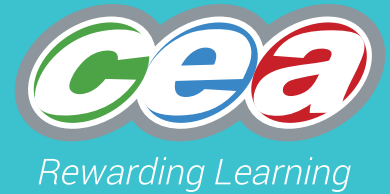


GCSE



CCEA GCSE TEACHER / STUDENT
GUIDANCE

Learning for Life and Work

**Unit 1: Northern Ireland Human
Rights Commission**

For first teaching from September 2017

Version 2 October 2022



Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

Who are we?

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission is an independent, statutory organisation. It is not an NGO, and not a government body.

It was established by the UK Parliament through the Northern Ireland Act 1998, and started its work on 1 March 1999.

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission is recognised as a member of the worldwide network of National Human Rights Institutions.

We help protect and promote the human rights of everyone in Northern Ireland. This includes making sure government and public authorities protect, respect and fulfil your human rights.

Who works at the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission?

There are seven Commissioners (a full time Chief Commissioner and six part-time Commissioners) appointed by the Secretary of State.

We currently have around 28 members of staff, who work across a range of functions.

These include:

Engagement and Communications, Legal, Advice to Government, Research and Investigations; Finance, Personnel and Corporate Affairs.

What we do:

We work to ensure that your human rights are protected by:

- Providing advice on legislative Bills introduced in the Northern Ireland Assembly and on policy proposals made by Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive. We also provide advice to the UK Government and Parliament on matters affecting human rights in Northern Ireland.
- Conducting investigations on systemic human rights issues. We can enter places of detention, and may compel individuals and agencies to give oral testimony or to produce documents.
- Promoting understanding and awareness of the importance of human rights in Northern Ireland. To do this we may undertake or support research and educational activities.
- Providing legal advice and representation to individuals and initiating strategic legal cases.
- Since 2021, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland have been tasked with overseeing the UK Government's commitment to ensure that equality and human rights provisions set out in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement are not reduced as a result of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union. Both organisations have powers and responsibilities to protect rights in post-Brexit Northern Ireland.

Get in touch!

You can find out more about us and our work by visiting our website: www.nihrc.org. You'll find information about human rights, examples of our work, and resources to help you with your work.

If you would to speak to us about coming out to your school and delivering a presentation to pupils at no charge; or you wish to view or use our resources, visit the Education & Promotion section on our website: <https://nihrc.org/our-work/education-promotion>

You can also find out more about what the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission does through our social media channels:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NIHRC>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nihrc>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/nihrc>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nihumanrights/>

You can also contact us by post, telephone or email:

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