

Human Rights: transforming services?

Implementing and enforcing human rights principles for people accessing health, social care, education and justice services

Introduction to the day

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“All are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law”

Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

“Over time, the Human Rights Act will bring about the creation of a human rights culture in Britain”.



Rt Hon Jack Straw MP,
Home Secretary 1998

Leslie Burke



A matter of life and death

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Even on appeal, the Court of Appeal considered the knowledge base of both a competent patient and doctor to be of equal merit on 'quality of life issues' and that:

in respect of the withdrawal of nutrition or treatment the competent patient's wish to live must prevail.

Human rights must be developed by a range of stakeholders. It must not be the sole domain of lawyers or academics.

At SCIE we talk a lot about inclusive knowledge and practice development.

“Where after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home, so close and so small that they can’t be seen on any map of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person.”



Eleanor Roosevelt 1958

Aims for today's conference and beyond

- To promote and defend the values enshrined in the Human Rights Act (HRA) and show people how HRA can benefit them in their everyday lives, thus enhancing public services
- To demonstrate how HRA can be used to challenge human rights violations and, help people understand the framework it provides for resolving conflicts
- To explore how human rights and equality are inextricably linked

Our hope, and that of all those who depend upon public services to live and flourish, is that, at the end of the day we will find ourselves that much closer to the aims we are setting out to achieve.



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