

# PRESS RELEASE

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**Law Centre (NI)**

## **Rights in Progress**

### **Guide shows Human Rights Act is for everyone**

**Law Centre (NI) Les Allamby has published the third and expanded edition of his guide to the Human Rights Act, prefaced by Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Chief Commissioner Monica McWilliams.**

**Rights in Progress aims to tackle some misconceptions about human rights laws and explain how the Act can be used to advance people's civic, economic and social rights.**

Author Les Allamby said: *'The Human Rights Act is neither the cure for all legal problems nor a charter for criminals and miscreants. Rights in Progress separates fact from fiction about the Act and sets out how the Act works and key decisions made by the European Court of Human Rights and courts in Northern Ireland and elsewhere. I hope readers will find the guide useful in their work as advisers or in discovering more about what the Human Rights Act actually can do in practice.'*

NIHRC Chief Commissioner Monica McWilliams added: *'The Human Rights Act is for everyone. It protects majorities and minorities. As the Law Centre knows well, the European Convention rights are relevant in housing, planning and the welfare system. Convention principles are applicable to the health service and education system as much as the policing service and criminal justice system.'*

A guide to using the Human Rights Act 1998, Rights in Progress Third Edition provides a practical introduction to a piece of the human rights jigsaw by relating the European Convention on Human Rights and the Act to the daily work of advisers and other practitioners. The guide examines the convention, analyses how it has been absorbed into domestic law through the Act and assesses the impact to date of the Act on social welfare law. The expanded Third Edition details recent cases in the European Court of Human Rights and in domestic courts in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales and examines new developments in cases cited in previous editions. An index of cases has been added for ease of reference.

Monica McWilliams has praised the guide as: *'An admirable piece of work. I warmly commend Les Allamby for seeing the gap which existed in this area and for moving to fill it with this excellent guide. I strongly recommend it to all those working in the field of human rights and social justice'*.

## **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

1. **Rights in Progress** is free to all Law Centre (NI) full and comprehensive associate members and is available to others for £18.95 from the Publications Department, Law Centre (NI), 124 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2GY.
2. Law Centre (NI) is a voluntary organisation providing legal support to local independent advice centres, Citizens Advice Bureaux and other advice organisations. Support is provided in the areas of employment, housing, immigration, social security, social services and mental health law through an advice line, casework or referral, training, publications and policy development.
3. The Law Centre has a membership of around 500 organisations throughout Northern Ireland including voluntary sector advice agencies, trade unions, solicitors, social services, probation, welfare organisations, tenants associations and other community groups.

## **NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

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