingen and H. Beate Bentzen and published in the British Medical Journal Global Health July 2020 available at.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2020-003048>

The Equality Act 2010

J. Wadham, D. Ruebain, A. Robinson, and S. Uppal, *Blackstone's Guide to the Equality Act 2010* (2nd edn, Oxford University Press, 2012).

B. Hepple, *Equality: The New Legal Framework* (Hart, 2011).

More general articles on legal action around rights relevant to social work practice include Mark Simpson, 'Social rights, child rights, discrimination and devolution: untangling the web' (2018) *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law* 40(1): 3–20.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies in collaboration with the Nuffield Foundation published a report in July 2020, *Covid-19 and Inequalities* written by Richard Blundell, Monica Costa Dias, Robert Joyce and Xiaowei Xu which provides an initial overview of the different impact of the pandemic depending upon people's economic and social circumstances. The report is available here

<https://www.ifs.org.uk/inequality/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Covid-19-and-inequalities-IFS-1.pdf>