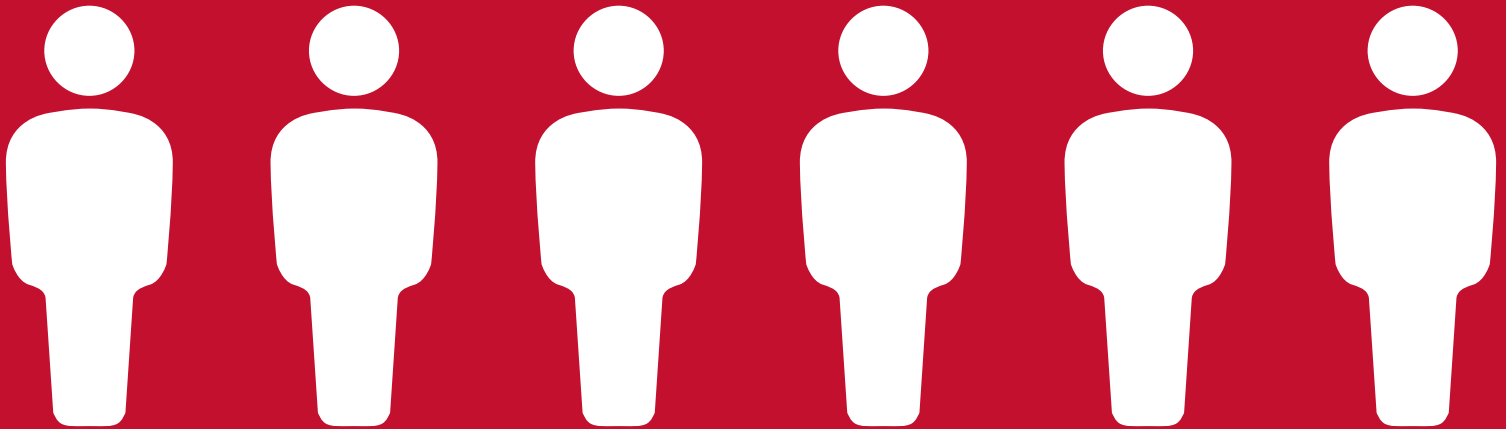
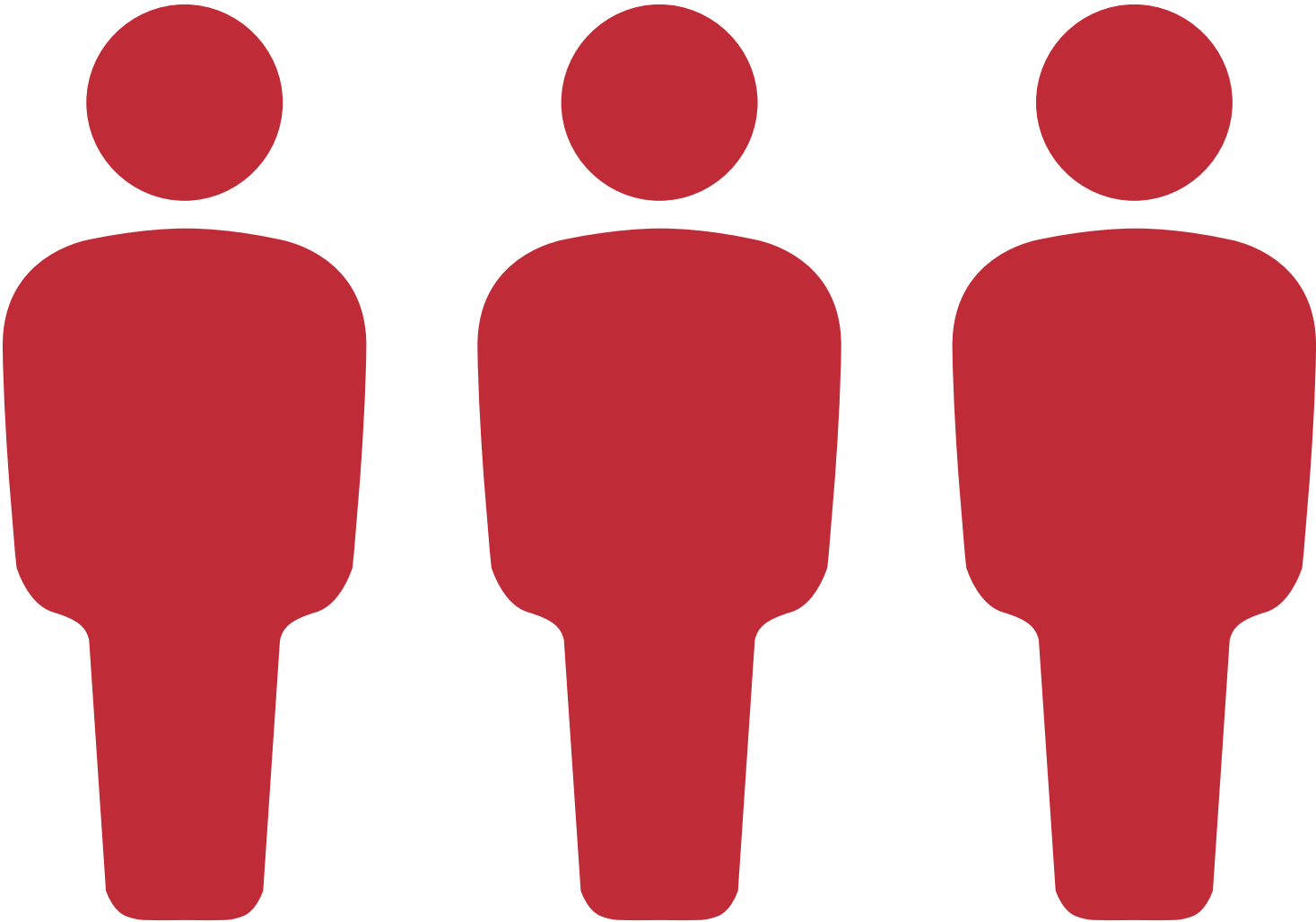


The British Institute of Human Rights

Annual review 2005–06

Making sense of human rights





From our Chair



In the short period since I became chairman of the trustees of BIHR, I have been immensely impressed with the dedication of fellow trustees and staff to the goals of the organisation and by the very hard work done in recent years to secure a firm administrative and financial basis for it. This was led by former director Sarah Cooke OBE, who left BIHR in July 2005 after seven very successful years. This achievement is also due in large part to our funders, who have demonstrated in the most concrete way possible their confidence in our ability to deliver results. Because of these successes, and with a vigorous new Director, I am fortunate to have joined at a time when we have good reason to expect that our track record and future ambitions will attract the funds we need to grow and develop.

