

Strategic Plan

2022-25



sthelenaehrc.org

Equality & Human Rights Commission

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As human beings we all have the right to dignity, protection from discrimination and equality before the law. We have the right to self-determination, privacy, to freely access information, discuss ideas and practice our beliefs; to be tried fairly and treated with humanity if detained; and to participate in the formation of our government.

These rights (except for self-determination) are protected by our Constitution and should be open to us all no matter what our social or economic background, living circumstances, age, gender, disability or race.

Yet every day at the EHRC we assist members of our community who feel/are marginalised, excluded and discriminated against.

The EHRC is determined to help make St Helena a fairer place to live.

I am proud to introduce our third and most ambitious Strategic Plan to date

This is how we aim to do it.

Annina van Neel

Chair of Commissioners



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Our Promise

We will **empower** Saints to resolve their disputes, to shape law and policy, advocate for change and work closely with a range of partners to create a fairer society; preventing similar problems for others.

Over the next three years we will continue to work with our partners and engage more people across the island to encourage people to discuss, value and stand up for their human rights.

We will continue to work towards the United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**.

We will continue to develop as an organisation to ensure that we have the strongest possible evidence base to lead change where it is needed and increase the impact and value of our work. We will advocate for systems and laws that are developed around principles of fairness and equity and ensure that everyone is treated **humanely** and with **dignity**

Introduction

The EHRC has taken the opportunity of the change of Governance and SHG structure to review how we work, our role and purpose and to restructure to meet the opportunities our new working environment presents.

We have developed a strategic plan which provides the flexibility, responsiveness and relevance to St Helena required to move human rights forward on the island.

Our new structure will see a commissioner responsible for each Portfolio, working with the Minister and Director to highlight issues as they arise and find human rights compliant solutions to problems as quickly as possible.

We have taken the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and using the knowledge we have gained of the human rights issues on island have matched the goals with the portfolio and will use them to measure progress. See page 10 onwards.

We have not lost sight of the cross-cutting issues like the right to self-determination, gender equality and disability and children's rights; the team will be working hard on those too!

For Example

A major issue on island is the lack of affordable housing. This falls under the Treasury Infrastructure and Sustainable Development Portfolio and SDG 1. Which says:

“By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources as well as to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property...”

The indicators we will use to measure progress towards this goal are:

- The Proportion of the population living in households with access to basic Services
- The proportion of the adult population with secure tenure rights to land,

We will highlight the issues and the successes, recommend changes to legislation or policy and promote human rights centred thinking on housing matters.

OUR VISION & MISSION

Our Vision

Our vision is for a fair, safe and inclusive St Helena where every person is treated with dignity and respect.

Our Mission

Our mission is to work with and influence law and policy makers, organisations, groups and individuals to protect and promote human rights in St Helena, allowing everyone an equal opportunity to reach their full potential.

Linking our work with the 2030 agenda for sustainable development



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been an important reference point for the EHRC and will continue to guide our work during the next strategic period. The 2030 agenda for sustainable development focuses on decision-making with particular reference to the participation of vulnerable groups, such as women (SDG target 5.5), young people and those with disabilities in the decision-making process.

OUR PRINCIPLES - PANEL

Participation

People should be involved in decisions that affect their rights. We will focus on work that leads to sustained change. This can only be achieved through the participation of those who may be affected by any decision. Therefore, we will encourage, develop and maintain strategic and influential relationships and partnerships across government, the community and businesses.

Accountability

There should be monitoring of how people's rights are being affected, as well as remedies when things go wrong. Our work will be informed by a rigorous evidence base drawing on our own and others' research. We will prioritise rigorous practice and improve our capability to monitor and evaluate our impact and the impact of rights affecting decisions made by others through the SDGs.

