

Enhancing Advocacy Through Human Rights: Course Information

A 3-part training course designed by and for advocates to create practice experts in human rights law.



August 2024

This course booklet is for information purposes only. It is not intended, and should not be used as, legal advice or guidance. The law referred to in this guide may have changed since it was published.

Why is human rights training relevant to advocates?



In today's dynamic legal landscape, understanding the Human Rights Act (HRA) is essential for statutory and independent advocates. The HRA is central to empowering individuals who might otherwise be overlooked when accessing services or making decisions about their care.

At the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR), we recognise the transformative role of specialised training in enabling advocates to ensure public bodies uphold their statutory human rights duties. Our programme equips advocates with the essential tools to ensure every voice is heard.

In the face of long-term funding cuts across the public sector, advocates face increased demand in all areas. The HRA impacts every area of public services, making our training invaluable for those advocating for vulnerable and marginalised individuals across all services.

A well informed advocate can be life-changing for those with no one else to speak for them.

[Visit BIHR's website for more information about human rights](#)

How and when will this course run?



Join us for a series of three online workshops in autumn 2024, launching during Advocacy Awareness Week (14-18 October).

These workshops will empower advocates with the knowledge and confidence to harness human rights law in their practice, focusing on:

- Interpreting other legislation through the lens of the HRA, with an emphasis on relevant legislation advocates use across all sectors, including mental health and safeguarding law.
- In-depth discussions of public bodies' statutory duties, using real case studies.
- Utilising the language of the HRA to formally address issues with public bodies.

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**“If only person knows their rights,
it’s one finger which can be
trapped easily. If it’s a
community, it’s a powerful fist.”**

– Programme Participant 2024

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Workshop dates



Workshop 1: Thursday 17th October 10am – 1pm

Workshop 2: Tuesday 12th November 10am – 1pm

Workshop 3: Wednesday 20th November 10am – 1pm

We will also host an in-person networking and publicity event in early 2025 to consolidate and share learning while celebrating the invaluable work advocates do.

Course costs



BIHR offers an affordable participation fee, staggered according to organisation income:

- Organisations with over £1million annual income: £345 (£115pp per session)
- Organisations with £500K – £1million annual income: £225 (£75pp per session)
- Organisations with under £500K annual income: £165 (£55pp per session)

Block booking discount: Book 2 or more spaces to get a 10% discount, with a maximum of 3 people from the same organisation.

Why choose BIHR for human rights training?



At BIHR, we empower people to use their human rights. Our extensive work with advocates has shown a clear demand for expert, practical training tailored to their needs. With a proven track record of successful collaboration with advocacy organisations, we have designed and delivered numerous expert human rights training programs with highly positive outcomes.

The HRA's primary function is to hold the state accountable for its public service delivery, much like an advocate's role. An advocate proficient in using the HRA can have a profoundly positive impact on those they support.

Having won the 2023 National Advocacy Award for Best Support of Advocates, we are confident that our programme will enable transformative change and support everyday justice.

[Visit BIHR's website to find out about our impact](#)

How to apply



Advocates can apply via BIHR's website by completing our expression of interest form. Applications are open until Monday 16 September 2024 at 5pm.

There are limited spaces on this course. We will select successful advocates based on their suitability and reasons for taking part in the course. We will respond to successful applicants, offering a place on the course by the end of September 2024.

[Click here to apply now](#)

If the online application form is not accessible to you, or if you would like to speak with BIHR about this course, please contact training@bihr.org.uk.

[Visit BIHR's webpage about this advocacy course.](#)

Join us to enhance your advocacy skills and ensure that every voice is heard.



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Find out more about BIHR's work, what we offer, and how to support the charity:



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