My experience as a practising solicitor over more than 45 years has been mainly as an adviser to individuals with a variety of practical problems involving human rights issues. That role has been frequently contentious and partisan but I am very much aware that human rights are far too important to be left entirely to the lawyers. The best way to protect human rights is to ensure that the right structures and

There is a pressing need for the public to be much better informed about the Human Rights Act

practices are in place in government and other public institutions, and that those in power are fully informed of their human rights obligations.

Litigation is always a last resort.

What appeals to me about BIHR is that – almost uniquely – it has made a serious effort to develop practical ways of achieving the ‘human rights culture’ that the government promised as the underlying aim and purpose of the Human Rights Act. I would like to do what I can to strengthen even more the very impressive training and educational programmes initiated by BIHR, supporting our highly skilled staff and improving the resources available to them.

But I believe that the educational role of BIHR is much wider than its practical training programmes. There is a pressing need for the public to be much better informed about the Human Rights Act. Human rights belong to all of us and we should all understand them. We look forward with optimism to the establishment of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights under the recently passed legislation, and it will be a major aim of BIHR to help it shape and deliver its agenda.

As a small organisation it is vital for us to expand our links with other complementary organisations inside and outside the human rights field. We must also act quickly to secure the resources we need to achieve our ambitions. There are great challenges and great opportunities for BIHR and it is a privilege to play a part in confronting them.

Geoffrey Bindman

Director's report



Five years on from the introduction of the Human Rights Act, it is still the more sensational human rights issues, like the treatment of prisoners abroad or of terror suspects at home, that dominate newspaper headlines and help to reinforce the idea that human rights are always 'for somebody else'. Fortunately BIHR has had another successful year combining its practical work with policy expertise and influencing. It is this potent combination which has made BIHR a leader in the field of promotion and protection of human rights in citizens' daily lives, with a special focus on those who are most reliant on public services and yet whose basic rights are most often disregarded.

I was attracted to BIHR because of its unique focus on the human rights issues that are all around us

Over the last year BIHR's outputs have outstripped its modest resources. We are helping to deliver on many of the ambitions that lay behind the introduction of the Human Rights Act. In the third and final year of a pilot Community Outreach Programme, funded by the Big Lottery Fund and Comic Relief, we delivered numerous awareness-raising sessions to voluntary and community sector groups. We were delighted with the concrete examples that emerged of human rights 'in action' – being used to challenge everyday situations in which individuals had not been treated with dignity or respect, often resulting in an unacceptable level of service.

Another ambition was for the Act to help deliver higher quality, more responsive public services for all. Recognising this BIHR has expanded its work with public sector organisations. Our experiences indicate that human rights help public sector workers to renew their focus on the individual's needs and to find common-sense solutions to tricky issues.

BIHR has long argued for the added value that a human rights approach brings to inequalities in society, given that discrimination law only goes so far and offers nothing when everyone is being treated equally badly. In the past year two major reviews were launched looking at persistent inequalities in society and discrimination law respectively and the Commission for Equality and Human Rights came firmly within our sights. Drawing on examples from our training programme and our wider expertise, we were able to demonstrate the benefits of a human rights approach for recognising all the different facets of a person's identity and delivering them a truly tailor-made service as a result. I was attracted to BIHR because of its unique focus on the human rights issues that are all around us: frail couples separated when one goes into residential care, learning-disabled parents whose children are removed from them and bullied children turning to self-harm. With the talents and dedication of staff, trustees and advisers I am confident that in the year ahead we will put these and other 'everyday' human rights issues firmly in the spotlight.

Katie Ghose

Who are we?

BIHR is a charity with a unique focus on human rights as they affect people in the UK in their everyday lives. We believe in human rights as a tool to assist socially excluded or disadvantaged people.

Our vision

Our vision is of a society in which

- everyone's human rights are routinely respected;
- public policies, decisions and service delivery reflect the basic values of respect, dignity, equality and fairness; and
- human rights become a positive force for change, widely acknowledged as a reflection of our shared values and as a practical tool to drive up standards of service delivery and challenge poor practice.

Our aims are to

- increase awareness and understanding of the relevance and value of human rights to everyone in the UK, among the public, decision-makers, the voluntary and community and public sectors and other key groups;
- enable socially excluded and disadvantaged people to understand and claim their human rights effectively;
- work with public service providers to increase their use of human rights as a tool to deliver better standards of service, especially to socially excluded and disadvantaged individuals and groups; and
- increase awareness of and adherence to human rights standards by policy-makers in their work.

Our mission

Our mission is to play a significant role in developing a culture of respect for human rights in the UK.

What do we do?

BIHR has two main areas of work: promotion and training for voluntary and public sector organisations (brought together in 2005 as the Human Rights Promotion and Training Programme) and a policy and research programme which includes drafting policy submissions, working with civil servants to influence key proposals, and building awareness of human rights among other organisations. Our work is supported by a range of events, publications and media work.

What do we want to do?