Non-Discrimination and Equality

All forms of discrimination must be prohibited, prevented and eliminated. People who face the biggest barriers to realising their rights will be prioritised. We will develop and maintain a high performing team that thinks critically and carefully about all of its work. We will lead by example by nurturing a diverse and respectful workplace. We will invest in our organisation and staff to build capability, be creative and ensure strong governance and operations through the SDGs.

Empowerment

Everyone should understand their rights, and be fully supported to take part in developing policy and practices which affect their lives. We will prioritise helping St Helenian's to understand the importance of human rights to their work and lives. We will enhance our media and digital presence to ensure our information is accessible and well targeted through all of St Helena.

Legality

Approaches should be grounded in the legal rights that are set out in our Constitution as well as the local and international laws.

OUR ROLE & FUNCTIONS

The Commission is an **independent** statutory body with responsibilities under Commission for Equality & Human Rights Ordinance 2015. Our role is to **protect** and **promote** human rights in St Helena through various means, including:

Investigating Complaints

We have powers to investigate complaints of human rights infringements including discrimination, sexual harassment and racial and religious intolerance by providing a **free** and **confidential** assistance service.

Research

We undertake research here on island, to understand and find solutions to systemic causes of discrimination and human rights breaches. We also follow international human rights news, trends and thinking to bring and keep the rights of Saints on a par with the UK and current best practice.

Advocating and empowering

We raise awareness across all parts of the community about the importance of equality and human rights, encouraging meaningful debate and challenging discriminatory views and behaviours.

Enforce

We intervene in court proceedings to bring an expert independent perspective to cases raising equal opportunity and human rights issues. We conduct inquiries and investigations to identify and eliminate systemic discrimination.

Education

We provide information to help people understand and assert their rights. We are happy to conduct reviews of programs and practices to help organisations comply with their equal opportunity and human rights obligations. Over the next 3 years we aim to extend our work with SHG, businesses and the community to drive best practice in equality, diversity and human rights.

Monitor

We monitor the operation of the Constitution and the Human Rights instruments extended to the island including the SDGs and track St Helena's progress in protecting fundamental rights. We produce reports for the UK and United Nations about what is or is not being done to protect our rights.

Areas of focus

A core lesson we bring into this strategy is that focus is important for impact. By focusing our areas of work, we can deliver more to the people of St Helena. A focused approach will also assist us in developing coherent and joined-up programmes, helping the EHRC bolster its own profile and identity.

Throughout this strategic period, selected focus areas will be kept under review and adjusted in response to feedback from partners and changes in our operating environment.

In order to be identified as an area of focus for the EHRC, the issue must:

- Be a clear priority for St Helena and its people especially the vulnerable as concluded from our own learning and outreach
- Reflect and advance the Sustainable Development Goals and their indicators relevant to St Helena and the EHRC
- Complement and contribute to the work of our intergovernmental partners, most especially the Commonwealth Forum for National Human Rights Institutions (CFNHRI) and the United Nations (UN)
- Meet the goals in the SHG 10-year Sustainable Development Plan.

By applying these criteria, the EHRC has established the key areas of focus for each Portfolio which will help St Helena achieve the SDGs and above all improve access to human rights on the Island.



Priority SDG



Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. On St Helena there are vulnerable people living on unacceptably low levels of social benefits well below the minimum income standard and too many are struggling for the most basic human needs and in increasing debt. As our economy grows it is vital that the gap between the better off and the poor does not increase.



St Helena is not self-sufficient in food production. Our food supply and food prices are at the mercy of shipping problems, exchange rates, political instability, throughout the world and Brexit. These are currently being expressed in the empty shelves and freezers in our shops. In addition the ongoing issues with fish prices and supplies have reduced the islands access to its key source of protein.

The EHRC regularly assists people who cannot afford basic food items.



Good health is essential to sustainable development. Widening economic and social inequalities, threats to the climate and the environment, the continuing burden of infectious diseases, and emerging challenges such as non-communicable diseases, place a burden on the budget. Universal health coverage will be integral to achieving SDG 3, ending poverty and reducing inequalities. Everyone must have equal access to the resources we have.



Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. This goal ensures that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling. It also aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, to eliminate gender and wealth disparities, and achieve universal access to a quality higher education.

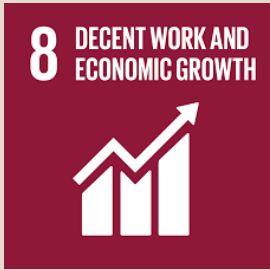


Ending all discrimination against women and girls is a basic human right and it is crucial for sustainable future; empowering women and girls helps economic growth and development. But although there are more working women than ever, there are still inequalities in rates of pay, with women systematically denied the same work rights as men. Sexual violence and exploitation, the unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, all remain barriers.

It is vital to give women equal rights to land and property, sexual and reproductive health, and to technology and the internet. Today there are more women in public office than ever before, but encouraging more women leaders will help achieve greater gender equality.



In recent years St Helena has experienced severe water shortages with climate change a reality this may become more common. In addition many on the island are worried about the effect of the treated water on our health. Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires that we invest in adequate infrastructure, provide the hygiene sanitation that are everyone's right.



Investment in infrastructure and innovation are crucial drivers of economic growth and development. On St Helena renewable energy and communication technologies are becoming more important as we have among the world's highest priced electricity and internet.

66% of households have internet, 34% are not accessing this basic human right, again these are our more vulnerable and poorer citizens . Bridging this digital divide is crucial to ensure equal access to information and knowledge.



This SDG promotes sustained economic growth, higher levels of productivity and technological innovation. It encourages entrepreneurship and job creation and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, slavery and human trafficking. With these targets in mind, the goal is to achieve full and productive employment, and decent work, for all women and men by 2030. As St Helena opens up to the outside world it is essential that these protections are in place to protect our workforce from mistreatment or exploitation.



Income inequality is on the rise worldwide, the richest 10 percent have up to 40 percent of global income whereas the poorest 10 percent earn only between 2 to 7 percent. These widening disparities require sound policies to empower lower income earners, and promote economic inclusion of all regardless of sex, race or ethnicity. These disparities are growing on St Helena too, we cannot leave our most vulnerable behind.



Making our communities sustainable means creating career and business opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and building resilient societies and economies. It involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving planning and management in participatory and inclusive ways. On St Helena we have work to do to separate housing from the noise and pollution of industry, creating more affordable housing and creating play spaces for children particularly in Jamestown.



St Helena is a peaceful place but it is not without its issues; its colonial history and lack of true self-determination cause resentment and insecurity in some quarters which have a destructive impact resulting in grievances that have lasted for generations. The legacy of slavery, historic abuse and exploitation have alienated some members of our society. The EHRC's aim is to significantly reduce the perceived discrimination, unfairness and inequalities in our society working towards a St Helena able to make its own decisions and map its own pathway in the world. A St Helena where everyone is equal before the law and has access to redress.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Much of our role requires us to be a proactive and dynamic organisation yet responsive to your needs. We need to be equipped to deal quickly and fairly with individual complaints, provide expert advice and respond to relevant policy issues. We also have a role in setting the agenda.

Each of our commissioners will be responsible for monitoring a specific Minister and their portfolio. Their role will be to advise the Minister of any human rights concerns within their portfolio or with planned work or policy. We will carry out research on the latest human rights thinking and methods. Progress for each portfolio will be measured against the UN SDGs indicators

Our top priorities for each directorate are detailed on the following pages



EHRC Goal 1: Sustainable Social and Economic Development with Nobody Left Behind

Portfolio : Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development

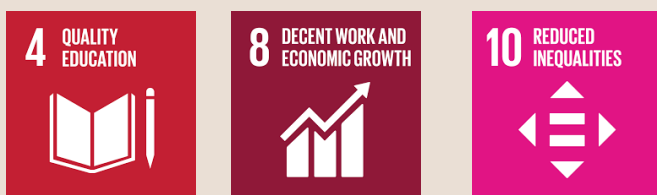
SDGs:



EHRC Goal 2: Improving Workplace Equality for All

Portfolio : Education, Skills and Employment

SDGs:



EHRC Goal 3 : Environmental and Cultural Preservation

Portfolio : Environment Natural Resources and Planning

SDGs



EHRC Goal 4: Safe, Secure and Fair Institutions

Portfolio : Safety, Security and Home Affairs

SDGs:



EHRC Goal 5: Improving Health and Wellbeing

Portfolio : Health and Social Care

SDGs:



EHRC Goal 1: Sustainable social and economic development with nobody left behind

Portfolio : Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development

EHRC priority areas:

Housing—Benefits & Pensions—Internet Access

Goal 1.2



By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

Indicators:

- Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age.
- Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

Goal 1.3

Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

Indicators:

- Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable.

Goal 1.4

By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources as well as to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

Indicators:

- The Proportion of the population living in households with access to basic services.
- The proportion of the adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognised documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure.

EHRC priority areas:

Housing—Benefits & Pensions—Internet Access



Goal 11. 1

By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.

Indicator :

Proportion of population living in unfit or inadequate housing .

Goal 11.7

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Indicator:

- Average share of the built-up area that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.
- Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months.

What this means for St Helena

On St Helena there are vulnerable people living on unacceptably low levels of social benefits well below the minimum income standard and too many are struggling for the most basic human needs and in increasing debt. As our economy recovers it is vital that the gap between the better off and the poor does not increase.

- All working people must earn above and those on benefits must receive at least the Minimum Income Standard. Our definition of poverty.
- Everyone must have a somewhere safe to live with affordable electricity, a kitchen and toilet and clean safe drinking water.
- Everyone must have access to affordable internet for education and equal access to the economy through business.
- Everyone must be able to access public buildings, green spaces and public transport .
- We should all be able to enjoy public spaces safely, free from harassment and harm.

EHRC Actions

The EHRC will work with the relevant Minister, Portfolio Director and other stakeholders to

- Encourage Ministers to bring the minimum wage above the minimum income standard (MIS).
- Push for Basic Island Pension (BIP) and Income Related Benefits (BIP) to be increased to at least MIS.
- Ensure there is a clear definition of housing standards and basic services that it is open, transparent and publicly understood.
- Lobby for a legal definition of homelessness and minimum housing standards.
- Push for legislation to protect both landlords and tenants.
- Encourage affordable housing and mortgages for first time buyers.
- Safe play spaces for children especially in Jamestown.
- Lobby for increased access to public spaces for women, children, older persons and those with disabilities

- Reduced incidence of sexual harassment in public spaces

Publish accurate and reliable data and recommend solutions.



EHRC Goal 2: Improving workplace equality for all

Portfolio : Education, Skills and Employment

EHRC Priority Areas

Employment Protection— Rights of the Child —Diversity



Goal 4.2

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

Indicators:

- Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex.
- Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex .

Goal 4.5

By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

Indicator:

- Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, for all education indicators that can be disaggregated).



Goal 8.5

By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people.

Indicator:

- Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities.
- Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.
- Increase in national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status.

Goal 8.8

Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

Indicators:

- Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status

Goal 10.1



By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

Indicator:

- Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population.

Goal 10.2

By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

Indicator:

- Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities.

Goal 10.3

Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

Indicator:

- Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

What this means for St Helena

Historically on St Helena, the majority of people have been educated to a standard which met the needs of local employers (mainly government). Saints have looked after each other and there was thought to be little need for regulation. Jobs have been traditionally male (construction, mechanic, fishing etc.) or female (administration, teaching, shop work etc.).

