

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

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Submission Text:

There are problems with the charter of rights system because there are many 'rights' that will conflict with each other. The freedom of religion will conflict with the freedom of gender equality (e.g. female priests/imams), the freedom of equality will conflict with the freedom of speech (e.g. vilification laws)

Also those who are more vocal will gain more 'rights' than those who are less able to advocate for themselves.

What is needed instead of a charter of rights, is more support provided to those who are less able to advocate for themselves. This may include people with learning disabilities or other such impairments who may be limited in their ability to have a say in forums such as these. Information about policies and legislation should be formatted in a way that can be easily accessed and understood by all. Then all can make an informed decision when voting and lobbying the government. This would ensure a fairer distribution of rights than what would result from a 'charter of rights'. A charter of rights would stir up controversy as 'rights' conflict each other and would not necessarily equate with justice for all.