



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. First Peoples Disability Network (Australia)

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

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

98. Cornelia Koch, Senior Lecturer in Law, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide
99. Hon Sarah Game MLC
100. Linda Champion
101. Dr Michelle Fernando, Senior Lecturer, University of South Australia
102. Peta Spyrou, PhD Candidate & Sessional Teacher, University of South Australia
103. Professor Paul T. Babie, Professor of Law, University of Adelaide
104. Leah Marrone, Barrister Flinders Chambers
105. Dr Anna Olijnyk, Senior Lecturer, University of Adelaide
106. Sawinder Singh
107. Michael Alder, Solicitor
108. Peter Strous,
109. Juliette McIntyre, Lecturer in Law, University of South Australia
110. Phoebe Michelmore
111. Marinella Marmo, Associate Professor in Criminology, Flinders University
112. Maureen Arnott
113. Sean Bates
114. Anna Kennet, Lawyer
115. Phillipa McCormack
116. Anderson Chan
117. Hannah March
118. Dr Laura Grenfell, Associate Professor, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide
119. Narelle Perry
120. Jennifer Jones
121. Kate Zubrinich, social worker
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. James Scheibner, Lecturer, College of Business Government and Law, Flinders University
137. Catherine Branson
138. Sarah Macdonald
139. Kym Davey
140. Ross Womersley
141. Michael Grant
142. Peter Hall
143. Wayne Mackay
144. Denis Carey
145. Associate Professor Anne Hewitt, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide
146. C S L Abbott KC
147. Anthony Tucker, Community Services Manager
148. Tracey Coleman, Lecturer in Law, University of South Australia
149. Mark Walters,
150. Rev. Paul Turley
151. Hon Mark Parnell
152. Dr Sarah Moulds, Senior Lecturer in Law, University of South Australia
153. Kerry Weste, Lawyer