With the economy opening up, the hope of new businesses and increased numbers of inward investors the need for strong employment protection, contracts, anti-bullying and harassment policies has increased. Different cultures approach the employment relationship in different ways. Here on St Helena our employees must all have the protections our culture and laws provide for, which means:

- Inclusive education that meets the needs and expectations of all the people of St Helena, whatever their race, gender, sexual orientation, age or other protected characteristic. competing in the international job market.
- Employment contracts which meet the legal requirements on St Helena
- At least minimum wage paid to all with minimum wage rising to match the minimum income standard.
- The right to annual leave, rest days/weekends, public holidays protected in law
- Sick pay
- Maternity/paternity/adoption leave
- Health and safety regulations
- We should all be able to enjoy work safely, free from harassment and bullying, racism, sexism etc..
- Real protection for whistle blowers who are, after all acting in the islands interests
- Reduction of the gender pay gap, women are still earning significantly less than men
- Proactive measures to enable and encourage those with disabilities to enter into meaningful employment.

EHRC Actions

The EHRC will work with the relevant Minister, Portfolio Director and other stakeholders to :

- Encourage development and monitoring of pre-school offering
- Encourage increased educational attainment levels especially among boys.
- Reduce gender stereotyping in schools through Rights Respecting Schools, and in the workplace.
- Monitor and report on equal pay for equal work, for all; reducing gender pay gap.
- Lobby for a review of the Health & Safety Legislation.
- Lobby for stronger employment protection legislation.
- Help create measurable increase in the understanding of equality and diversity issues in key organisations that the Commission works with.
- Provide accurate and reliable data on discrimination related issues and recommend solutions.



EHRC Goal 3 : Environmental and cultural preservation

Portfolio : Environment Natural Resources and Planning

EHRC priority areas:

Water and Sanitation—Cultural Rights—Food Security



Goal 2.3

By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

Indicators:

- Volume of production per person by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size
- Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status



Goal 6.1

By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Indicator:

Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services.

Goal 6.2

By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

Indicator:

Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water.



Goal 11.4

Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

Indicator:

Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship).

Goal 11.7

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Indicator:

- Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.
- Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months.

What this means for St Helena

The war in the Ukraine and the lack of imported fresh produce during the pandemic have demonstrated how easily actions far away can affect our food supply here on St Helena.

The crisis in our fishing industry has meant that supplies of our staple protein have been sporadic and become increasingly unaffordable. Governments (including SHG) have a duty to ensure that our food supplies are protected by supporting local agriculture and traditional industries like fishing.

In addition they must supply clean, drinkable water to everyone at an affordable price. Finally our cultural and natural environment must be protected. Saints and visitors must be able to enjoy our heritage for generations to come.

EHRC Actions

The EHRC will work with the relevant Minister, Portfolio Director and other stakeholders to :

- Lobby for increased water subsidy for agriculture.
- Encourage traditional agricultural practices and farming methods are transferred to younger generations.
- Lobby for improved quality of treated water and access to untreated water sources.
- Encourage the safeguarding and transfer of traditional cultural practices to younger generations.
- Assist in defining Saint culture and our cultural heritage.
- Contribute to the Heritage Register and listing in UNESCO Intangible Heritage Register.
- Report all relevant statistics to highlight issues and recommend solutions.



EHRC Goal 4: Safe, secure and fair institutions

Portfolio : Safety, Security and Home Affairs

EHRC priority areas:

Prison—Immigration & Asylum—Legal Structure



Goal 16.2

End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

Indicator:

- Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past year.
- Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18 .

Goal 16.6

Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

Indicator:

- Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector.
- Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services.

Goal 16.7

Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

Indicators:

- Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions.
- Proportion of population who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group.

Goal 16.10

Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

Indicator:

Lobby for the implementation constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for real public access to information

What this means for St Helena

In the wake of the change in our system of governance much work needs to be done to open up decision making. There is an urgent need for more openness, transparency and inclusivity.

The people of St Helena need to be empowered to ask questions and understand decisions made on our behalf without being labeled as being negative or troublemakers.

Freedom of information is a human right which must be protected . Personal data must also be protected by legislation.

