United Nations Human Rights Council
United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights

Easy to read

What people said at a meeting about how to support local governments to make sure that everyone gets their human rights

Local governments run important services in your local area.
Like schools, housing and care and support.



About us



We are called the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**.

We are part of the United Nations.

The United Nations is a group of countries that work to make the world better and safer.



Our job is to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their human rights.



Everyone has human rights.

Human rights are about what should happen to everyone.

For example, everyone has the right to work, go to school and get healthcare.

About this report



This report is about a meeting we had on 28 August 2023.

The meeting was about how to support local governments to make sure that everyone gets their human rights.

That means local governments should make human rights part of all their work.



Local governments run important services for people where they live.

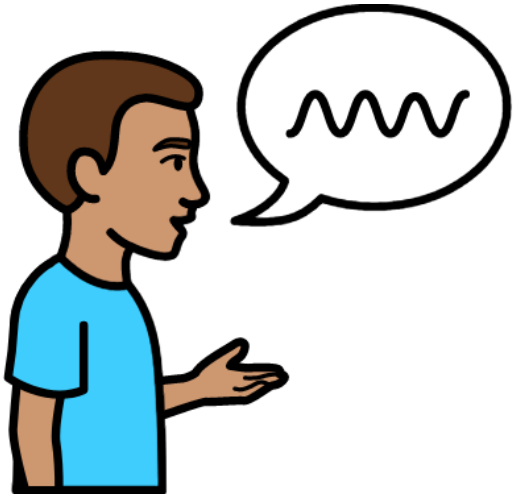
Like schools, clean water, housing and care and support.



People from different countries and organizations talked at the meeting.

That includes people from local governments.

Many countries and organizations also gave us their ideas in writing.



People at the meeting talked about:

- How to support local governments to make sure that everyone gets their human rights.

- How local governments can take part more in the United Nation's work on human rights.

- What countries and organizations should do next.

The main things that people said at the meeting



Supporting local governments to make human rights part of all their work

Local governments are very important.

They can help to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and gets their human rights.



For example, there are 17 things that countries are working on together by 2030.



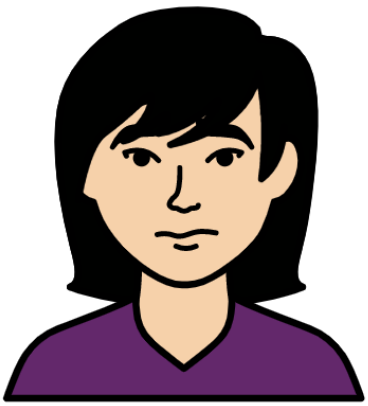
Like making sure that everyone has enough food and money to live on.



Local governments can really help with this work.

That is because local governments work closely with local people.

They often know more about what local people need.



But there are problems that can stop local governments from making sure that people get their human rights.



For example, local governments may not know enough about human rights and what they need to do.

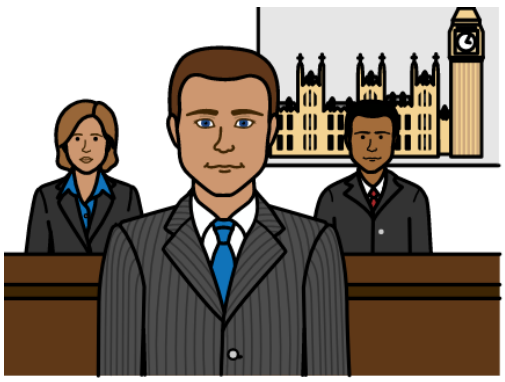


People who work for local governments may not have enough training about human rights.

They may not know how to make human rights part of their work.



Local governments may not have enough money, people or support to do what they need to do.



The main government and local governments may not work enough together.

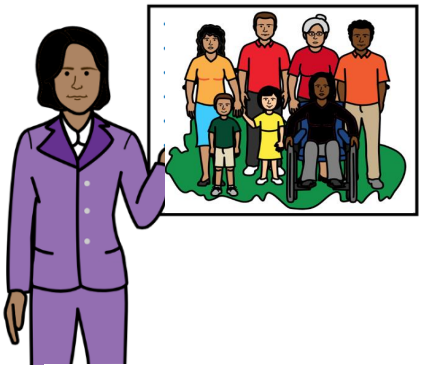
That means local governments may not know what they need to do.



