

**Human Rights Stakeholder Group  
Zoom, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 11.15 am**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome.
2. Discussion on Future Priorities for HRSG, including funding.
3. Timing HRSG - how often?
4. If time permits, discussion – The Free School Meals Challenge, an update on the outcome and significance of this case.
5. Member Updates.
6. AOB and close

**Present**

No record of attendance on this occasion. The group was attended by a number of individuals from different non-governmental organisations.

**1. Welcome**

Simon Hoffman welcomed members.

**2. Discussion on Future Priorities for HRSG, including funding.**

Simon explained that the HRSG has become established as a forum for human rights discussion and for collective responses to e.g. the UK government consultation on reform of the HRA 1998. However, he noted that it had not yet met its ToR of monitoring and responding to treaty monitoring by UN mechanisms. He explained that together with Melissa and Charles, work is underway to develop ways of working that will more effectively deliver the HRSG ToRs.

Charles noted that Wales is unique in the UK as not having structured and coordinated capacity to respond to human rights issues.

Melissa commented that we need to reflect on how we engage with treaty monitoring, including how we upskill members to engage e.g. through guest speakers on relevant issues.

There followed a discussion, other contributors noted:

- Engaging with reporting cycles means that concluding observations can become reference points for advocacy and policy campaigns.
- The EHRC in Wales may be useful body to approach to support treaty monitoring, including through their treaty tracker.
- The HRSG should expand its membership to gain insights into different human rights issues.
- It was recognised that funding would greatly add to the HRSG capacity to undertake its ToR.

- It was noted that the HRSG should seek a stronger engagement with the Welsh commissioners (not just the EHRC).
- It was noted that engaging with human rights ambassadors, for example the Age Cymru Human Rights Ambassadors, would strengthen the HRSG's awareness and understanding of particular human rights issues.

The discussion concluded with Simon, Melissa and Charles indicating they would continue to work on a working method for the group.

### **3. Timing**

It was agreed that for the next meeting, this should coincide with the Cross Party Group on Human Rights. Timing will be considered as part of the review of working methods.

### **4. Item deferred to next meeting.**

### **5. Member updates**

Elinor Matthey informed the HRSG that the Bevan Commission recently (February) published a report on Living With No Recourse to Public Funds. The report is here:

[Living with No Recourse to Public Funds in the Nation of Sanctuary - Bevan Foundation](#)

**End**