



Equality and
Human Rights
Commission

equalityhumanrights.com

Who we are and what we do

Easy read

What is in this booklet?

Who we are page 1

Why we are here page 2

What we do page 4

Who we are

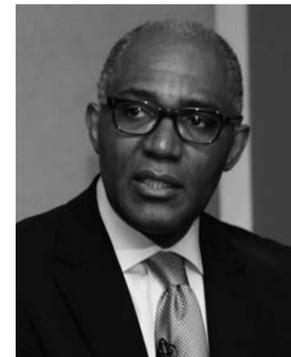
Equality and
Human Rights
Commission

equalityhumanrights.com

We are the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

We are independent and not part of the Government.

We are here for you – everyone who lives in England, Wales or Scotland.



Trevor Phillips is the Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

“We want to make sure that everyone is in control of their lives and has equal chances.”



Nicola Brewer is the Chief Executive. It is Nicola’s job to make sure we work well and do what we should be doing.

“The aim of creating an equal society is a big challenge. Together we can make it happen.”

Why we are here



We believe that everyone should be treated fairly and with respect.

We are here to make sure the laws about equality and **human rights** are followed.

Human rights are rights that every person has. For example, the right to be alive and to get an education.



We want Britain to be a country that values

- respect
- freedom
- equality
- dignity
- fairness.

We are here to



- Make sure people know about their rights and how to use them.



- Work with employers, groups that provide services and others to help them work in the best way they can to respect rights and dignity.



- Work with people who make the law and with the Government.



- Make sure that the laws about equality and human rights are followed properly.

What we do



We give advice and information about the laws and rights we have in this country about

- age
- disability
- gender (male, female and **transgender**)
- race
- religion and belief
- being **lesbian**, **gay** and **bisexual**

Transgender people are people who feel that the body they were born into is not right for them. This means they may want to change from being a man to a woman, or from a woman to a man.

Lesbian means a woman who is attracted to other women.

Gay means a man who is attracted to other men.

Bisexual means a person who is attracted to both men and women.

Laws about equality apply



At work



In education and training



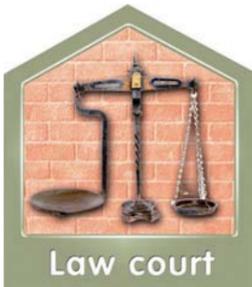
In the services you get like health care, social care, transport or housing



