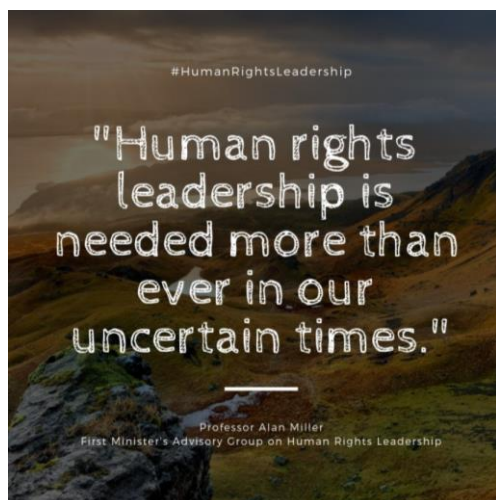




“Recommendations for a new human rights framework to improve people’s lives”

Report to the First Minister

New report recommends the creation of a new human rights framework to improve people's lives



On International Human Rights Day, as the world marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the First Minister's Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership has published its recommendations on how human rights leadership can be exercised in and by Scotland. Central to these recommendations is a new framework of human rights to improve people's daily lives.

Operating independently from the Scottish Government, the Advisory Group was set up by Scotland's First Minister, as part of the 2018 Programme for Government.

It was set up to make recommendations on how Scotland can continue to lead by example in the field of human rights, including economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.

Speaking on the publication of the Report **Chair of the Advisory Group, Professor Alan Miller** said: "There is an urgent need of human rights leadership in today's world, so we were delighted that the First Minister asked us for recommendations on how Scotland can lead by example.

"The leadership steps that Scotland needs to take are clear. The internationally recognised human rights belong to everyone in Scotland and must be put into our law. As importantly, they must then be put into everyday practice. In this way people are empowered to lead lives of human dignity, to have a sense of self-worth."



The seven Recommendations from the First Minister's Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership are as follows:

1. An Act of the Scottish Parliament which provides human rights leadership.

The Act will establish a new human rights framework to improve people's lives. It will set out for the first time and in the one place the rights belonging to everyone in Scotland. The Act will include those rights already provided by the Human Rights Act

and additional rights drawn from UN treaties including economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.

2. A public participatory process as a vital part of the preparation of the Act and its implementation.

3. Capacity-building to enable effective implementation of the Act to improve people's lives.

4. A Scottish Government National Mechanism for Monitoring, Reporting and Implementation of Human Rights.

5. Development of human rights indicators for Scotland's National Performance Framework.

6. Process of implementation of recommendations – to be led by a National Task Force.

7. Integration of any further devolved powers into the framework as proposed in Recommendation 1 and, if independence, a written constitution including a bill of Rights for Scotland.

For more information and to see the full report to the First Minister please visit:

www.humanrightsleadership.scot



Enhancing human rights - Announcement from the First Minister

New taskforce to lead on human rights.

A taskforce will be set up to take forward recommendations from the First Minister's Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership.

The announcement was made by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on Human Rights Day, as the group published their final report, with seven recommendations to ensure Scotland is an international leader in building a rights-based society.

Welcoming the report and its ambition for Scotland, the First Minister said:

"I set up the Advisory Group to offer advice on how we can further enhance human rights, as

I wanted to ensure Brexit does not harm human rights in Scotland and that we remain in step with future advances in EU human rights. I also asked for recommendations to ensure Scotland is an international leader in respecting and enhancing human rights.

"I share the ambition in this report that Scotland should introduce a human rights statutory framework and I support their recommendation that this should be done through public engagement, working across the public sector, civic society and parliament. As a first step I will establish a National Taskforce, early in 2019, to progress these plans.

"It is fitting that the report is published as we celebrate Human Rights Day and the 70th anniversary of the signing the UN Declaration of Human Rights. I would like to thank Professor Alan Miller and all members of the group for their work and hope they continue to support efforts to deliver the human rights that will improve lives."

"I want Scotland to be a country where human rights are not just respected in theory, but make an important and positive difference to people's everyday lives.

"I also want Scotland - as a result of that - to be recognised as an international leader in human rights."

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon

