**Scottish Human Rights Commission**

**Attitudes to human rights in Scotland**





**December 2023**

**Easy Read**



## What are human rights?

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| a group of people next to the Human Rights law documenta thinking man with a thumbs up and thumbs down in thought bubbles above his headpeople looking at a graph on a table | **Human rights** are freedoms that are protected in law.  They make sure we are treated fairly and with **dignity**.  **Dignity** means being treated in a way that is as thoughtful as possible.  **Attitudes** are what people think and feel about something.  We wanted to find out what people think about human rights in Scotland.  We asked an organisation called YouGov to do this **research**.  **Research** means getting facts, figures and information about something.  The figures represent Scottish adults aged over 16. |
| the Scottish Saltire flaggroups of people surrounded by speech bubbles | This report updates information from a study we had done in 2017.  It gives us a more detailed picture of how views on human rights in Scotland have changed over time. |

## Understanding what people know about human rights

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| a woman taking part in an online meeting, and a questionnaire on a computer screen | To find out what people thought there was:   * an online survey of more than 1 thousand people aged 16 and over in Scotland * 4 online groups |

## What do people in Scotland think about human rights?

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| a smiling woman giving the thumbs up and holding a clipboard with a large green tick on it  a thinking man with a thumbs up and thumbs down in thought bubbles above his heada frowning woman giving the thumbs down and holding a clipboard with a large red cross on it | We found 4 groups of attitudes to human rights in Scotland – they are people who are:   * **supportive** – people who believe that human rights are a good thing - nearly half of all people (48 per cent) * **conflicted** – people who are not sure - nearly 1 in 3 people (30 per cent) * **opposed** – they do not think people should have their human rights protected - 1 in 10 people (10 per cent) |
| a man with his hand in front of him, in a 'talk to the hand' gesture in front of another man | * **disengaged** – they are not interested - a bit more than 1 in 10 people (13 per cent) |

## The main things we found out

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| A group of people giving the thumbs up in front of a Scotland mapa worried-looking woman in front of 10 silhouettes of male and female symbols - 6 are in gold and the rest are in black | People in Scotland are more likely to support human rights than not.   * support for human rights has increased since 2017 and is now nearly half of all people (48 per cent)   The supportive group is the largest group in each Scottish region.   * More people are worried that they have less human rights   6 out of every 10 people were worried now (60 per cent).  A bit more than 5 out of every 10 people were worried in 2017 (52 per cent). |
| 10 silhouettes of male and female symbols - 2 are in gold and the rest are in black - they are behind a woman shrugging her shoulders with a question mark  beside her head | * less people would know who to contact about a human rights issue   A bit more than 2 out of 10 people (22 per cent) know who to contact now.  A bit less than 3 out of 10 people (27 per cent knew who to contact in 2017. |
| a group of young people next to a hand giving the thumbs upa group of older people next to a hand giving the thumbs downa tv with BBC news on the screen | * a person’s age had a big effect on how they felt about human rights   Younger people were more likely to support human rights.  Older people were more likely to be opposed to human rights.  Most people get their information about human rights from TV news. |

## Improving human rights

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| 10 silhouettes of male and female symbols - 3 are in gold and the rest are in black - they are in front of a frowning man giving the thumbs down and holding a sign with a red cross on it, with dots leading to a smiling man giving the thumbs up and holding a sign with a green tick on it - in front of the Scottish Parliament building | * a bit more than 3 out of every 10 people (33 per cent) think the Scottish Government should do more about their responsibility for human rights   Slightly less people (32 per cent) think the Scottish Government is doing enough about this. |
| a smiling woman giving the thumbs up and holding a clipboard with a large green tick on ita woman giving the thumbs down and holding a sign with a red cross on it, in front of 10 silhouettes of male and female symbols - 6 are in gold and the rest are in black | * there are more people in the supportive group who think the Scottish Government should do more, rather than people who think they are doing enough   This was the other way around in 2017.   * most people in the opposed group think the Scottish Government should do less work on human rights   This was a bit more than 6 out of 10 people. (61 per cent)  This has gone up from nearly 5 out of 10 people (46 per cent) in 2017. |