- highlight the specific human rights issues that we work on, and ensure greater recognition of BIHR's role. We see this as essential to challenging misperceptions about the Human Rights Act and to ensuring that it is used by those who most need its protection;
- strengthen the Human Rights Act so that it protects all socially excluded individuals and groups; and
- expand the reach and impact of our promotion and training work, by working closely with a range of partners, including voluntary and community and public sector organisations.

‘We cannot achieve our vision of high quality public services for all if those services do not respect individuals’ rights to dignity, privacy and respect.’

Rt Hon Tony Blair MP, Prime Minister

Foreword to the White Paper on the Commission for Equality and Human Rights

Human Rights Promotion and Training



What we do

Our promotion and training aims to strengthen the role of human rights standards in the delivery of public services, and empower socially excluded and disadvantaged people to understand and claim their rights.

2005 saw us supporting these aims through our Community Outreach Programme, which provided human rights training to voluntary and community organisations working with and for socially excluded and disadvantaged people, and via Public Sector Training for people working in local authorities and other parts of the public sector.

Why do people need human rights training?

The Human Rights Act has enormous potential to improve public service provision for socially excluded and disadvantaged people. However, there is widespread lack of awareness and understanding about human rights throughout the UK – human rights are often seen as relevant only for people overseas, or as a complex legal topic that only lawyers can handle.

For the Human Rights Act to be effective, service providers need to be aware of their responsibilities and of the positive impact that a human rights framework can have on their work, while those vulnerable to human rights abuses, and voluntary and community organisations representing them, need to be aware of their rights and empowered to claim them. BIHR's training addresses these issues by demonstrating in practical terms how the Human Rights Act, and the human rights framework that it comes within, can make a real difference to the lives of people in the UK.

Overview of 2005

Community Outreach Programme

In 2005 our Community Outreach Programme provided human rights training to voluntary and community organisations working with disabled people, people living with mental health problems, disadvantaged older people and refugees and asylum seekers. We trained more than 550 individuals from over 170 organisations and groups, including service providers, advice agencies, umbrella organisations, advocates and campaigners, and informal groups of service users and carers. This three-year pilot project has been funded by the Big Lottery Fund and Comic Relief and came to an end in January 2006.

During 2005 we also evaluated the long term impact of our training. Feedback from this process has been very positive, with organisations reporting that they have used learning gained through training to challenge potential human rights violations and to advocate more effectively on behalf of their clients.

Case study

The parents of two mental health patients in a hospital raised questions about bruising and rather brutal treatment on the ward. However, their concerns were dismissed by the hospital staff, and they were told they were no longer allowed to visit the ward. After attending a BIHR training session, the parents realised that this situation may breach their and their children's right to respect for their family life. They successfully used this to challenge the situation, and the ban on them visiting has now been lifted.

Public sector training

Our training and promotion work with the public sector developed in response to needs identified through the Community Outreach Programme. We realised that it was important to work with those at the 'frontline' of delivering services as well as those on the receiving end.

Our training sessions are highly tailored and participative. They focus on the Human Rights Act as a framework for improved decision-making and delivery of public services.

Demand for our public sector training was high throughout 2005 and training was provided to over 300 participants in 26 training sessions.

Recipients included Whitehall departments, local government associations and local authorities including social services, housing and education departments. We also advised public service inspectorates such

as the Audit Commission in their work to support human rights initiatives within local authorities.

Information and promotional work

We promoted the practical importance of human rights in a wide range of publications and speaking engagements, including conferences on elder abuse, adult protection and modernising mental health services. We are also producing a series of human rights guides for people living with mental health problems, disabled people, older people and refugees and asylum seekers, in consultation with representatives of these groups. These guides will be published in 2006, and are funded by Comic Relief.

**Very good, informative,
very practical. I feel I can
use it to great effect in
my work. One of the
best courses I've been on**

Social worker attending BIHR training session

The future

Evaluation and learning from our training has confirmed previous research by BIHR and others, showing a need to strengthen awareness and application of human rights standards in the voluntary and community and public sectors if the Human Rights Act is to make any real difference to the lives of the most excluded and disadvantaged.

This need is reflected in consistently high demand for our training and tools from service providers and campaigning organisations within the voluntary and community sector, and increasing interest from the public sector.

In responding to these demands, a key challenge for BIHR is to increase the reach and level of our training and promotion work in a way that

- benefits those who are the most socially excluded and disadvantaged;
- adds value to and supports the work of other key individuals and organisations; and
- contributes to long term change.

With this in mind, future priorities for BIHR's training and promotion work include

- increasing our partnership work with relevant voluntary and community networks in order to build awareness and use of human rights approaches amongst their members;
- securing resources to develop and deliver our training and accompanying tools; and
- continuing to strengthen our evaluation and evidence gathering in ways that capture the experiences of socially excluded and disadvantaged people and use them to influence wider policy and practice.

‘When one crosses the threshold of a privately run care home, one enters a twilight zone... There is what the British Institute of Human Rights calls a ‘protection gap’ into which older vulnerable people can fall.’

Paul Burstow MP

Speaking in a House of Commons’ Parliamentary debate on the Equality Bill 2005

Influencing policy



What we do

BIHR builds on our unique expertise from working with the voluntary, community and public sectors to influence policy on human rights. Drawing on this grass roots experience we produce evidence-based and cutting edge policy and research on human rights.

BIHR's policy and research programme is targeted towards creating a culture in the UK in which everyone's human rights are routinely respected. We aim to

- convince people (especially politicians and policy-makers) of the value of retaining the Human Rights Act (HRA) and extending the protection it offers socially excluded or disadvantaged people;
- champion the human rights framework as a tool for these individuals to improve the treatment they receive from service providers; and
- demonstrate the value of human rights in improving the provision of public services to socially excluded or disadvantaged individuals (and through this enhancing quality for all).

What will the Commission for Equality and Human Rights do?

A Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) will be established in late 2007.

