

## Submission to the UN Human Rights Council NHRI Report on the United Kingdom's 4<sup>th</sup> Cycle Universal Periodic Review

31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

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The Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC), formed in 2008, was established by the Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006. It is the **National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)** for Scotland, accredited with 'A' status by the Global Alliance of NHRIs and is one of the three UK NHRIs. SHRC is a member of the UK's National Preventive Mechanism. It has a general duty to promote awareness, understanding and respect for all human rights and to encourage best practice. It also has a number of powers including recommending such changes to Scottish law, policy and practice as it considers necessary.

SHRC is pleased to provide this submission to the Human Rights Council as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle review of the United Kingdom. Issues concerning specific groups' rights are highlighted in '**bold**'. The report's scope and methodology are detailed in Annex 1. Annex 2 presents a Sustainable Development Goals review of themes. Annex 3 collates all recommendations. Annex 4 provides annotated references.

All recommendations are directed at the Scottish Government, unless otherwise specified.

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## Annex 1: Scope and Methodology

1. This report is informed by evidence from SHRC's research database, ongoing work, and engagement with NGOs.
2. SHRC's evidence database originated from a three year research project culminating in the publication of "Getting it Right: Human Rights in Scotland" in 2012 and evidenced to the development of Scotland's first National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP). This database has been further developed and updated through: a national participatory process to develop Scotland's second National Action Plan (SNAP 2) in 2017/18; SHRC's contribution to the [Scottish Supplementary Report](#) to the Sustainable Development Goals Voluntary National Review Process in 2019; our reports to other UN Treaty Bodies submitted during the reporting period and a desk-based research exercise during November-December 2021 to further update the database.
3. A series of civil society workshops were held during November to December 2021 in order to gather evidence of some of the key human rights priorities in Scotland. The workshops were co-hosted by SHRC and the civil society organisation the [Human Rights Consortium Scotland](#) - The Consortium has around 140 member organisations from across civil society. The Consortium have also submitted a combined civil society report based on this evidence.
4. The report reflects Scotland's devolved powers, progress and emerging issues since 2016.
5. Under the terms of the Scotland Act 1998 all issues which are not explicitly reserved to the UK Parliament in Westminster are devolved to the Scottish Parliament including issues such as justice, health and social care, education and training as well as many aspects of transport and environment. While some of the UPR recommendations refer specifically to powers reserved to the UK Government, or to specific circumstances in other devolved nations, where an issue is similar or a relevant position exists in relation to Scotland, this is reflected in the current report.

6. The report follows a structure recommended within the [Practical Guide to the Universal Periodic Review: Implementation plan of recommendations and pledges](#)<sup>i</sup>, with a focus on priority issues for SHRC<sup>ii</sup>, issues concerning specific groups' rights are highlighted in '**bold**'. Annex 2 presents a Sustainable Development Goals review of themes. Annex 3 collates all recommendations. Annex 4 provides annotated references.
7. All recommendations are directed at the Scottish Government, unless otherwise specified.

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<sup>i</sup> See [http://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/pdf/oif\\_guide\\_upr\\_implementation.30.04.2013\\_e.pdf](http://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/pdf/oif_guide_upr_implementation.30.04.2013_e.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> Space constraints means this report does not reflect the full range of SHRC's priorities or areas of concern.

