

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



Easy Read



Report by the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)



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Who we are



We are the Scottish Human Rights Commission. We are called SHRC for short.



Our job is to protect people's human rights in Scotland.



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?



Part of our job is to tell the **United Nations** what is happening to human rights in Scotland.



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



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



Economic, social and cultural rights include:

- Work
- Benefits
- Education
- Health
- Living standards like housing and food



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 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



Our report includes evidence we have found about economic social and cultural rights.



We already found lots of problems for economic, social and cultural rights in the Highlands and Islands.



We spoke to lot of people from charities and campaign groups that know what problems people have.



We also spoke to the organisations who check that people are following the rules in Scotland.

What the report says



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.



Its is much harder for people to find help for their human rights.



Lots of the problems people have are connected.



People told us that they feel worried about the future and have lost trust that things will get better.

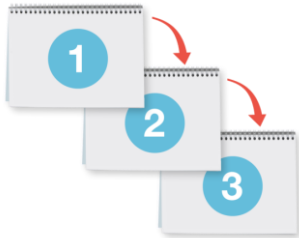


Some people felt that the Scottish Government has not kept its promises. Some examples they gave us were

- A new human rights law
- A new national care service

- Stopping people having to pay for their care

How these problems get fixed



We have made some suggestions for the UN about how the Scottish Government could make things better.



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.



Scotland should have human rights budgeting.

Human rights budgeting is when decisions about how to spend money are based on human rights laws



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.



The Scottish Government should make sure that its plans work for people in the Highlands and Islands.

What happens next



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.

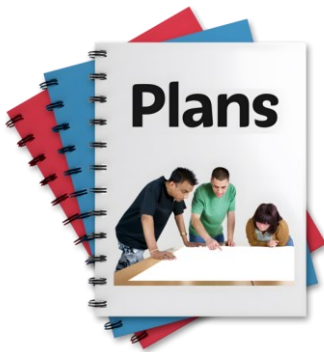


The Scottish Government will be part of the group of people from the UK who answer the UN's questions.

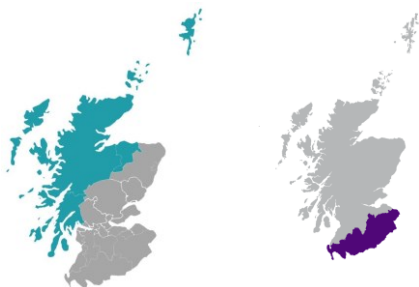


The UN experts will publish its opinions and recommendations on how to improve things.

This is called the Concluding Observations.



The Commission will work with others to make sure the Scottish Government respond to the Concluding Observations.



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.



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.