

Broad summary of the States progress in realising various Human Rights instruments

The Human Rights (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2000, came into full effect in 2006, but, so far, the States has not provided a mechanism to help all citizens to exercise them. Moreover, until recently the States has not had a programme to inform Guernsey residents about their rights. Consequently, people's general understanding of their rights remains poor. Fortunately, this situation is improving, with the introduction of the "rights respecting schools" programme in all States' schools.

1969



Race: In 1969, The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) was extended to Guernsey. More than fifty years later, residents are still unable to exercise certain rights under that Convention, including the basic right of protection from discrimination on the ground of race.

1976



Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: In 1976, The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) was extended to Guernsey. Much of the Convention can be gradually realised. While some progress has been made, it is clear that insufficient progress has been made on matters that do require immediate attention (e.g. non-discrimination), and the evidence suggests that there is no real commitment to realising other matters, such as equal pay for work of equal value, and full access to employment.

2003



Women: In 2003, the States committed to seeking extension of the UK's ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to Guernsey. Sixteen years later and this goal has not been achieved. In Guernsey, some of the most basic protections against discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation and gender reassignment in the provision of goods and services, education and accommodation remain unavailable to Guernsey residents.

2005



Children: In 2005, the States committed to request extension of the UK's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Formal extension of CRC to Guernsey and Alderney was approved December 2020.

2013



Disability: In 2013, the States committed to seek extension of the UK's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) "at the earliest appropriate opportunity" – little progress has been made in realising the Convention or in achieving extension of the UK's ratification. Extension is dependent, amongst other things, on discrimination legislation being in place. In July 2020 The States of Guernsey unanimously approved the proposals for Discrimination Legislation, which now go to the drafting stage, due 2022.