

Question: What absolute human right is being violated when numerous occurrences of abuse, neglect and forced evictions continue to occur in care home settings around the United Kingdom?

BIHR NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Health

Human Rights in Healthcare project

The 'Human Rights in Healthcare' project, led by the Department of Health in conjunction with five NHS trusts and supported by BIHR, aims to support the use of Human Rights Based Approaches (HRBAs) in improving health and social care. Building on the successful first phase of the project, which culminated in the launch of 'Human Rights in Healthcare - A Framework for Local action' in March 2007 (link to document on our website) http://www.bihar.org/downloads/Health_framework.pdf the second phase of the project includes the following activities:

Learning events

This programme of three learning events aims to raise awareness of Human Rights Based Approaches (HRBAs) and why they are relevant to the health and social care sector. They are aimed at a wide range of stakeholders including health and social care professionals, patients/ service user forums, representatives from healthcare professional bodies, inspectorates and regulators and voluntary sector service delivery and advocacy organisations. They will share learning from the five trusts involved in the project and aim to stimulate further activity and discussion on human rights based approaches in the sector.

Human rights, equality and healthcare - 21 April 2008, Liverpool

Human rights and learning and development - 20 May 2008, Birmingham

Human rights and commissioning - 17 July 2008, London

For more information and registration please contact Kylie.Corcoran@dh.gsi.gov.uk



Human Rights and Health and Social Care Advisory Group

The Advisory Group is made up of stakeholders from a wide range of organisations, including government departments, health and social care professionals, professional bodies, voluntary sector service providers and human rights experts. Members are invited to participate because of their knowledge of and interest in the issues and their willingness to champion the project. The group provides advice and guidance concerning the Project's overall content, direction, priorities, methods and dissemination. The group provides a forum for information sharing and work co-ordination for members with common interest in the field of human rights in health and social care. The group has met twice and will meet a couple more times before the completion of the second phase of the project in September 2008.

Trust pilot projects

Five trusts are engaged in developing human rights based approaches to different areas of work as part of this project. The Department of Health and BIHR are continuing to support the trusts in developing their pilot projects and creating key human rights products, for example guidance, models or tools, that will be made available to other NHS trusts in September 2008. The five participating trusts are:

Mersey Care NHS Trust
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT
Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust
Southwark Health and Social Care
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust

For more information about the 'Human rights in healthcare' project please contact Hannah Clayton at hclayton@bihr.org.uk

BIHR Getting Involved

If you would like to be a volunteer or intern with BIHR, please email your CV to info@bihr.org.uk

If you would like to become a Friend of BIHR, please follow the link below to complete the application.
http://www.bihar.org/downloads/friends_leaflet.pdf

Education

Human Rights in Schools

BIHR is working on an exciting project to bring Human Rights to life in secondary schools in England. The project, which is being carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, Department for Children, Schools and Families and Amnesty International aims to:

- Increase awareness of human rights among pupils, and enable them to understand how human rights impact on their day-to-day lives at school and in their community;
- Strengthen teachers' skills to teach about human rights and demonstrate a human rights approach in their work; and
- Support schools to develop and apply a whole school Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)

This summer will see the launch of a KS3 teaching resource for Citizenship and Whole-school guidelines for schools. These will be supported by a series of free teacher training seminars across the country.

For more information on the project, please email Helen Trivers at htrivers@bihr.org.uk



Policy

Changing the Face of Human Rights

BIHR has commenced an exciting programme of activities under the banner 'Changing the face of human rights'. This work is a response to the climate of myths and misinformation that prevail about human rights and how they relate to everyday life in the UK. We see the need for a major strategic initiative which lifts us out of the current, extremely narrow conception of human rights and lays the ground for individuals and organisations to put a fresh and broader vision of human rights into practice.

New appointments - Policy and Public Affairs

BIHR is pleased to announce the appointment of Jean Candler as our new Head of Policy and Public Affairs, and Emily Thomas as our new Communications and Events Officer. Both will start work at BIHR in April.

Poverty

Human Rights and Poverty Project

BIHR has secured a grant from City Parochial Foundation to part-fund a London based Human Rights Based Approaches (HRBAs) and Poverty project which will commence later this year. The project aims to build the capacity of London's anti poverty and social justice Voluntary and Community Organisations, and those they work with to develop and apply HRBAs in their work to influence public policy and practice change. The project will address a pressing and unmet need for greater awareness and skills in using HRBAs to tackle poverty, by working directly with grassroots anti poverty groups, and those who support them, in London to:

- Develop a replicable Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) model for VCS groups (in London and elsewhere) to use Human Rights Based Approaches (HRBAs) in their work to tackle poverty and social injustice
- Influence key London and national policy-makers to better reflect human rights principles and standards in their policy making

We are keen to work in partnership and collaborate with other anti poverty and human rights organisations in this work and will circulate further information shortly.

Human Rights and Poverty Roundtable

In January 2008 BIHR in partnership with Oxfam, Amnesty UK and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation held a roundtable meeting to explore the relevance and potential of human rights for poverty eradication in the UK; and identify areas and opportunities for further dialogue and collaboration. A range of individuals and civil society organisations working in the fields of human rights, poverty and across both attended the roundtable, with a view to exploring and sharing each others' perspectives. A note of the meeting will be available shortly on our website.

For more information on our poverty work please contact Ceri Goddard at cgoddard@bihr.org.uk

Building human rights capacity of the voluntary and community sector

News has just come in that BIHR has successfully secured a £55 000 grant from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) for vital capacity building work on human rights within the voluntary and community sector. This will be part of our wider Principles to Practice Programme – more information about this programme and the activities covered by the EHRC funds will be available in the next E-Bulletin.

EXTERNAL NEWS

Recent News:

Following the Second Reading of the Health and Social Care Bill in the House of Lords,

the Government announced on March 27th, that it is committed to closing the loophole in the Human Rights Act, which excludes publicly funded residents in private and voluntary sector care homes from the protection of the Human Rights Act...[read more](#)

Launch of the EHRC's human rights inquiry took place on 6 March. The inquiry will explore how human rights are really working in Britain. Click here to read BIHR's statement in support...

http://www.bihr.org/downloads/BIHR_statement_support_EHRC_HR_inquiry.pdf

Recent Publications:

The Joint Committee on Human Rights released their important report "A Life Like Any Other? Human Rights of Adults with Learning Disabilities" in March.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt200708/jtselect/jtrights/40/4002.htm>

'No recourse' no safety

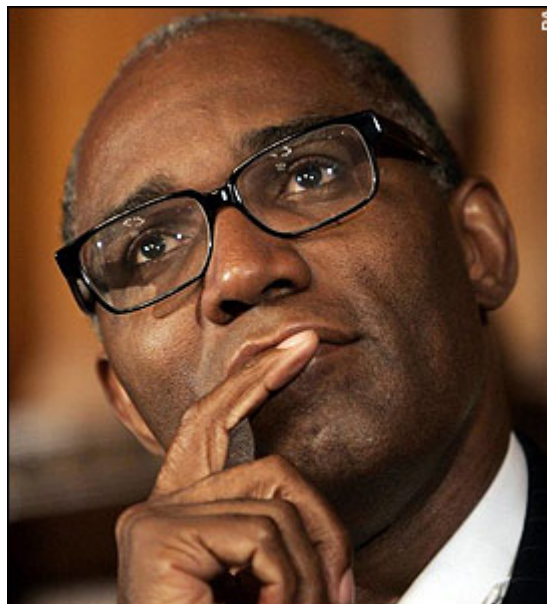
A new report by Amnesty International UK and Southall Black Sisters reveals how hundreds of women in the UK are trapped in a cycle of abuse, unable to access basic levels of protection and support, simply because of their vulnerable immigration status.

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=11227>

Your Human Rights guides – disabled people and refugee and asylum seekers guides still available

'Your Human Rights' is a series of four plain English, non-technical guides published by BIHR. They provide practical information about human rights in the UK and how they may be relevant for disabled people, older people, people living with mental health problems and refugees & asylum seekers who are experiencing discrimination or bad treatment.

We still have copies left of our guides for disabled people and refugees & asylum seekers. If you would like to receive copies please email Lucy on lmattthews@bihr.org.uk. We are particularly keen to hear from organisations that would be able to distribute the guides directly to disabled people and refugees & asylum seekers. Unfortunately we no longer have any printed copies of our guides for older people or people living with mental health problems, but all four guides can be downloaded from our website at www.bihr.org/information/guides.html.



Trevor Phillips – Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, which launched its human rights inquiry in March

EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Women and Manual Trades

Position: Women and Manual Trades Chief Executive
Deadline to apply: April 17th, 2008
[More information...](#)

Justice

Position: Legal Research Intern (seeking recent law graduates)
Deadline to apply: May 9th, 2008
[More information...](#)

Citizen Rights Lawyer

Position: Human Rights Law Teachers
[More information...](#)

Amnesty International

Position: Coordinator – Human Rights of Indigenous People
Deadline to apply: April 11th, 2008
[More information...](#)

Answer: Article 3 of the ECHR, made part of domestic law by the Human Rights Act 1998 recognizes the absolute right not to be tortured or subjected to treatment or punishment that is inhuman or degrading