

Human Rights Stakeholder Group (Wales)

Draft Terms of Reference

The Human Rights Stakeholder Group (HRSG) is a network of non-governmental and academic members with the common purpose of monitoring and promoting human rights in Wales.

Purpose

To monitor and promote implementation of human rights in Wales

Objectives:

- To work together to promote better co-ordination of monitoring of human rights in Wales.
- To monitor implementation of human rights in Wales through sharing information by research and documentation of issues.
- To promote compliance with recommendations of international mechanisms for the better implementation of human rights in the UK insofar as they are relevant to Wales.
- To work toward effective reporting to appropriate international monitoring mechanism on progress toward human rights implementation in Wales.
- To identify opportunities for influencing the Welsh Government and UK Government on implementation of human rights in Wales.
- To contribute to public awareness about human rights.
- To seek membership representing expertise in all thematic areas of human rights.

Membership

While membership is open, in order to ensure the HRSG is manageable it is anticipated that members will ordinarily:

- Be from the non-governmental organisation or network with an interest in promoting human rights, or working on behalf of social groups likely to face challenges gaining access to human rights.
- Be an individual who is able to represent the interests of social groups likely to face challenges gaining access to human rights.

The HRSG will consider all applications for membership collectively.

Responsibility of Members

- Commit to support human rights in Wales and beyond.
- Commit to regular attendance at meetings.
- Commit to engagement via electronic means (e.g. correspondence through email).

And, as resources permit:

- Commit to representing the HRSG on occasion.
- Commit to undertake tasks on behalf of the HRSG.

Observers

In order to maintain the independence of certain organisations, and the independence of the HRSG, the HRSG may invite some organisations to attend meetings as Observers. These may include:

- The Welsh Government
- Public bodies (including representative bodies).
- National Human Rights Institutions.
- Statutory Commissioners.

Functioning

- The HRSG will meet at least four times a year.
- Chairing and coordination arrangements will be undertaken by Swansea University, subject to review.
- The location for meetings will aim to ensure ease of access for members.

Collective Action

It is understood that:

- External communications (i.e. beyond the HRSG membership) will only be sent by the Chair (Swansea University, Dr Simon Hoffman), or another HRSG member authorised by the HRSG to send a communication.
- Any communication external to the HRSG which is intended to represent a position taken by the HRSG will be in the name of the HRSG, not individual members.
- Any external communications to be sent will be circulated in advance to the HRSG for comment (the only exception being where this is authorised by the HRSG in advance).