

PUPIL SPECIAL

REPORT ON

Pupils 2 Parliament

THE FUTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Hi all you pupils of Kingsland

Here's another Pupil Special report for you. This time, I am reporting back to you on what everyone at Kingsland, and at three other schools who answered the same questions, said about the future of human rights.



I have sent what you all said to the people who are making the decisions about what the organisation that watches out for our rights should be doing. They are reading YOUR advice! You are taking part in making important decisions for everyone in our country!

Roger

Remember that your rights are things you must always be allowed to do, to have, to know about, and to be kept safe from.

I hope you enjoyed doing our survey together. Here are the results ...

WHO GETS TREATED THE MOST UNFAIRLY THESE DAYS ?

You said that these groups of people get treated unfairly ...

Poor people are treated the most unfairly

Disabled people come next

Then people of different races or skin colours

Then come girls or women

And finally, are old people



The [Equalities and Human Rights Commission](#) is the organisation that checks on how well we are all getting our rights.

They are not very well known though – not many in any of the schools we asked had ever heard of them !

HERE'S WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO DO NEXT ...



Most important - Tell people about their rights

2nd most important – take action against law breakers who don't let people have their rights

3rd most important – help organisations to make sure they are giving people their rights

4th most important – Give the government advice about people's rights

5th most important – keep checking how well people are actually getting their rights

What you have said about that is very important for them to know !

AND HERE ARE THE SORTS OF RIGHTS YOU SAID ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO SORT OUT FOR PEOPLE WHERE THEY WORK ...

TOP - making things easier for disabled people at work

2nd – harassment at work

3rd – some groups of people getting paid less than others even though they are doing similar jobs

4th – some groups of workers being discriminated against and treated unfairly

5th – 'zero hours contracts', where people don't know whether or not they are going to be given any work to do and so whether or not they will be able to earn any money

6th – fair treatment for people who are working on jobs for the government or the local council

7th – any problems people have because they have to work at home



You had these extra things to say about people's rights at work ...

- Working at home can be good or bad, depending on what people's homes are like
- Working at home does help to stop any pandemics spreading
- There should always be a right to know how much you are going to be paid, and when
- The EHRC should look into what more and more use of Artificial Intelligence and other new technology is doing to people's jobs, and whether it is making it harder for people to get jobs
- There should be a 'right to type' (with spell checking) instead of having to write things by hand

HERE ARE THE OTHER THINGS YOU SAID ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR THE EHRC (WHO KEEP AN EYE ON OUR RIGHTS) TO SORT OUT FOR EVERYONE ...

Top – some groups of pupils being more likely to get excluded from school

2nd – problems disabled people have in using public transport (like buses, trains, boats and planes)

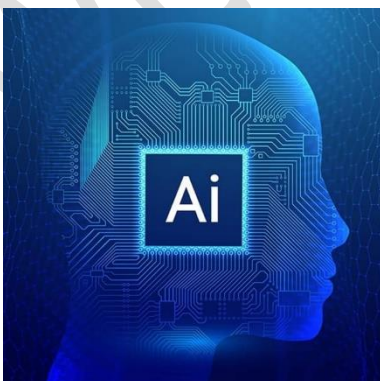
3rd – some people feeling that they can't say what they actually think any more

4th – arguments when one person's right seems to take away someone else's right

5th – problems people have because so many things have to be done online these days (and because it often doesn't work)

6th – privacy problems because more Artificial Intelligence is getting used

7th – Company websites that are not easy to use



You said these extra things ...

- If company websites are hard to use, that is their problem – they will do less trade
- The EHRC should look into the problems of Artificial Intelligence going wrong, and of how it can be used by some people to do harm
- Disabled people should have all the aids and adaptations they need, free of charge
- People need to know more about the law, their rights, and current affairs
- Pupils who have special education needs do not get the help they need in ordinary schools – special schools should be set up where they can have enough staff and equipment to give them the help they need



People “at the top” being able to get out of being punished for things ordinary people would get punished for

“That slavery still happens”

Getting the balance right between the rights of parents and the rights of children to make decisions for themselves

A 'right to hygiene'

Homelessness

Children's mental health



A 'right to be in nature and the outdoors' (including things like a right to have a good view from your window, and disabled people being able to enjoy nature)