The new organisation will promote human rights alongside its equality responsibilities. The CEHR will carry out the work of the existing commissions on gender, race and disability, and prevent discrimination and promote equality in relation to age, sexual orientation and religion or belief.

More inclusive and integrated protection against discrimination than is presently available will be provided by the Commission. The human rights remit of the new body will be central to its success and should ensure it takes a holistic approach to equality issues. Whilst discrimination and equality work is often perceived as focusing on specific groups, human rights belong to everyone.

The new body will have an overarching duty to promote understanding of the importance of human rights and will

- publish information and guidance and give advice to individuals on human rights;
- encourage public authorities to comply with their duty not to act incompatibly with human rights;
- conduct inquiries in relation to human rights issues;
- take cases in its own name or intervene in cases to protect or promote human rights; and
- track progress in achieving the protection of human rights in 'state of the nation' reports.

Highlights

With the support of a further grant from the Sigrid Rausing Trust BIHR has been able to play a leading role in key policy debates on human rights. We have worked to:

Place human rights at the heart of the planned Commission for Equality and Human Rights

BIHR strongly supports the creation of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR).

The central recommendation to come out of our groundbreaking report *Something for Everyone:*

The impact of the Human Rights Act (published 2002) was that the Government should establish an independent body to promote and protect human rights. BIHR has continued to work with government departments, parliamentarians and policy forums to ensure that human rights will be, as Lord Falconer, the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs has said, not just the icing on the cake but the 'key ingredient' in the Commission.

When the Bill which sets up the new body was debated in Parliament, BIHR produced a briefing highlighting the benefits of the legislation and identifying where it could be strengthened. Our calls for action on the narrow definition of 'public authority' in the Human Rights Act were raised by MPs in the debates on the Bill. Persuaded by ourselves and other organisations, the Government has now committed itself to addressing the problem through law reform, rather than waiting for it to be resolved through a 'test case' in the courts (see below).

BIHR has a vital role to play in helping to shape the organisation's early strategy and priorities as well as advising on how it can practically deliver its human rights responsibilities. We are in regular contact with many of the individuals and organisations that the Commission will need to reach (including through our promotion and training) and will draw on these experiences to influence the new organisation.

Close the 'protection gap' in the Human Rights Act

The Human Rights Act was intended to protect those who suffer infringements of their human rights. In the debates on the Human Rights Bill the Government was clear that the duty to ensure public authorities do not act incompatibly with human rights should apply to a wide range of 'public authorities'. Despite

BIHR has been able to play a leading role in key policy debates on human rights

this the courts have interpreted 'public authority' restrictively so that many private and voluntary providers of public services are not included. The practical effect of this has been to exclude sections of society from the protection offered by the Human Rights Act.

BIHR is concerned by this 'protection gap', which has had a particularly stark impact on older people, and we have worked consistently to raise awareness of the issue. BIHR flagged the issue to parliamentarians as they debated the

Equality Bill, we continue to work 'behind the scenes' with government as they examine the options for closing the gap and we have provided evidence for a legal case which will examine the issue.

Use human rights law and values to tackle inequality

BIHR has learned important lessons from its work with socially excluded groups. One of the most significant is how a human rights framework can be a powerful practical tool to negotiate solutions to deep-seated inequalities in our society.

BIHR (with the Centre for the Study of Human Rights at LSE) submitted evidence to the Equalities Review, an independent review established in 2005 to investigate the causes of persistent discrimination and inequality in British society. BIHR drew examples from our training to illustrate how human rights can be used to empower individuals at risk of discrimination, and ensure they are treated with fairness, dignity and respect. BIHR will continue to work to ensure that the powerful contribution made by human rights in situations where anti-discrimination law and other tools fail to tackle inequalities is fully reflected in both the Equalities Review final report and the work of the Government's Discrimination Law Review, a process expected to lead to a Single Equality Act in the lifetime of this Parliament.

Case study

A physical disabilities team at a local authority decided to provide support workers to facilitate social activities, including going to pubs and clubs. One service user asked to be accompanied to a gay pub but the manager of the scheme refused – none of his staff was prepared to attend a gay venue. Following BIHR training an advocate working on behalf of the service user realised that human rights arguments could be used to challenge practices of this sort.

The future

We know from our work to date that the Human Rights Act and the wider framework it comes within are under-appreciated for their value and relevance to public policy in the UK. However, we also believe that BIHR's grass roots experience has great potential to make these links and to influence policymakers at all levels.

A key challenge is therefore to identify and explain the value that human rights brings to policy-making, especially the efforts to tackle social exclusion, poverty and discrimination.

With this in mind, future priorities will include

- securing funding for and conducting innovative research on human rights in the voluntary and community and public sectors;
- using our expertise and practical experiences to influence a wider range of audiences including key Government departments, parliamentarians, the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights and, via the media, the public;
- using case studies and examples from our training to illustrate human rights problems and solutions for a wide range of decision-makers; and
- producing a range of briefings and other publications (including a guide to human rights and the CEHR).

‘We are lucky that BIHR is so active and so positive. They work to promote a human rights culture. And a human rights culture can help people who feel that they have been wronged to understand the meaning of what has happened to them.’

Baroness Vivien Stern CBE

Speaking at the February 2006 BIHR Lunchtime Lecture

Spreading the word about human rights

BIHR BRIEF

The newsletter of the British Institute of Human Rights



Editorial

Spreading the word about human rights

What we do

Human rights in the UK are often seen through a narrow lens – about prisoners abroad or terror suspects at home. Through our events, publications and media work we aim to increase awareness and understanding of human rights as they affect everyone in the UK in their daily lives. We want to encourage people to learn more about the human rights issues affecting society – and to be more informed, involved in debates and empowered to take action to protect their rights and those of others.

Why raise awareness of human rights?