When you buy things from shops or use leisure services

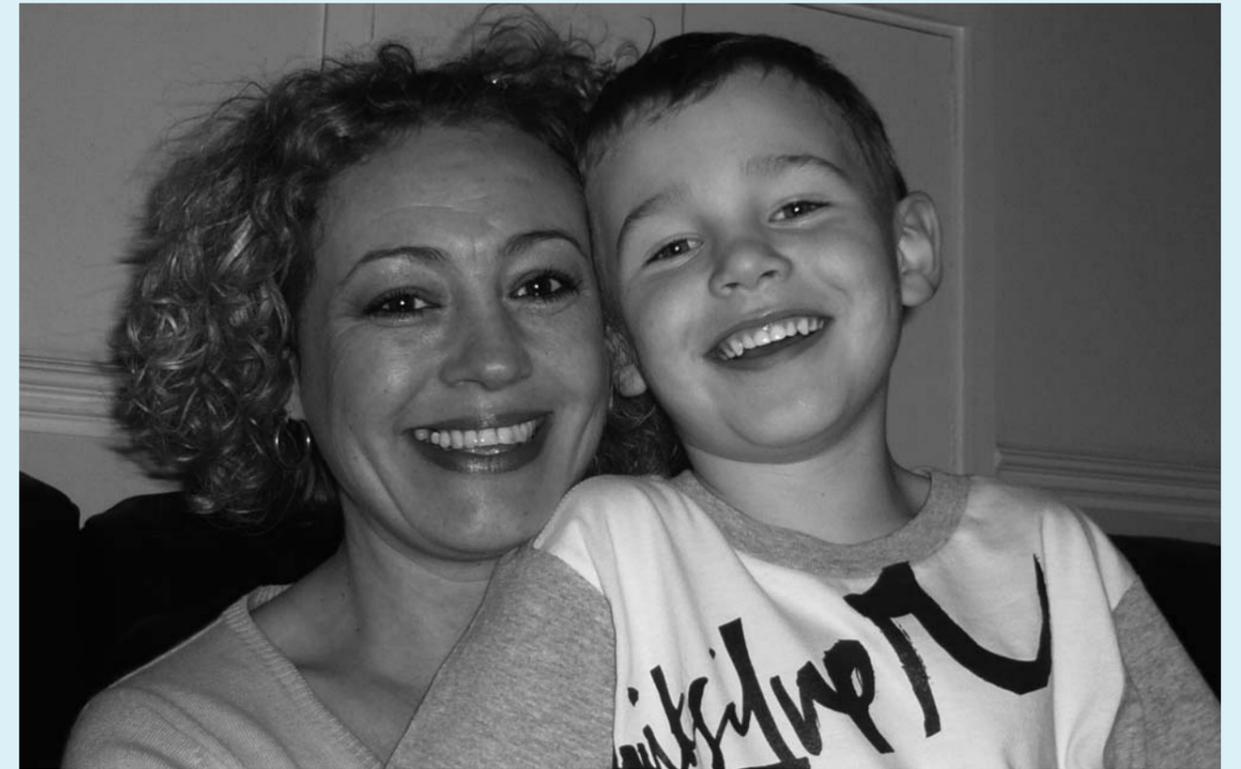


In the way you are treated by the police, courts and other officials.



We can also go to court to make sure laws about equality and human rights are being followed.

We can only take a few cases to court. We take cases that we think will test out how the law is working.



We supported Sharon to use the law

Sharon Coleman took her employer to court. She did this because they refused to let her work flexible hours so she can look after her disabled son, Oliver.

We helped her take her case to court which she won.

This means that there is now more protection in the law for people who are carers.

“It has taken a lot of courage to fight this case, but no one should have to choose between caring for disabled relatives or their job.”

More about what we do



We write a report for the Government every 3 years about how fairly people are being treated.



We give out information through our helpline, websites and in leaflets.



We give money to

- Groups that give advice about equality and human rights law.
- Community groups that help to support equality and human rights.



One of the groups we gave money to is APORENet

They use art to tell people about equality and human rights.



We run campaigns to tell people about equality and human rights.

One of our campaigns is called **Equally Different** which is on our YouTube site. It tells the stories of people from many different backgrounds.



Marcus Ramshaw, priest



Michael Etkind, Holocaust survivor



Alison Lapper, artist



Tanni-Grey Thompson, athlete



Anjum Mouj and Dipti Marjaria



Gok Wan, television presenter



You can find our YouTube site by going to www.youtube.com/equalityhumanrights



If you think you have been treated unfairly we can give you advice about your rights and what you can do.



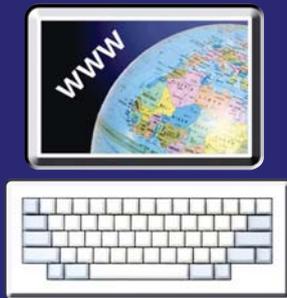
Our helpline advisers are there to give you advice and information about your rights. We have separate helplines for England, Scotland and Wales. You can find out how to contact our helplines on the back page.



Mencap helped to make this easy read.

Thanks to Photosymbols, Bob Hopley, APORENet and Airbus UK for the photos.

Find out more about us and your rights

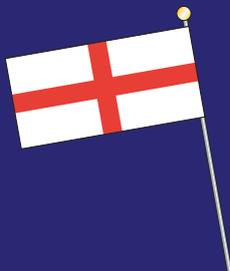


from our website
www.equalityhumanrights.com



Telephone 1 of our helplines.

- They are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.
- On Wednesdays the helplines stay open until 8pm.



England

- 08456 046 610
- Textphone 08456 046 620
- Fax 08456 046 630



Wales

- 08456 048 810
- Textphone 08456 048 820
- Fax 08456 048 830



Scotland

- 08456 045 510
- Textphone 08456 045 520
- Fax 08456 045 530