## Where do people get information about human rights?

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| a man with his hand in the air and a question mark beside his headA computer with a website link on the screen, next to a pie chart showing a half | More than 3 out of every 4 people (78 per cent) would not know who to go to if they had a question about human rights.  To find out more about human rights:   * half of people (50%) would look up information online * nearly 4 out of every 10 people (36%) would get information from a human rights organisation |
| Social Media on a smartphone, tablet and computer screen | People were not likely to get information from chat groups on social media.  Only 5 out of 100 people (5 per cent) would look for information in this way. |
| a smiling woman giving the thumbs up and holding a clipboard with a large green tick on it - she is in front of a pie chat showing a half with a red arrow pointing upa thinking man with a thumbs up and thumbs down in thought bubbles above his head, in front of a pie chart showing a halfa frowning woman giving the thumbs down and holding a clipboard with a large red cross on it - she is in front of a pie chat showing a half with a red arrow pointing downa man with his hand in front of him, in a 'talk to the hand' gesture in front of another man | People who would do their own research were:   * a bit more than half (58 per cent) of the Supportive group * half (50 per cent) of the Conflicted group * less than half (41 per cent) of the Opposed group   Less than half (42 per cent) of the Disengaged group did not know. |
| a woman shrugging her shoulders with a question mark beside her head | People are not sure what the Scottish Human Rights Commission does.  People in the Supportive group had a fair understanding and awareness of the SHRC.  Most people in the Conflicted and Disengaged groups had not heard of it. |

## Rights of minorities

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| a group of people from different ethnic backgroundsa woman who looks worrieda frowning woman giving the thumbs down and holding a clipboard with a large red cross on it | **Minorities** are small groups of people who may face more difficulties getting their rights.  Many Scots are worried about the human rights protections of people who are at risk of harm.  They think that the rights of minorities and people living in poverty are not being protected. |
| A group of people in front of a Scotland mapa group of children and young people | Scots are most likely to believe human rights work well for:   * people born in Scotland   A bit more than 6 out of every 10 people think this works well (61%)   * children and young people (60%)   6 out of every 10 people think this works well |
| 2 people pointing to themselves | * people like them (60%)   6 out of every 10 people think this works well. |
| a group of people from different ethnic backgrounds10 silhouettes of male and female symbols - 5 are in gold and the rest are in black | The number of people who believe human rights work well for people of minority ethnic backgrounds has gone down.  Half of people (50%) thought this worked well this year.  Nearly 6 out of every 10 people (58%) thought this worked well in 2017. |
| a prisoner behind bars10 silhouettes of male and female symbols - 5 are in gold and the rest are in black | The number of people who believe human rights work well for prisoners has gone down.  A bit more than 5 in every 10 people (54%) thought this worked well this year.  A bit more than 6 in every 10 people (62%) thought this worked well in 2017. |
| a group of people next to the Human Rights Act, next to a hand giving the thumbs downa group of disabled people, a group of 3 people and a workplace showing people doing different jobs with a red line through it | Scots are most likely to believe human rights do not work well for:   * disabled people – nearly 4 out of every 10 people (38%) think this * Scottish gypsy travellers – a bit more than 3 out of every 10 people (32%) think this * unemployed people – a bit more than 3 out of every 10 people (32%) think this |
| a group of people from different ethnic backgrounds10 silhouettes of male and female symbols - 3 are in gold and the rest are in black | The number of people who believe human rights do not work well for people from minority ethnic groups has gone up.  A bit less than 3 in every 10 people (28 per cent) thought this did not work well now.  A bit more than 2 in every 10 people (21 per cent) thought this did not work well in 2017. |

## Who are the Scottish Human Rights Commission?

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| A group of people standing together with their arms protectively around the person in the middle - they are in front of a poster showing a group of people next to the Human Rights Act law documenta man with his fist in the air - he is talking through a megaphone | The Scottish Human Rights Commission works in Scotland to:   * look after people’s rights * check that the Scottish Government and its organisations are looking after people’s rights * tell more people about their human rights |
| Website Link on a computer screenEmail on a computer screen | For more information about the Commission visit our website: [www.scottishhumanrights.com](http://www.scottishhumanrights.com)  Email us at: [hello@scottishhumanrights.com](mailto:hello@scottishhumanrights.com) |