Being able to use the toilet when you need to - in public places, at home, at school, at work

A right for old people to have the care then need, and a place in an old people's home if they need one

Being able to enjoy leisure time and have hobbies - and to be able to afford them

A right to companionship and not to be "unwillingly alone"

A right for every child to have an adult who cares about them, cares for them, and can afford to meet their needs

The cost of school uniforms for parents - and having possible alternatives like a school ID lanyard (like many staff do) or a school badge that can be fixed to your own clothing

A right to have a suitable bed to sleep in

A right to ask for and be given clean water to drink, free of charge, in eating places and other public places

A right for all children to have suitable clothing, plus toys and equipment suitable to support their learning

All medical treatment to be the correct treatment for the person treated



And at school -

- whether pupils' homes are actually suitable for them doing homework
- possibly having longer but fewer school terms and holidays
- a right to regular PE
- enough school places for children in all areas
- boys' toilets being as good quality as girls' toilets
- more pay for teachers - so they won't quit and interrupt children's education.

KEEPING PETS



Some of you talked about whether people should have the right to ask if they can keep a pet, if they are living in a house with other families, or are living in a landlord's house, rather than a house they own themselves.

You agreed that the new law should give people the right to ask their landlords if they can keep a pet. Whether or not people can keep pets should always be part of the agreement between the landlord and their tenants.

But you said that the new law should say:

- people should always be given permission to keep a pet that is an assistance animal (like a guide dog or a hearing dog for a deaf person)
- that they should usually be given permission to keep a pet they already have when they move in - even if they may not be given permission to get a new pet
- that permission can be refused for a pet that is "massive or loud" and so will disturb other people
- that people who are allowed to keep a pet should still have to keep it out of areas that are shared with other families or tenants in the building
- that if other families or tenants live in the same building, the landlord should have to consult them about anybody wanting to keep a new pet (they might for example be afraid of some animals, or have allergies to them)
- people should by law have to put right any damage their pet does to the property (either by paying for it, having insurance to pay for it, or by doing it themselves)
- people should not be made responsible, or have to get permission, if they didn't bring an animal into the property, but it came to the house of its own accord - something cats quite often do.



All this is important, because parliament are talking about that right now, and are writing a new law about it. So I have sent them what you said, so they will know that when they are making their decisions about that new law.

So you are having your say about a new law of the country !

*Parliament may or may not agree with you -
but the people writing the law will know what you think !*

AS A CHILD, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER TO YOU, TO BE LISTENED TO, AND TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Which does not mean that other people have to agree with you, though - they have their own rights to their own opinions !

I asked you how often YOU actually get given the right to have your say about things that matter to you, be listened to, and be taken seriously.



As far as I know, it is only you pupils of Kingsland, and those of the three other schools I asked about this, who are telling the government and the EHRC about this.

**So you are definitely having a really big say on this !
A say for children everywhere !**

43% (under half) of you said you get this right 'a bit' or 'a lot'

and

A quarter of you (25%) said you are not listened to 'much' or 'at all'

I think that is really important for the EHRC to know.

They do know now!!

LASTLY – HERE ARE SOME TOP QUOTES FROM YOU PUPILS OF KINGSLAND !

**Children should have the right to “more PE – to be more active”
and “the right to do chores or not”**

“all school work should be done in school – no homework”

Everyone should have the “right to use toilet facilities”

“children over ten should have the right to work in shops”

**Children should have “the right to have your own name – but children should
choose it, as it’s part of your identity”**

**“homeless people should be able to access money for basic needs – but it
has to be necessary”**

**“children with all disabilities should be given opportunities to access as
many sports as possible – more than now”**

**“owner of [motorbike racing] tracks should also provide water facilities for
washing bikes to people who have already paid to use the track”**

“if sad, you should be allowed dance breaks whenever you want”

“anyone that doesn’t have a home should get food for free”

**“it’s the owners’ responsibility to train their dogs rather than having to
muzzle them”**

**“school should have engineering classes so if something breaks down you
should be able to fix it”**

Really well done, all of you –

Thank you for your thinking,

***And for your important messages to the
Government and the EHRC !***

Roger