Supporting local governments to take part in the work of the United Nations.

This is to check how countries are doing on human rights.

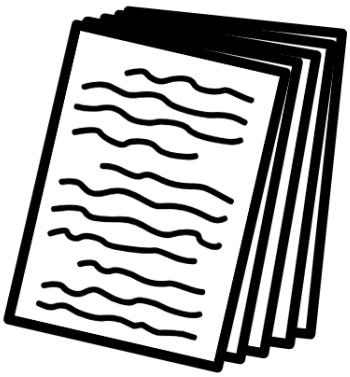
There is some work that the United Nations does to check how countries are doing on human rights.



For example, countries need to show how they are following the laws about human rights every few years.



There are people who check how countries are following the laws about human rights.



Some local governments have already taken part in this work.

For example, they have helped to write reports about what is happening with human rights in their country.



There has also been training and information for some local governments to help them take part.



But some local governments feel that they cannot take part in the work of the United Nations.

Or they do not know how to.

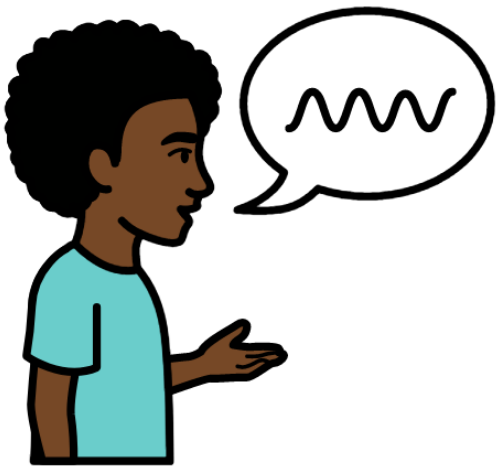
Some good work that local governments have done on human rights



Some local governments have made laws and plans to help people to get their human rights.

They are also working more with local people who are often left out.

Like women, older people and people with disabilities.



Some local governments have a way for local people to complain if they do not get their human rights.

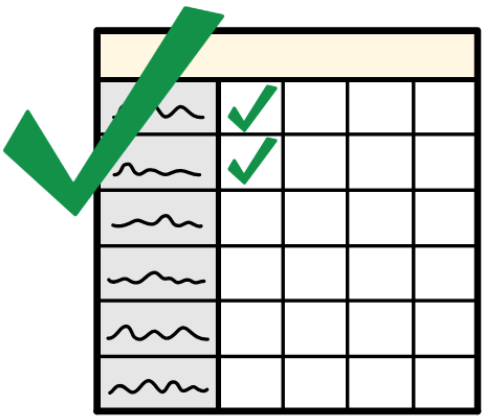
Some local governments have had information and training about human rights and what they need to do.



Some local governments have a team of people who only work on human rights.

There is some support for local governments around the world to work together on human rights.

What people at the meeting said should happen next



The things below are for countries and organizations to work on.

That includes:

- The main government that runs the country.
- Local governments.
- And the United Nations.



There is a part of the United Nations that is in charge of work on human rights.

They should have enough money and people to work with local governments on human rights.



Local governments should have enough money, information and training to do their work on human rights.



Other people in the community should also have training about human rights and what they need to do.

Like the police and judges who work in courts.



Local governments should get support to work with other people on human rights.

That includes:



- Other local organizations.
- The main government for the country.
- The United Nations.
- People who are often left out. Like women and people with disabilities.

