# Report on human rights and racism in Scotland



# Easy Read



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|  | Report by the Scottish Human Rights Commission |

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## Who we are

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| Scottish Human Rights Commission logo | We are the Scottish Human Rights Commission. We are called SHRC for short. |
| People in a circle around a woman protecting her underneath a Scotland flag. | Our job is to protect people’s **human rights** in Scotland. |
| Woman pointing to herself | Human rights are rights that every person has. For example, the right to be alive and the right to go to school. |
| the United Nations logo - a circular world map in turquoise, surrounded by 2 olive branches | The **United Nations** or UN for short, is where countries together to keep people safe and peace between countries. |
| Woman holding a checklist and smiling next to the United Nations logo | Part of our job is to watch human rights in Scotland and tell the UN what is happening. |

## What this report is about

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| Report: Two white men talking about a South Asian woman who looks confused. | This report is about **racism** in Scotland, and we made it for the UN.  **Racism** is when people are treated differently because of the colour of their skin or where they are from. |
| Group of people of all different races, ages and genders smiling at the camera | People have different ways they like to describe themselves.  We say ‘**people from a minority ethnic community’** to mean people who might look or talk differently or believe in different things than most people in Scotland.  This might be because they   * were born in a different country * are from a different culture * have a different religion * or have a different skin colour |
| No racism deal | Racism goes against human rights.  Scotland and the rest of the UK signed up to a **human rights treaty** to stop racism.  A human rights treaty is a promise that countries make to protect people’s rights. |
| Woman holding a checklist in front of the Houses of Parliament | The report will help the UN to make sure that the Scottish Government keeps its promises to stop racism. |
| Group of people standing in a circle and talking | We also wrote a report about people who had experienced racism.  To find out what people said, read [Easy Read: Lived experiences of racism](https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/projects-and-programmes/treaty-and-international-work/international-treaty-monitoring/the-international-convention-on-the-elimination-of-racial-discrimination-icerd/) on our website. |

## What the report says

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| Man stands next to a big checklist with lots of green ticks | The Scottish Government has done some good things since the last time the UN checked. |
| Plan with the Scotland flag on it | For example, the Scottish Government made a plan to make human rights better.  This is called the Scottish National Action Plan for Human Rights. |
| Man standing holding a checklist with red crosses on it | But we think Scotland should do more to keep its promises. |

## Some of the big problems

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| South Asian family inside a house | Housing: People from minority ethnic communities are more likely to live in houses that cost too much money or do not meet their needs. |
| Black man pulling his pocket out to show it is empty and he has no money | Poverty: People from minority ethnic communities are more likely to be poor, including children. |
| Black woman crying. Above her head are thought bubbles, one has food in it and another one has money. | Benefits: Some people who come to the UK from other countries are not allowed to get the benefits that people born here can.  This rule makes people unsafe and poor. |
| Black man stands talking to two white police officers. | Policing: Some people from minority ethnic communities do not trust the police to protect them.  Police Scotland have made a plan to get better, but it is too early to tell if it will work. |
| Woman on the phone to the doctor | Health: People from minority ethnic communities are more likely to be unwell. |
| Man stands behind jail bars | Prisons: Some people from certain ethnic groups are more likely to get sent to prison.  It is hard to complain about racism in prison**.** |
| Man holding a clipboard next to a pile of money | Immigration: People who move to the UK from another country need help from a lawyer to stay.  Getting a lawyer is hard and costs a lot of money. |
| Group of women crying | Gypsy / Travellers in Scotland have been made to live in ways that go against their culture for a long time.  This has made people feel that the Scottish Government will not protect them. |