



Proposing a Human Rights Law for South Australia

As South Australians we value our state's proud record of adopting socially progressive legislation. We believe it's now time to consider the next chapter – a Human Rights Act that legally protects the dignity, security and interests of all South Australians.

Our proposal for change reflects our desire to live in a society that strives for the values we hold most dear - justice, equality and a 'fair go' for all.

Today, on Human Rights Day, we launch our call upon the South Australian Government to begin a community-wide conversation by establishing a public inquiry into a Human Rights Act for South Australia.

We want everyone in our state to be involved in stimulating the process for change.

As South Australians we seek not just a new law, but concrete action that will foster a society based on mutual respect. We want to help build a society based on a culture of respect for human rights across government, parliament, the courts and our communities.

In Australia, the governments of the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Queensland have already enshrined human rights in Acts of Parliament. These laws are delivering meaningful improvements in people's everyday lives. South Australia now has an opportunity to consider learnings from these jurisdictions and take action to put in place similar laws to protect the wellbeing of everyone in our state.

We want a framework that requires the South Australian government to consider everyone's basic rights when it designs new laws, regulations or policies.

Importantly, we also want all South Australians to have accessible pathways to resolve any disputes about their rights and achieve effective remedies if their rights have been unjustifiably breached. We want dispute resolution and rights protection that is focused on delivering practical solutions, without involving people in expensive litigation.

The act of considering human rights is about putting people at the heart of government decision-making and recognising rights and responsibilities within our community. It is about acknowledging that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity, equality and respect.

We know big ideas come with lots of detail, and we've thought carefully about how this idea could work in practice. We endorse the report [*Designing a Human Rights Framework for South Australia*](#) issued by the Rights Resource Network SA (RRNSA) in February 2022.

We invite everyone in our state to join the conversation and support the call for a parliamentary Inquiry into a Human Rights Act for South Australia

Signed,

1. Rights Resource Network South Australia
2. South Australian Council of Social Service
3. Australian Lawyers for Human Rights
4. Adoptee Rights Australia (ARA) Inc.
5. Aged Rights Advocacy Service Inc
6. Amnesty International Australia
7. Anglican Community Care Inc (ac.care)
8. Anglicare SA Limited
9. Anti-Poverty Network South Australia
10. April Lawrie, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People
11. Arts Industry Council of South Australia
12. Australian Lawyers Alliance
13. Australian Migrant Resource Centre
14. Australian Refugee Association
15. Believe Housing Australia
16. Centacare Catholic Family Services
17. Child and Family Focus SA
18. Civil Liberties Australia
19. Community Centres SA
20. Community Legal Centres SA
21. Conservation Council of SA
22. COTA SA
23. Deaf Australia
24. Disability Advocacy Network Australia
25. Disability Rights Advocacy Service
26. Down Syndrome Australia
27. Equality Australia
28. Equality Lawyers
29. Every Australian Counts
30. Extinction Rebellion South Australia
31. Federation of Community Legal Centres Vic
32. Helen Connolly , Commissioner for Children and Young People

33. Human Rights For All Pty Ltd
34. Human Rights Law Centre
35. Intersex Human Rights Australia
36. Justice Action
37. Justice Reform Initiative
38. Justice Reinvestment SA
39. JusticeNet SA
40. Lutheran Care
41. Mental Health Coalition SA
42. Mind Australia
43. Multicultural Communities Council of SA
44. Mums 4 Refugees NSW Incorporated
45. Ombudsman SA
46. Our Voice SA
47. People with Disability Australia
48. Playgroup SA
49. Public Health Association of Australia
50. Purple Orange
51. Refugee Council of Australia
52. Remedy Australia
53. SA Lived Experience and Advocacy Network (LELAN)
54. SA Rainbow Advocacy Alliance
55. SA Unions
56. Save the Children Australia
57. Seeds of Affinity: Pathways for Women
58. Shelter SA
59. South Australian Council for Civil Liberties
60. South Australian Council on Intellectual Disability
61. South Australian Drug and Alcohol Coalition
62. St Vincent de Paul Society (SA)
63. The Castan Centre For Human Rights Law
64. The Law Society of South Australia
65. The Salvation Army

66. Transcend Australia
67. Uniting Communities
68. Uniting SA
69. UnitingCare Wesley Bowden
70. Victim Support Service SA
71. Women Lawyers Association of South Australia
72. Women With Disabilities Australia
73. Women's Electoral Lobby
74. Working Women's Centre
75. Youth Affairs Council of South Australia
76. Zahra Foundation Australia
77. Hon Anne Levy AO
78. Dr Robyn Layton AO KC
79. Professor Tania Leiman, Dean of Law, Flinders University
80. Professor Judith McNamara, Dean of Law, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide
81. Professor Paul Babie, Bonython Chair in Law and Professor of Law, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide
82. Professor Vicki Catherine Waye, Dean of Law, Justice & Society, University of South Australia
83. Dr Neville Rochow KC
84. Hon Sandra Kanck
85. Hon Carolyn Pickles
86. Hon Stephanie Key
87. Cheryl Axleby
88. Dr Kevin Purse
89. Dr Hannah Tonkin, Barrister
90. Ralph Clarke, Consultant, Industrial Relations
91. Brendan Grigg, Senior Lecturer in Law, Flinders University
92. Dr Sanzhuan Guo, Senior Lecturer in Law and Socio Legal Studies, Flinders University
93. Dr. Hossein Esmaeili, Associate Professor of Law, Flinders University
94. Klynton Wanganeen
95. Vanessa Musolino
96. Dr Joshua Curtis, Lecturer, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide

97. Cornelia Koch, Senior Lecturer in Law, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide
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99. Linda Champion
100. Dr Michelle Fernando, Senior Lecturer, University of South Australia
101. Peta Spyrou, PhD Candidate & Sessional Teacher, University of South Australia
102. Professor Paul T. Babie, Professor of Law, University of Adelaide
103. Leah Marrone, Barrister Flinders Chambers
104. Dr Anna Olijnyk, Senior Lecturer, University of Adelaide
105. Sawinder Singh
106. Michael Alder, Solicitor
107. Peter Strous,
108. Juliette McIntyre, Lecturer in Law, University of South Australia
109. Phoebe Michelmore
110. Marinella Marmo, Associate Professor in Criminology, Flinders University
111. Maureen Arnott
112. Sean Bates
113. Anna Kennet, Lawyer
114. Phillipa McCormack
115. Anderson Chan
116. Hannah March
117. Dr Laura Grenfell, Associate Professor, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide
118. Narelle Perry
119. Jennifer Jones
120. Kate Zubrinich, social worker
121. Cornelia Koch, Senior Lecturer, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide
122. Mary Allstrom
123. Loki Maelorin
124. Deborah Ward
125. Matt Ward
126. Hon Connie Bonaros MLC
127. Hon Robert Simms MLC
128. Hon Tammy Franks MLC
129. Dr Kristine Klugman OAM, President, Civil Liberties Australia

130. Chris Stamford, federal HR Act campaign manager, Civil Liberties Australia
131. Bill Rowlings OAM, CEO, Civil Liberties Australia
132. Dr Judith Dwyer AM
133. Hon Frank Pangelo MLC
134. Gregg Ryan
135. Professor Emeritus Rick Sarre
136. Cornelia Koch, Senior Lecturer, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide
137. James Scheibner, Lecturer, College of Business Government and Law, Flinders University
138. Catherine Branson
139. Sarah Macdonald
140. Kym Davey
141. Ross Womersley
142. Michael Grant
143. Peter Hall
144. Wayne Mackay
145. Denis Carey
146. Associate Professor Anne Hewitt, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide
147. C S L Abbott KC
148. Anthony Tucker, Community Services Manager
149. Tracey Coleman, Lecturer in Law, University of South Australia
150. Mark Walters,
151. Rev. Paul Turley
152. Hon Mark Parnell
153. Dr Sarah Moulds, Senior Lecturer in Law, University of South Australia