

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (“HRC”)
7th MEETING OF 2024
MINUTES
16 October 2024
CONFERENCE ROOM
HRC SECRETARIAT OFFICES**

PRESENT:

Benjamin Tonner KC	Chairperson
Alecia Johns	Member
Jennifer Hunter	Member

APOLOGIES:

Nicholas Quin	Member
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SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting commenced at 3:30 pm.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2024 were approved.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

a. Education Initiatives

i. Social Media Campaign

The social media following has remained consistent. The PR & Education Coordinator was asked to use another round of sponsored posts to boost the following.

ii. Bill of Rights Training

A new online learning system has been established by the Civil Service College, which, among other things, will provide more detailed data on individuals who have completed specific courses. The new Bill of Rights (BOR) Training being developed will be hosted on this platform.

Since 3 October, 197 civil servants have enrolled on the interim Bill of Rights course. There has been a low completion rate so far, so this will be monitored and reported on.

iii. School Visit Request

A local private school has requested the HRC attend a staff gathering regarding Emancipation and Discovery Day. The HRC will continue to work with this school, alongside a more proactive outreach approach including government schools.

iv. International Human Rights Day

International Human Rights Day is on 10 December and Members discussed potential plans for this year. It was suggested that the HRC could partner with a local school to host a dress down day, including a human rights themed presentation in assembly. The Secretariat agreed to explore options for this.

b. Migrants

Members agreed to arrange a meeting with Customs and Border Control (CBC) on 28 November. The Secretariat agreed to draft an agenda for this meeting, including testing the compatibility of the arrival process with the BOR.

Members met with the Refugee Protection Appeals Tribunal (RPAT) on 15 October and found the meeting helpful to understand the process and issues encountered. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to circulate the law which was enacted in December 2022, which led to a change in migrant processing.

c. Query re Workforce Opportunities & Residency Cayman (WORC) Internal Process

Members went through the additional information provided by WORC following their feedback on the revised procedure document. Members discussed how subjects are notified of the appeal process and emphasised that this should be contained in every revocation letter, regardless of the type of status being revoked. The Secretariat will raise this point with WORC.

d. Prison Updates

A reporter from a local newspaper contacted the Secretariat in regards to obtaining a response from the HRC on the current state of the prisons. HRC Members advised they are happy to provide a response and this will be discussed and agreed via round-robin.

e. HRC Annual Report

The Chairman will review the Chairman's statement and revert back with any final comments.

f. NAU Policies

The Secretariat will recirculate the email related to a review of the relevant law and policies for feedback.

g. Child Safeguarding

The Ministry advised that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) are currently undertaking changes to their policies and they will revert back once this has been completed.

h. Mental Health

Due to time constraints this item was deferred to the next meeting.

i. Legislative Amends

Due to time constraints this item was deferred to the next meeting.

4. Human Rights Complaints and Enquiries

OLD:

a. Update on Human Rights Enquiry 002/2019

There was no update on this enquiry.

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. A senior officer advised he would look into this and revert back.

c. Human Rights Complaint 002/2024

An appeal related to this complaint is underway. The Secretariat will follow up on the outcome of the appeal.

d. Human Rights Complaint 008/2024

The Secretariat contacted the complainant and advised that they need to update their paperwork as there are some discrepancies. Once completed, the complainant was advised to contact the authority concerned.

e. Human Rights Complaint 010/2024

The Chairman was conflicted on this complaint and there was no quorum. This complaint will be deferred to the next meeting.

f. Human Rights Complaint 011/2024

The Secretariat contacted the complainant and requested a copy of the Order. No response has been received to date. A 30-day notice letter will be sent.

g. Human Rights Complaint 013/2024

The Secretariat contacted the complainant and requested a copy of the Order. No response has been received to date. A 30-day notice letter will be sent.

h. Human Rights Complaint 014/2024

This complaint will be closed as there remains legal avenues to explore. A closure letter will be sent.

i. Human Rights Complaint 015/2024

Member Johns is conflicted on this case and therefore there was no quorum. A holding response will be sent to the complainant.

j. Human Rights Complaint 016/2024

This complaint occurred prior to the establishment of the Bill of Rights and the Human Rights Commission. A closure letter should be sent.

k. Human Rights Complaint 018/2024

The Secretariat contacted the relevant government agency to determine the policy related to this issue. The Secretariat is to contact management to discuss the findings.

l. Human Rights Complaint 015/2023 (Closed Case)

Complainant contacted HRC with new evidence, however, Members decided this was insufficient to re-open the file and that the complaint should remain closed.

5. New Business

None

6. AOB

7. Action Items

It was resolved the Secretariat would:

- a. Organise more sponsored posts on the HRC social media accounts, as outlined above in 3.a.i (PR and Education Coordinator).
- b. Organise an HRC sponsored dress down day with a local school for International Human Rights Day, as outlined above in 3.a.iv (PR and Education Coordinator).
- c. Confirm the meeting with CBC Director for 28 November and circulate an agenda, as outlined in 3.b. above (Administrator/Analyst).
- d. Contact WORC regarding the new draft policy document, as outlined in 3.c. above (Administrator/Analyst).
- e. Prepare a draft response to the local media enquiry for publication and circulate via round-robin as outlined in 3.d. above (Deputy Manager).
- f. Recirculate the email regarding NAU policies and legislation comparison, as outlined in 3.f. above (Administrator/Analyst).
- g. Monitor and report on any updates, as outlined in 3.g. above (Administrator/Analyst).
- h. Draft correspondence for all complaints and enquiries as detailed above (Administrator/Analyst).

It was resolved the Chairman would:

- a. Review and make any final updates to the Chairman's Statement for the HRC Annual Report, as outlined in 3.e. above (Chairman).

8. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting


- a. PR & Education Initiatives
 - i. Social Media Campaign
 - ii. Bill of Rights Training
- b. Migrants
- c. Query re WORC Internal Process Update
- d. Prisons Updates
- e. HRC Annual Report
- f. NAU Policies
- g. Child Safeguarding
- h. Legislative Amends

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled via round-robin.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5.05pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin Tonner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Benjamin Tonner KC
CHAIRMAN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**