When the Human Rights Act came into force in 2000, one of its main purposes was to create a human rights culture across the UK – a society in which everyone's basic rights were routinely respected. This has not happened. Human rights are still widely thought of as something for people living overseas or for undeserving individuals at home. There is widespread misunderstanding of the positive value of human rights for everyone in the UK and especially those who get a 'raw deal' from public services.

At BIHR we are trying to reduce this ignorance and hostility by raising awareness and understanding of human rights. We want people to realise that human rights are about basic principles of dignity and equality that are likely to affect all of us at some point in our lives; they are not for minorities but offer 'something for everyone'. Through a range of activities, including events, publications and media work, we hope to go some way towards achieving this aim.

BIHR Lunchtime Lectures

The 20th year of BIHR's renowned Lunchtime Lectures was our most successful series yet, with audiences of over 200 for some speakers.

The lectures are a rare opportunity for members of the public to hear, and question, high profile expert speakers that they might otherwise never come into contact with. The wide range of topics illustrates the central role human rights have in today's world.

Generously sponsored by Irwin Mitchell solicitors and One Crown Office Row barristers' chambers, the lectures are also supported by *The Independent*, which provides free advertising and publishes extracts. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors for enabling the lectures to be free of charge and open to everyone.

Thank you to all our Lunchtime Lecture speakers from 2005 and 2006.

Audience feedback about BIHR's Lunchtime Lectures 2005–06

'Inspiring, informing, life affirming' (Jon Snow lecture)

'Very thought-provoking and valuable' (Maeve Sherlock lecture)

'Thank you so much for this unique opportunity' (Shami Chakrabarti lecture)

'Fantastic – I'm shocked very deeply by what I've heard today and will join BIHR as a result' (Vivien Stern lecture)

'Your selection of lectures is second to none. Well done' (Ken Macdonald lecture)

Paul Sieghart Memorial Lecture

The popular Paul Sieghart Memorial Lecture takes place annually, in memory of the great contribution made by Paul Sieghart to the advancement of human rights in the UK.

Nobel Prize winner Professor Amartya Sen gave the 2005 Sieghart lecture for BIHR. He discussed the relation between human rights seen as moral or political claims and institutional legal rights, particularly in light of the emergence of 'human rights legislation'.

Thank you to Matrix chambers and Mayer Brown Rowe and Maw solicitors for sponsoring the Sieghart lecture once again.

Friends' Reception

Friends and colleagues of BIHR enjoyed another of our annual drinks receptions in November at the Lord Chancellor's Residence in the House of Lords, a spectacular venue that he kindly donated once again for the event.

The Friends' Reception is an opportunity for Friends and colleagues of BIHR to meet and socialise with other supporters and advocates of human rights. Thank you to everyone who joined us on the night.

BIHR Brief and website

We use our newsletter, *BIHR Brief*, to update people about developments in human rights, and raise awareness of key issues through discussion and comment pieces by prestigious guest writers.

With a circulation of over 1200, BIHR's regular newsletter contains articles and news about human rights and BIHR, and details of upcoming human rights events. In 2005 we updated the format of the newsletter, including regular features and focusing each issue on a key area for human rights: topics covered included immigration and asylum, and children. Our newsletter is sent out free to BIHR members and can be downloaded from our website.

We are grateful to LexisNexis Butterworths for their sponsorship of the BIHR newsletter throughout 2005.

Our website keeps visitors informed about all of BIHR's work, publications and events, and is a source of information about human rights in general.

Human Rights in the Community

In April 2005 *Human Rights in the Community: rights as agents for change* was published by Hart Publishing. Edited by BIHR advisory board member Colin Harvey, Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Human Rights Centre at Queen's University Belfast, the book is a collection of essays from leading human rights commentators, focusing on how a 'human rights culture' is to be created, and how we make sense of human rights.

All royalties from the book have been kindly donated to BIHR.

Human rights in schools

In 2005 BIHR, funded by the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA), conducted a review of resources on the Human Rights Act that teachers can use in citizenship lessons.

Working with human rights consultant Jenny Watson, citizenship expert Jenny Talbot and the Citizenship Foundation, BIHR met and consulted with a wide range of non-governmental organisations, government departments and bodies, teachers, students and citizenship experts.

The resulting report identified the need for a resource pack which sets out the values underpinning the Human Rights Act and focuses on human rights in the context of young people's everyday experiences (including topics such as bullying, uniforms and participation in school councils). It also recommended training for teachers, to help them use the resource and lead human rights debates in the classroom.

BIHR is working closely with the DCA as they decide how to take forward these recommendations.

Publicity/media work

In 2005 BIHR started to make more use of the media as a channel to tell a different story about human rights from the one usually displayed. The appointment of a new director, Katie Ghose, provided an opportunity to publicise the breadth of human rights issues, ranging from the separation of older people when one goes into residential care to the degrading or inhuman treatment that is experienced by many disabled people and those living with mental health problems. Publications in which we secured coverage include the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Times*, the *Daily Mail*, *Independent Lawyer*, *Third Sector* and *PR Week*.

In October 2005 the Human Rights Act once again came under attack as many newspapers argued against prisoners being given the right to vote. We wrote to the *Daily Mail* to offer an alternative viewpoint:

‘Hysteria over the Strasbourg judges’ ruling on prisoners’ right to vote overshadows the value of the Human Rights Act to vulnerable people.

One mentally ill man in a hospital was left in his own bodily waste for days, because staff couldn’t be bothered to move him – until helpers used the Act to confront the practice. And frail care home residents used the Act to challenge a local authority intent on moving them out.

For these people, human rights laws weren’t used as a weapon against our society, as Melanie Phillips argues (Mail). They were a tool to argue for basic dignity and respect, surely values that are deeply British.’

The future

We are looking forward to developing our programme of events throughout 2006 and 2007. A BIHR conference is planned, which we hope will become a key annual event in the human rights calendar. More topical seminars and debates will help to further thinking about human rights issues.

