



EQUALITIES & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Consultation Period: From 28th January to 28th February 2015

In 2011 extensive consultation was carried out which established the need for a Commission for Equality and Human Rights, Legislation has now been drafted to set up the Commission.

- The Commission's aims will be to encourage and support the development of a society in which
 - an individual's ability to achieve his or her potential is not limited by prejudice or discrimination;
 - there is respect for and protection of each individual's human rights;
 - there is respect for the dignity and worth of each individual;
 - each individual has an equal opportunity to participate in society; and
 - there is mutual respect between groups based on understanding and valuing of diversity and on shared respect for equality and human rights.
- There will be a minimum of 3 Commissioners and a full time Director.
- The Commission will prepare an action plan that will be reviewed at least every 3 years and revised as appropriate
- There will be wide consultation on the plan with everyone invited to comment and all contributions will be seriously considered.
- The Commissioners and employees **MUST** keep all information confidential or face a fine of up to £10,000 or 6 months in prison
- The Commission's role is to promote the understanding of human rights, equality and diversity and create awareness and understanding of rights in St Helena.
- It will work towards the elimination of discrimination; and harassment.
- Encourage St Helena Government (SHG) to act on specific issues; reviewing and advising on new legislation and policies
- Monitor SHG compliance and implementation of Ordinances and international human rights treaties, for example the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- It will provide advice, education and training and undertake research on relevant issues;
- The Commission may conduct an inquiry into a matter relating to any of the Commission's duties and if it believes something to contravene Human Rights legislation report it to the Attorney General
- The Commission will have the power to recommend changes to remedy a human rights or equalities problem or pursue a matter through the courts

- It will provide shadow reports to UN Treaty Bodies
- Facilitate SHG consultations with civil society in the preparation of government reports and follow-up action on UN Treaty Body Recommendations

For a full copy of the proposed ordinance or to make comments on this important proposed Ordinance please contact:

Catherine at the Human Rights Office Tel: 22133 Email: humanrightsoffice@helanta.co.sh