Our Prison, care homes and other institutions need to be safe, places where complaints will be listened to and adjudicated objectively and without repercussions for the complainants.

The laws that protect our children, elderly and vulnerable should be fit for purpose in the 2020s.

The airport has opened up the island to the potential of asylum seekers and sex trafficking. We must have human rights compliant legislation to protect the trafficked, asylum seekers and refugees and to treat them humanely, in line with international law and best practice.



EHRC Actions

The EHRC will work with the relevant Minister, Portfolio Director and other stakeholders to:

- Assist in the extension and implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) and its standards for monitoring places of detention.
- Raise awareness of the importance of human rights in closed environments and how vulnerable individuals, particularly the young and the disabled can assert their rights.
- Carry out a review of the Prison's Ordinance and the various other law and policies that regulate closed environments to ensure it is fully compliant with human rights principles, norms and standards.
- Ensure vulnerable individuals and their families have greater awareness of rights in closed environments and are better able to take action.
- Assist institutions to understand the benefits of human rights and to be more committed to ensuring that the rights of people in their care are protected.
- Lobby for a real Freedom of Information Ordinance.

- Lobby for legislation/ protection in Care Homes.

- Report all relevant statistics to highlight issues and recommend



EHRC Goal 5: Improving health and wellbeing

Portfolio : Health and Social Care

EHRC Priority Areas:

Zero Poverty— Improved Nutrition—Equal Access to Health Care



Goal 1.1

By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

Indicator:

Proportion of population below the international poverty line (Minimum income Standard) by sex, age and employment status .

Goal 1.2

Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

Indicator:

- By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.



Goal 2.1

By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

Indicators:

- Prevalence of undernourishment .
- Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES).

Goal 2.2

By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

Indicators:

- Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age.
- Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height $>+2$ or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight).



Goal 3.3

By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

Indicator:

- Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations.

Goal 3.4

By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

Indicators:

- Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease
- Suicide mortality rate

Goal 3.5

Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

Indicators:

- Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders.
- Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol.

What this means for St Helena

The gap between those that have and those that have not, must be reduced. There are many people on this island who cannot put a balanced meal on the table. We have children going to bed hungry and parents skipping meals to feed their children. Some cannot afford their prescriptions or medical bills. All of this has an adverse affect on the health of our population.

The Statistic speak for themselves; according to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment carried out by the UK health Security Agency and SHG

- St Helena has an 'ageing population' In 2021, 1 in 4 people was aged 65 or older
- 51% of adults aged 30-79 years were prescribed at least 1 medication for high blood pressure in 2021
- 37% of adults aged 65-79 years were prescribed at least 1 medication for diabetes in 2021
- Over 1 in 5 (22%) of all deaths in the last 20 years were due to cancer, mostly of the lung, bowel, stomach, and pancreas. All four are more likely to develop in people who smoke or are overweight.
- Roughly 1 in 10 adults had a prescription for an anti-depressant in 2021.
- 1 in 4 children in Reception (27%) and Year 6 (27%) was overweight or obese in 2020
- 1 in 2 pregnant women (53%) was obese between April 2020 and December 2021

Health inequalities are avoidable. People with lower incomes are less likely to have a good diet and more likely to experience finance-related stress, these negatively affect health. They do not have the resources for the costs of healthcare, transport costs and time off work. This negatively affects routine and preventive care, such as monitoring diabetes and preventive dental care. People with disabilities are more likely to face stigma, be socially excluded and experience physical barriers to accessing resources for health i.e. education, employment and healthcare. People in prison are often vulnerable to ill health. Highlighted risks to health in St Helena are the old prison building and the challenges facing rehabilitation after release, for example in housing provision for vulnerable adults and obtaining employment. People who live on the east side of St Helena have lower access to opportunities for physical activity and greater costs of transport to healthcare.

These inequities need to be addressed.

EHRC Actions

The EHRC will work with the relevant Minister, Portfolio Director and other stakeholders to:

- Lobby for the achievement of Minimum Income Standard for all.
- Work to ensure nobody is left behind.
- Lobby for improved access to health care for the poor, elderly and vulnerable.
- Lobby for subsidies on fresh fruit and local vegetables.
- Lobby for improved alcohol abuse services and support for those trying to stop drinking.
- Lobby for a review of customs tariffs to reduce charges on healthy products or increase tariffs unhealthy food.



Cross Cutting Themes





Self determination and understanding of the rights of Saints.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

The right to self-determination is contained in article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and in article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Article 1 of both Covenants states:

1. All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
2. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

The States Parties to the present Covenant, including those having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

The right to self-determination is a right of 'peoples' rather than of individuals.

What this means for St Helena

The Constitution of St Helena, Ascension Island & Tristan da Cunha recognizes this right in its preamble but does not specifically protect it as a right in Part 2, the Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Individual. Despite promises that this and other issues with the 2009 Constitution would be addressed this has not happened despite recent changes being made.

The EHRC is requesting :

- A full review of the Constitution carried out within UN guidelines.
- A review of St Helena's relationship with the UK through dialog between all the people of St Helena and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Self determination is an 'on going process of choice' to ensure that Saint community is able to meet its social, cultural and economic needs.

EHRC Actions

The EHRC will work with the relevant Minister, Portfolio Director and other stakeholders to:

- Facilitate the Conversation about St Helena's relationship with the UK.
- Lobby for changes in the Constitution to reflect the right of self determination.
- Raise the question of St Helena's lack of autonomy with the C24 Committee of the UN.





Equality

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

We recognize that gender equality and women’s empowerment are essential components of human development and basic human rights.

Goal 5.1

End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

Indicator:

Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex.

Goal 5.2

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Indicators:

- Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age.
- Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.



SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 10.1

By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.

Indicator:

Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population.

Goal 10.2

By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

Indicator:

Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities.

Goal 10.3

Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

Indicator:

Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law .

Goal 10.4

Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

Indicator:

Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers.

What this means for St Helena

Protections for women and girls on St Helena are limited and do not meet the standards set under the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW).

Our anti-domestic abuse legislation is very limited, our schools and most work places do not have policies against sexual harassment.

Despite legislation on equal pay, on average women earn less than men and are often responsible for most of the childcare and household tasks.

The child allowance on social benefits is £28 pw so many single parents (usually women) struggle. Likewise the courts tend to award £25pw maintenance to absent parents.

On the other hand boys do less well in school than girls , more men commit suicide than women and men suffer more from social problems like alcohol abuse.

EHRC Actions

The EHRC will work with the relevant Minister, Portfolio Director and other stakeholders to:

- The actions in this area will be detailed in our Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan currently being developed.



Children and young people

We recognise the positive and active role and contributions of young people in promoting development, peace, democracy and in protecting and promoting other Human Rights values, such as tolerance and understanding, including respect for other cultures. The future success of the Island rests with the continued commitment and contributions of young people in promoting and sustaining the community and its values and principles, and we commit to investing in and promoting their development, particularly through the creation of opportunities for youth leisure, sport and play.



SDG 11.7

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities .

Indicator:

- Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.
- Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months.

What this means for St Helena

Our children, particularly those in Jamestown are very poorly served with safe, outdoor play areas those that are available are not inclusive, there is no equipment for those with disabilities and access with small children, pushchairs etc. is often difficult.

More worrying are the number of inappropriate relationships usually (although not always) between young girls and much older men. Young people's understanding of coercion is limited and more needs to be done to help our young people develop respectful relationships .

Most importantly despite the Wass inquiry young children are being physically and sexually abused.

EHRC Actions

The EHRC will work with the relevant Minister, Portfolio Director and other stakeholders to:

- Explore introducing a Rights Respecting Schools scheme.
- Encourage the development of the Youth Parliament.
- Work with Children's Champion to assert children's right to play and access their environment





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