**We aim to help
achieve more positive
attitudes, reducing
ignorance and prejudice**

Our website will be redesigned to make it more comprehensive and informative, and we will be developing our publications and other information resources. We intend to publish a guide to the CEHR and human rights, and a 'myth-busting guide' to human rights for journalists. We will also be reviewing *BIHR Brief*, incorporating feedback from our readers, to make sure it continues to be a high quality and useful source of human rights information.

Through increased media work we want to raise awareness of the situations of some of the most disadvantaged people in society, and encourage those people who greet human rights with scepticism to think a little differently. We aim to help achieve more positive attitudes, reducing ignorance and prejudice and improving the public's understanding of what we really mean when we talk about 'human rights'.

Thank you

BIHR would like to thank:

Funders, donors and sponsors

- The Law School at King's College London for their continued donation of office space and associated support services.
- Atlantic Philanthropies for the further instalments of a total grant of £190,000, which included dedicated funds for a fundraising consultancy that we completed in 2005.
- The Baring Foundation for the second year of a three-year core costs grant (£75,000 in total).
- The Big Lottery Fund, for funding the three-year Community Outreach Programme pilot until the end of January 2006.
- Comic Relief for their significant contribution towards the Community Outreach Programme which has included support for four user-guides on human rights.
- The Sigrid Rausing Trust for once again giving us a core costs grant of £40,000 which we are using for a range of policy, research and influencing activities.
- The Lyndhurst Settlement for providing funds to BIHR.
- The sponsors of the Lunchtime Lectures, who enable us to make them free of charge and open to everyone: Irwin Mitchell solicitors, One Crown Office Row barristers' chambers, and *The Independent*.
- Matrix chambers and Mayer Brown Rowe and Maw solicitors for sponsoring the Sieghart lecture once again.
- The Lord Chancellor for donating his residence in the House of Lords for our Friends' Reception, and his staff for all their assistance in organising the event.

COMIC
RELIEF

Supported by



- Clifford Chance for pledging support (including venue) for our 2006 annual reception.
- The contributors to *Human Rights in the Community: rights as agents for change* and the editor Colin Harvey, for donating all royalties from the book to BIHR.
- Hart Publishing for funding the launch party for *Human Rights in the Community*.
- 18 Red Lion Court for once again sponsoring production of our annual review.
- LexisNexis Butterworths, the sponsors of the newsletter throughout 2005.
- All the Friends of BIHR.
- Human rights consultant Jenny Watson, citizenship expert Jenny Talbot and the Citizenship Foundation who worked with BIHR on our review of human rights resources in schools, which was commissioned by the DCA.
- Southwark Council for their invaluable partnership in the ongoing development of human rights promotion and training support for local authorities.
- Bananadesign for designing BIHR's publications and website.
- Urginia Mauluka for taking images used in this annual review.

Partners

- Everyone at the DCA with whom we worked in 2005, especially Edward Adams and his colleagues in the Human Rights Division, and Atul Sharda and Theo Gavrielides of the Consumer Strategy Directorate.

Writers and reviewers

Human Rights Promotion and Training Programme user-guide reviewers:

- Chris Wright and Mandy Lawrence, Experts by Experience Group of National Institute for Mental Health England Eastern
- Mary Teasdale and Paul Corry, Rethink

- Henrietta Marriage, Mind
- Kevin Caulfield, National Centre for Independent Living
- Natasha Jentle, Disability Action in Islington
- Catherine Casserley, Chris Benson, Myra White and Martin Crick, Disability Rights Commission
- Nony Ardill, Age Concern England
- Sheena Dunbar, Age Concern Waltham Forest
- Beryl Harwood
- Vebi Kosumi, Dover Detainee Visitor Group
- Alasdair Mackenzie, Doughty Street Chambers
- Mariam Ahmed
- Fariha Bhatti
- Everyone who has contributed to the BIHR newsletter.

Speakers

- Professor Amartya Sen for delivering the 2005 Sieghart lecture.

The Lunchtime Lecture speakers:

- Ken Macdonald QC, Director of Public Prosecutions
- Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister on Human Rights in Iraq
- Sarah Spencer, then the Deputy Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality
- Professor A C Grayling, Professor of Philosophy, Birkbeck College
- Jon Snow, Broadcaster
- Maeve Sherlock, Chief Executive, Refugee Council
- Shami Chakrabarti, Director, Liberty
- Baroness Vivien Stern CBE, House of Lords and International Centre for Prison Studies
- Imran Khan, Solicitor

Funding priorities

BIHR has two major fundraising priorities. These reflect the two core areas of our work:

- (i) our promotion and training and
- (ii) our influencing activities which in future will encompass policy, research, parliamentary work, media and campaigns.

BIHR's major fundraising sources to date have been grant-making trusts and the Big Lottery Fund with important contributions from companies, individuals and earned income from training in the public sector. Moving forward our strategy will be to continue to seek money from these sources but also to diversify, looking to statutory sources, companies, the legal profession, training and consultancy.

Promotion and training

We are seeking funds to develop our Human Rights Promotion and Training Programme. Specific targets include the resources to employ a programme manager, two training and development officers, an information officer and an administrator. These core posts will further develop much needed capacity building and infrastructure support for the voluntary and community sector as well as training and tools for the public sector. We also need funds to produce a wider range of tailored tools and supports for the different needs of campaigners and service providers, and for organisations working with particular groups, such as children and young people, women and ethnic minorities.

Research

We are seeking funds to deliver major new research into the actual and potential impact of the Human Rights Act on the voluntary and public sectors. Specific targets include resources to employ a full-time Policy & Research Officer, to hire consultants to deliver discrete parts of the research and specific funds to deliver a range of activities including publications and events to publicise the results of the research and 'spread the word' about the value of human rights for people in the UK. These will include a lively 'plain English' guide to human rights and the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights, and a 'myth-busting' guide to human rights for journalists. We are also seeking funds to enable us to develop and deliver human rights resources and training for teachers and students.

