



STATEMENT

6 March 2008

BIHR's response to the EHRC's Human Rights Inquiry

Katie Ghose, Director of the British Institute of Human Rights said today:

'This inquiry is a golden opportunity to put the myths to rest and finally tell the real story about how human rights are being used in practical ways to forge a fairer Britain. We are confident it will confirm for the public why the Human Rights Act must stay on the statute book.'

- ENDS -

Notes to Editors

1. For further information or a spokesperson contact Katie Ghose on 020 7848 1815/ 07980 669343(m); kghose@bihr.org.uk or go to our website www.bihr.org.uk
2. BIHR is an organisation committed to challenging inequality and injustice in everyday life in the UK. We aim to achieve this by *bringing human rights to life* – supporting people to use human rights principles and standards to improve their own lives and as a tool for organisations to develop more effective public policy and practice. Our human rights training and consultancy with the public and voluntary and community sectors has long been recognised as a leading contribution to efforts to develop a culture of respect for human rights in the UK.
3. Our report *The Human Rights Act – Changing Lives* challenges the view that human rights are only useful for criminals and celebrities. It brings together 15 case studies that demonstrate how the Human Rights Act is being used beyond the courtroom to make a difference to everyday life in the UK. It includes the example of a disabled woman from Yorkshire who used human rights arguments to end an impasse with the local authority who were refusing to supply her with a special double bed so that she could carry on sleeping alongside her husband – even though she had offered to pay the extra costs. The report is available for download on our homepage www.bihr.org.uk