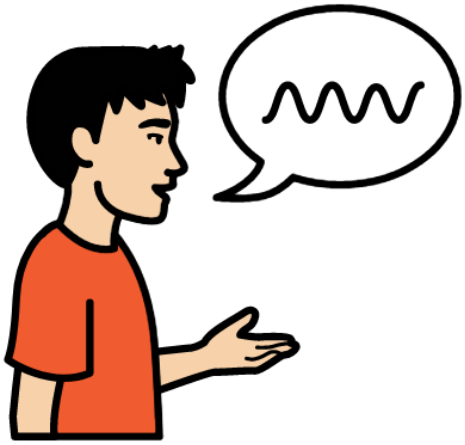


This will help lots of people to work together to:

- Understand what local people need.
- Share ideas about making sure that everyone gets their human rights.
- Make good laws and plans about human rights.



Local governments should also set up a new team of people. They should help local people to get their human rights.



There should be a way for local people to complain if they do not get their human rights.



There should be better information about what is happening with human rights in local areas.

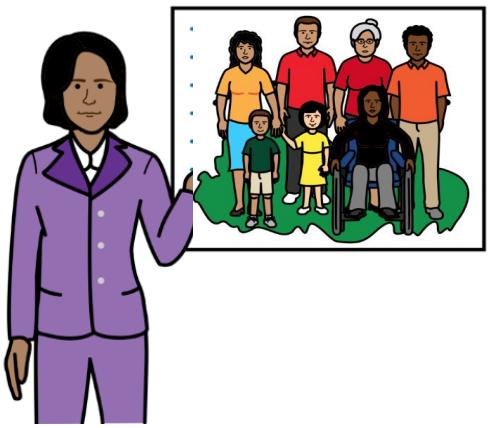
This will help governments to make good laws and plans.



There is some work across the world to support local governments to do more on human rights.

Local governments should join in with this work.

Taking part in the work of the United Nations



Local governments should take part in the work of the United Nations on human rights.

For example, there is work that countries must do to show how they are following human rights laws.

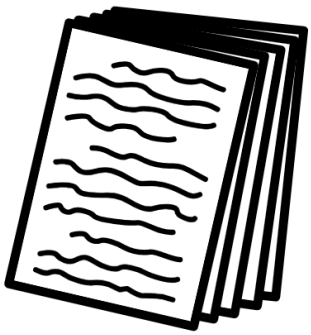


And there are people from the United Nations who check how countries are following human rights laws.



It should be easier for local governments to take part in this work.

That means making sure that local governments know how to take part.



For example, local governments could help to write reports about how the country is doing on human rights.



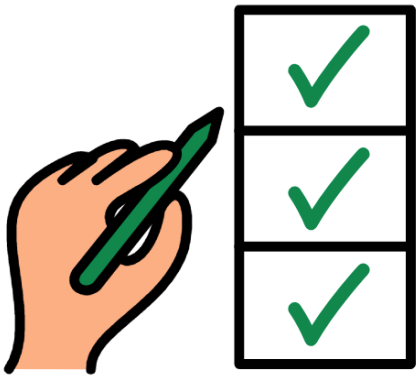
People from the United Nations could meet with local governments.

This is to find out how local governments make sure that people get their human rights.



There could also be meetings for local governments at the United Nations.

This is to talk about how to make human rights part of their work.



People from the United Nations also tell countries what they should do next to follow human rights laws.

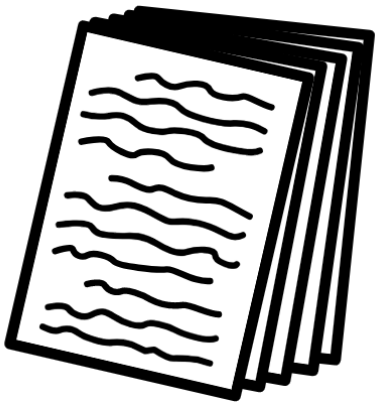


Local governments should also have this information.

Local governments can use this information in their work.



This will also help the main government of the country and local governments to work together on human rights.



The United Nations should also write a report every year.

The report should be about good work that local governments are doing on human rights.

And problems that are stopping them from working on human rights.



All of these things will help local governments to make sure that everyone gets their human rights.

Pictures by The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981–2016 by Mayer-Johnson LLC a Tobii Dynavox company. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Thousands of resources available for free at www.boardmakeronline.com