BIHR members

We rely on the generosity of individual supporters – both our Friends (members) and those who make one-off donations. These funds are especially valuable as they can be used for general costs and areas of work that it can be difficult to raise money for from other sources. We will be reviewing our Friends' scheme in the next year and will be launching a new category of members – lawyers and legal professionals. For a human rights culture to develop it is vital that organisations like ours and lawyers work together. Our new scheme will help us to build relationships with a broad range of lawyers who have an interest in human rights and especially those with clients who often get a raw deal from public services.

Financial activities

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2005

This is an extract from BIHR's full audited accounts for the year ending 31 December 2005 which were approved by trustees on 24 April 2006. Copies of the full accounts can be obtained from our office.

	<i>Restricted fund</i>	<i>Designated fund</i>	<i>General funds</i>	<i>Total funds</i>
	2005	2005	2005	2005
Incoming resources				
in £s				
1 Grants	183,939	25,000	3,000	211,939
2 Sponsorships	—	—	24,500	24,500
3 Donations and Friends' subscriptions	—	—	3,992	3,992
4 Speaking and training fees	—	—	26,900	26,900
5 Other income	—	—	1,513	1,513
6 Interest	—	—	9,851	9,851
7 Contribution in kind	—	—	27,100	27,100
Total	183,939	25,000	96,856	305,795

	<i>Restricted fund</i>	<i>Designated fund</i>	<i>General funds</i>	<i>Total funds</i>
	2005	2005	2005	2005
Resources expended				
in £s				
1 Direct charitable expenditure	208,166	25,000	65,130	298,296
2 Fund raising	—	—	13,437	13,437
3 Administration expenditure	—	—	5,389	5,389
Total	208,166	25,000	83,956	317,122
Net surplus for the period	(24,227)	0	12,900	(11,327)
Funds balance brought forward at 01.01.2005	145,903	18,750	75,173	239,826
Funds balance carried forward at 31.12.2005	121,676	18,750	88,073	228,499

Personnel

BIHR Staff

Katie Ghose, Director

Anna Edmundson, Deputy Director

Ceri Goddard, Human Rights Promotion and Training Manager

Sonya Sceats, Human Rights Training Officer

Lucy Matthews, Human Rights Promotion and Training Co-ordinator

Jo Morgans, Events and Publicity Officer



Amy Barrick, PA/Administrator

Sarah Cooke, Director (left July 2005)

Ade Sofola, Administrator & Bookkeeper (left December 2005)

Carolina Gottardo, Human Rights Promotion and Training Manager (left January 2006)

Pauline Parker, Administrator (temporary, left April 2006)

BIHR Trustee Board

Geoffrey Bindman (Chair) (appointed October 2005)

David Cutler (Vice Chair)

Patti Whaley (Treasurer)

Sarah Barclay

Peter Carter QC

Parosha Chandran

Mary Kane

Michael Pitchford

Jessica Simor

Wendy Morris (appointed October 2005)

Kathleen Duncan (appointed January 2006)

BIHR Advisory Board

The Rt Hon Lord Justice Sedley (President)

Frances Butler (Vice-President)

The Hon Susan M Baring OBE

Professor Robert Blackburn

Sir Nicolas Bratza

Shami Chakrabarti

Ben Emmerson QC

Dame Audrey F Glover CMG

Stephen Grosz

Professor Colin Harvey

Professor Sir Francis Jacobs QC

Sir Sydney Kentridge QC

Professor Francesca Klug OBE

Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC

David Marks

Professor Aileen McColgan

Alex Milne

Caroline Moorehead OBE, FRSL

Professor Zoran Pajic

William Sieghart

Sarah Spencer

Professor Rebecca M Wallace

Jenny Watson

Baroness Janet Whitaker

BIHR Patrons

The Rt Hon Lord Browne-Wilkinson PC

Sir Vincent Evans GCMG MBE QC

Sir Basil Hall KCB MC TD

Christopher Lush CMG

Stanley Hunt CBE

Sir John Freeland KCMG QC

Thank you to:

Sarah Cooke who was BIHR's Director for seven years and left the organisation in July 2005. Sarah led a process of transformation of the organisation, including steering BIHR through constitutional changes and kick-starting the vitally important promotion and training for the voluntary, community and public sectors which has become a unique and core part of BIHR's work.

Carolina Gottardo, who left BIHR at the beginning of 2006, for her tireless and inspirational work in developing our training programme since its inception in 2003.

Ade Sofola, BIHR's Administrator and Bookkeeper from April 2004 to December 2005, for her hard work and many contributions to making the organisation run smoothly.

Wendy Morris, who stood down after seven years as an outstanding volunteer during which she committed much time, energy and skill to the organisation. We are delighted that in 2005 she became a Trustee.

Jessica Simor who stood down as Chair of the Trustee Board in October 2005 (whilst remaining a trustee), for her significant contributions and support.

Ordinary people have rights too

By Joshua Rozenberg

Taken from an article in *The Daily Telegraph*, 29 September 2005

Katie Ghose, who is starting her second day as director of the British Institute of Human Rights, is clearly going to need all her powers of advocacy.

One of her chief aims, I am told, is to share some of the 'many positive stories' about her institute's achievements since the Human Rights Act came into force five years ago.

But which human rights story was dominating the newspapers on Tuesday? A report about a hospital in Halifax that was asking visitors to respect the human rights of newborn babies by not making baby-noises at them.

It is ironic that the hospital seems to have used the Human Rights Act to justify an apparently rigid and unfeeling policy, while Miss Ghose's staff have been using it to achieve the very opposite.

Unlike campaign groups that fight high-profile cases, the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) works quietly behind the scenes. Two of its lawyers spend their time training local volunteers in how to use the Act to help vulnerable people.

Some of this advice is pretty basic. Miss Ghose gives the example of a care home for elderly people which had a blanket policy of not providing residents with bed-pans between lunch-time and tea-time, no doubt to give staff a break.

