

Copy to: Geoffrey Robertson QC

I am persuaded that the book: "The Statute of Liberty" – Geoffrey Robertson, 2009, provides a commendable foundation for a Human Rights Charter.

However, while this book has my full endorsement, I make the following points:

1. re: Page 221: an additional (and significant) reason why the media will not expose infringement of human rights is "It's economics, stupid!". The media will not print, nor report, adverse comments against their advertisers. This is particularly evident where elderly abuse is not reported, because developers and operators of retirement homes/resorts provide the media with immense advertising revenue.
2. The Statute of Liberty should (but does not) include UN-UDHR Article 20(2): "No one may be compelled to belong to an association." This arises in the relatively new concept of retirement resorts (also called Over-50's resorts, etc) where the land is leased but each home is individually owned by the resident. Residential park operators will not recognize individual home owners who seek to assert their rights, but, instead, exhort home owners to join a residents committee. Individual human rights are thus smothered, resulting in unworkable so-called democratic rule whereby the elected representatives have neither appropriate knowledge, nor equitable standards of social behaviour. That is likened to a parliament with neither public servants nor legal system which results in elected-mob-rule by the uneducated masses!
3. A significant constraint against a human rights charter is borne by the highly publicised State government priority which places development of infrastructure higher than human rights. This is evident in such legislation as the Queensland Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003, where S4 (*extract below) specifies that development of the industry is a government priority. This conflict of interest thus makes developers to be a protected species, above human needs, in the operation of this Act.
4. What (who) are you? Society identifies you by your employment until you retire – then you become a "was or have-been". Without an identity, you are no longer called for your skill or profession, and when you call on anyone they do not want to know you because you have nothing to barter with. It follows: no skill, no profession, no identity, no calling or being called, therefore, no human rights! You enter a void where you are completely ignored. The attached copy of a letter provides an example of this dilemma.

* Extract from Act (which is supposed to provide fair trading for home owners):

Division 2 Objects

4 Objects of Act

- (2) The following are also important objects of this Act—
- (a) encouraging the continued growth and viability of the residential park industry in the State;
 - (b) providing a clear regulatory framework to ensure certainty for the residential park industry in planning for future expansion.

Sincerely

Wilf Robinson