

PRESS RELEASE

Tel: (284)468-2730

Official Government Website:

<https://gov.vg>

Public Consultation on Human Rights Commission Bill Launched

Release Date: 10 February, 2025



The Office of the Deputy Governor has launched the Public Education and Consultation process for the Human Rights Commission Bill, 2025.

The proposed rights of the Commission includes receiving and investigating complaints of any act or practice that may be inconsistent with or contrary to any human right, which are established by Chapter 2 of The Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007.

The commission will also be responsible for the promotion of better public awareness, understanding, acceptance, appreciation and discussion with respect to human rights and related international instruments or activities.

Deputy Governor, Mr. David D. Archer, Jr. said, "The launch of this process marks a critical phase in the legislative process. The Human Rights Commission Bill is a welcomed step forward in the proper handling of human rights matters. As we begin this process, it is vital that across the Territory, persons listen, participate and lend their voices to shaping the future of this Bill."

According to section 5 of the Bill, once established, the commission will comprise of 5 (Five) Human Rights Commissioners; two appointed by the Governor, one appointed by the Premier, one by the Leader of the Opposition and one, who must be a legal practitioner for more than 5 (Five) years, appointed by the Chief Justice. The Bill also gives provisions that one of the Governor's appointees must be a resident of a Sister Island.

Additionally, Section 11 of the Bill establishes that complaints may be made against, public officers, Government departments, Statutory Bodies, individuals, a body corporate or unincorporated body for actions or practices that are inconsistent with or contrary to any human right.

Following the educational process, public meetings will commence on March 10 and continue across the 4 main islands, allowing individuals to hear a presentation on the contents of the Bill and share feedback that helps to shape its future.

Persons are encouraged to visit bvi.gov.vg/humanrights to view the Bill, the consultation schedule and share feedback.

Additional Documents or Media

- [human rights commission bill 2024 clean 2.pdf](#)