



Aims and Objectives of this Manual

Developing existing training curricula

The main purpose of this training manual is to provide a ready-to-use resource for police and law enforcement trainers in Commonwealth countries, enabling them to build human rights standards, principles and approaches directly into the ordinary, existing curriculum of their training institutions. The aim is to ensure human rights obligations and considerations are explicitly brought into the mainstream of law enforcement training, and made relevant to that training.

The manual is therefore organised by reference to core activities (such as 'Arrest') so that the human rights dimensions of these can be made directly, memorably and persuasively applicable to actual law enforcement operations and management, rather than being perceived as abstract principles. It is vital that mere information about human rights is transformed into practical behaviour.

The overall objective is that police trainees enter the communities they serve able to provide a professional service: understanding and accepting the principled and practical reasons for rights-based policing, their own potential for affecting human rights in their own daily decisions and conduct, and the framework of internationally accepted human rights standards in which all policing takes place.

Specific human rights training programmes

In addition to revising their ordinary curricula so that the human rights elements are clearly understood, some trainers may wish to produce specific training modules, seminars or workshops on human rights for fellow trainers, trainees or even the community. This manual is intended to assist with the process of establishing or developing such specific courses.

The Commonwealth Secretariat's Human Rights Unit continues to assist police and other law enforcement training institutions and management in Commonwealth countries, by providing human rights 'training for trainers', using expert resource persons with law enforcement backgrounds and with experience of integrating human rights into training in a number of countries. The manual is also intended as a resource for use in such training programmes as and when they take place.

Finally, because it explains the place and content of human rights in a policing context, the manual may be useful to those responsible for internal reviews of police operating policies and practice.
