

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT POLICY ACADEMY FAQs

The Human Rights Act Policy Academy is a 5 day online practical learning programme for policy, campaigns, advocacy and influencing professionals run by the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR). The Academy starts on Monday 1 June 2026. Bookings are now open – make sure you **apply for your place by 1 May 2026**.

Full details: www.bihr.org.uk/human-rights-training/human-rights-act-policy-academy

Is this course suitable for beginners?

Yes. You can join us as a beginner who is completely new to the Human Rights Act. You must already be engaged in policy, campaigns, or similar national/systems advocacy work.

This is not a course for people who are solely delivering direct individual advocacy or casework – the focus is on policy and campaigns (if you're doing both, then the Academy is for your influencing work). We do provide HRA support for caseworkers and advocates through our training and programmes work, please get in touch and ask us more: training@bihr.org.uk

I already work on civil liberties / rights, or human rights – is this really for me?

Yes! Many participants already work on defending the HRA or civil liberties. The Academy is about moving beyond familiarity or defence towards deliberate, fluent and strategic use of the Human Rights Act in complex contexts.

I'm already using the HRA in my role – will I still get something from this?

Absolutely. Participants often tell us they are already “doing” human rights, but value the opportunity for:

- structured reflection,
- peer learning, and
- time to sharpen judgement and approach.

The Academy supports learning and development even for those already working confidently with the HRA.

Is this Academy relevant for people working in the devolved nations?

Yes. The Human Rights Act applies across the UK, including in the devolved nations. The Academy is designed to build skills and confidence in using the Human Rights Act in policy, campaigning, and influencing work, whether that work is UK-wide or in a devolved context. The focus is on strengthening how you use the Human Rights Act in practice, rather than on a single institutional or governance model. Plus the Academy facilitators include senior BIHR staff with experience of working on human rights policy and practice in devolved nations.

Is this relevant for managers and leaders?

Yes. The Academy is designed for both practitioners and those who manage or lead policy and campaigns work. Leaders often value the strategic space it provides to reflect on organisational approach and direction. Leaders are also important in ensuring HRA learning and approaches are internally supported in your organisations, cascading down and reaching up, so you're very welcome! We offer discounts for multiple places, so you can bring team members with you.

What kind of organisations do participants come from?

Participants typically come from non-governmental organisations, voluntary and third sector, and charities working on:

- civil liberties and human rights,
- health, housing, welfare, education or social security
- justice, migration and equalities
- children's rights, women's rights, and more.

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CONTINUED ... What kind of organisations do participants come from?

All participants share a commitment to rights-based change.

If you work for a public authority, local or central government or similar, we do provide HRA learning and development through our training and programmes work, please get in touch and ask us more: training@bihr.org.uk

What will the Human Rights Act Policy Academy help you do?

This is a practical programme for people who want to use the Human Rights Act in real policy, campaigning, and influencing work. You'll learn how to:

- Use the Human Rights Act in **policy submissions and consultation responses** by clearly identifying which rights are engaged and making legally grounded recommendations.
- **Strengthen campaigns** by flagging the specific rights at risk and **framing campaign messages and asks** around enforceable legal duties.
- **Analyse laws and policies** through a human rights lens, spotting risks, gaps, and unintended impacts early on.
- **Make stronger arguments to decision-makers**, using human rights obligations to challenge poor or harmful decisions.
- **Connect lived experience** to human rights law in ways that are evidential, credible, and compelling.
- Respond confidently to attacks on the Human Rights Act, **challenging misinformation** with clear, accessible explanations.

How practical is the Academy?

Very. Participants work on a live project or challenge from their own role, applying learning directly to current policy or campaigning work. This is not a theoretical exercise, and nor is it simply training unlinked to your work – you don't need to join the dots afterwards, we do it together on the course. This could be about: policy positions; consultation responses; research, analysis and recommendations; parliamentary briefings; campaign asks; and much more!

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Apply for your place o directly:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thebritishinstituteofhumanrights/2149730>