



# Rights for housing and support

## What is the Human Rights Act

# What is the Human Rights Act?



**The Human Rights Act is the law that protects everyone's human rights in the UK.**



**The Human Rights Act protects you if you are anywhere in the UK.**



**This includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.**



**A law is a set of rules decided by the government which says what people can and can't do.**

# What is the Human Rights Act?



**If you break the law, you could be punished.**

**For example, you may have to pay a fine or go to prison.**



**Everyone has rights which are protected by the Human Rights Act, including:**



**People with disabilities**



**People who have committed crimes**



**People who live in the UK but who were not born here**



**Children and young people**

# What is the Human Rights Act?



The Human Rights Act says that it is the law for staff working in **public bodies** to respect and protect your human rights.



**Public bodies** are organisations that serve the general public.

For example, NHS or councils.



Public bodies are usually paid for by the government.



When you are thinking about where to live, you might talk about this with different staff who work in public bodies.

# What is the Human Rights Act?



Staff who have to look after your human rights could include:



- Staff who work for your local council, such as housing officers or social workers.



- Staff who work for a **housing association**. This is an organisation which looks after **social housing**.



- Staff who work for the NHS, such as doctors, nurses, or **commissioners**.

# What is the Human Rights Act?



- **Government bodies** that find out what has happened when someone complains about an organisation. This is called an **Ombudsman**.



- The judge if you have to go to Court.



There is an Easy Read guide to the Human Rights Act by **The British Institute of Human Rights**.



You can read it at:  
<https://www.bihhr.org.uk/media/lh0hk4cm/easyreadhra.pdf>

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