**Report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**



**Easy Read**

Easy Read logo of woman smiling and reading an Easy Read
 

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| Report by the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) |  |

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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 have a safe home. |

**What this report is about?**

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| Two people standing next to a whiteboard showing a graph  A map of the United Kingdom with Scotland highlighted. | Part of our job is to tell the **United Nations** what is happening to human rights in Scotland. |
| 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 meet to agree how to keep peace around the world to keep people safe and their human rights protected |
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| A spiral bound notebook with blue arrows around it. It says Report. | We have written a report looking at **economic, social and cultural human rights** to help part of the UN that looks at what countries are doing to protect these rights |
| A person sitting at a desk with a computer  A nurse standing next to a person in a hosptial bed.  A terrace of houses.A teacher standing in front of a chalk board. | **Economic, social and cultural rights** include:   * Work * Benefits * Education * Health * Living standards like housing and food |
| Close-up of hands shaking | Economic, social and cultural rights are listed in a **human rights treaty**.  A **treaty** is a promise that countries make to protect people's human rights. |
| The Scottish Government logo. | The report will help the UN to make sure that the Scottish Government keeps its promises to protect all of these rights. |

**How we wrote the report**

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| Two people standing next to a sign which says Our Research. | Our report includes evidence we have found about economic social and cultural rights. |
| Cover of an SHRC report called economic, social and cultural rights in the Highlands and Islands | We already found lots of problems for economic, social and cultural rights in the Highlands and Islands. |
| A group of people looking at a large piece of paper with a magnifying glass | We spoke to lot of people from charities and campaign groups that know what problems people have. |
| A group of people looking at the world around them with magnifying glasses | We also spoke to the organisations who check that people are following the rules in Scotland. |

**What the report says**

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| A person sitting in a chair next to a gas fire, wearing a woollen hat and looking at energy bills. | Basics like food, housing and heating are much more expensive.  This is making things worse for economic, social and cultural rights, including people's health. |
| A person working at a foodbank. | Its is much harder for people to find help for their human rights. |
| A person with her arms crossed and a basket of groceries and a thought bubble showing money | Lots of the problems people have are connected. |
| A worried person with his arms crossed and his hands crossed | People told us that they feel worried about the future and have lost trust that things will get better. |
| A person in a wheelchair with someone standing beside them and an image of twenty pound notes | Some people felt that the Scottish Government has not kept its promises. Some examples they gave us were   * A new human rights law * A new national care service * Stopping people having to pay for their care |

**How these problems get fixed**

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| Three numbered signs showing 1, 2, 3 and arrows. | We have made some suggestions for the UN about how the Scottish Government could make things better. |
| Flags outside the Scottish Parliament. | The Scottish Government could make the law and the Commission stronger.  This would give people somewhere to go if their economic, social and cultural rights are not protected. |
| A hand pointing at a calculator | Scotland should have human rights budgeting.  Human rights budgeting is when decisions about how to spend money are based on human rights laws |
| A person sitting in a chair looking cold in a damp room with no other furniture. | The Scottish Government says that there is a housing crisis.  We agree that there is a lot of evidence that important human rights are not being protected. |
| A map of the UK with Scotland highlighted. | The Scottish Government should make sure that its plans work for people in the Highlands and Islands. |

**What happens next**

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| A group of people sitting around a table  United Nations logo | A group of UN experts will take all the evidence we and other people send them and use it to ask the UK Government questions. |
| A group of people sitting infront of laptops.  The Scottish flag. | The Scottish Government will be part of the group of people from the UK who answer the UN's questions. |
| A person pointing at a white board | The UN experts will publish its opinions and recommendations on how to improve things.  This is called the Concluding Observations. |
| Three notebooks and the word Plans | The Commission will work with others to make sure the Scottish Government respond to the Concluding Observations. |
| A map of the UK with Scotland highlighted.A map of Scotland | We will also be returning to the Highlands and Islands to talk to communities.  We will be running a similar in project in the South of Scotland next year. |
| Several paper bills with red text saying overdue  A map of united kingdom highlighting Scotland | We are also designing a new project that looks at poverty and human rights across Scotland.  In 2025 we will give the Scottish Parliament a State of the Nation report that looks at all economic, social and cultural rights. |