This was challenged by a local support group as a breach of the residents' right to respect for their private life under Article 8 of the convention. The policy was changed. Another example was starker still. A mentally-ill patient in hospital was placed in seclusion and kept soiling himself. Staff refused to clean up the mess or move him to another room, arguing that the same thing would happen again. Local volunteers argued that this was a breach of Article 3, which bans 'degrading treatment'.

As a result, the patient was moved to a new room. In both cases, the institutions changed their policy once the law was explained to them: there was no need to go to court.

Of course, residents and patients had rights before the Human Rights Act came into force, but Miss Ghose believes that the legislation and subsequent case-law made service providers 'sit up and listen'. No doubt their minds were concentrated by the possibility of legal action.

BIHR is now expanding its remit by training organisations that provide services to the public: Southwark council, in London, is one of the first to give staff a BIHR course in human rights.

[Treatment of suspected terrorists] seems a long way from someone being ill-treated in hospital or a care home. But it is not. The Article 3 that bans the torture of a terrorist also bans the degrading treatment of someone who cannot use a lavatory.

As Miss Ghose says: 'Start to pick apart the Human Rights Act and you will harm a lot of vulnerable people.'

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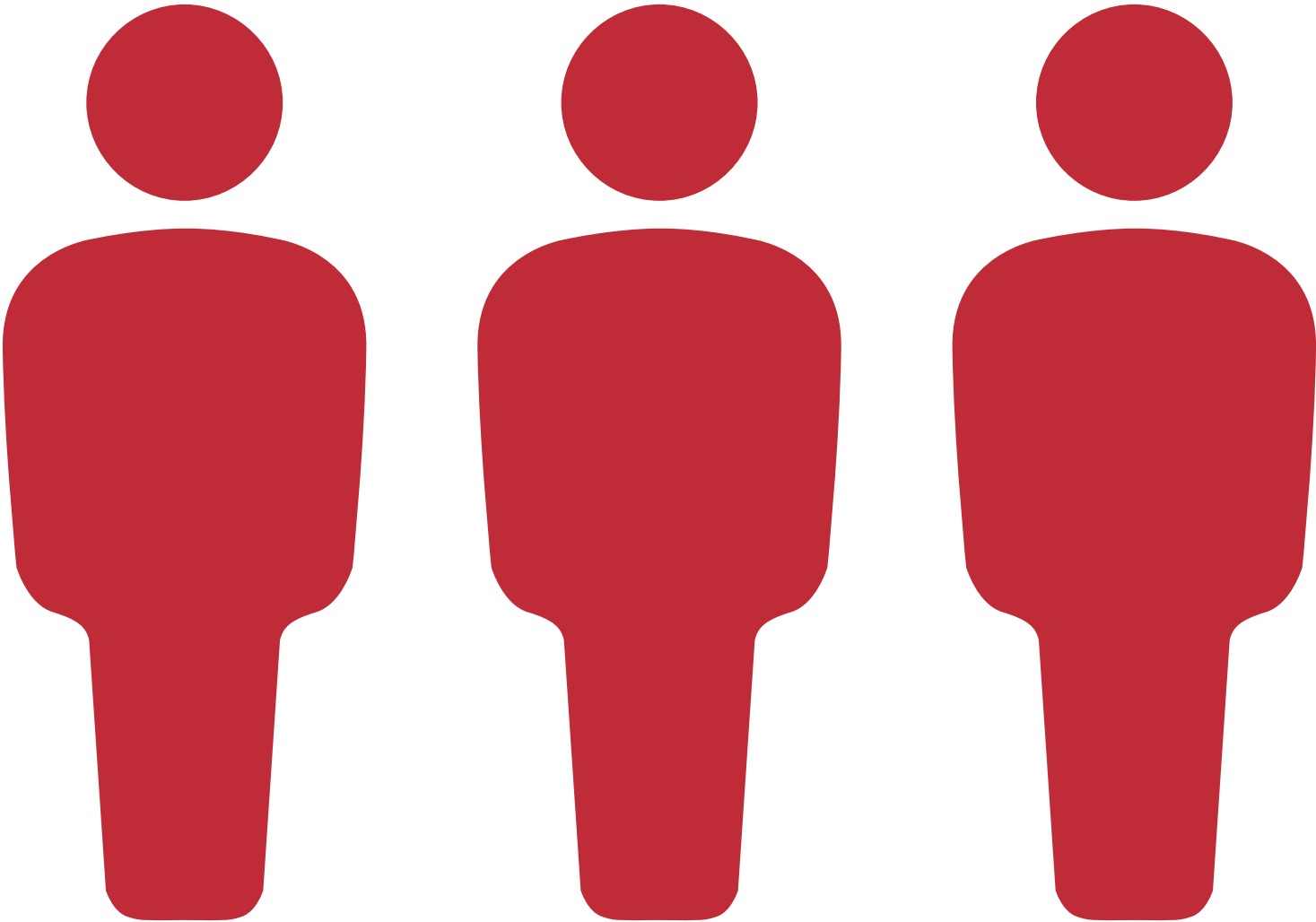
The production of this Annual review has been generously sponsored by 18 Red Lion Court.

'18 Red Lion Court is a Chambers which is unequivocally committed to the protection and advancement of human rights. Our Deputy Head of Chambers, Peter Carter QC, is a former Chairman of the Bar Human Rights Committee. Members of Chambers teach legal and advocacy skills to lawyers in the UK and to lawyers working in international criminal courts, and appear *pro bono* in cases involving human rights (including cases where the death penalty has been imposed) in the UK and overseas. We are very supportive of the vital work carried out by the British Institute of Human Rights, and we feel enormously proud and privileged to be able to help BIHR and undertake this crucial work domestically and internationally.'



David Etherington QC

Head of Chambers,
18 Red Lion Court



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