



Queen Margaret University

CENTRE FOR PERSON-CENTRED  
PRACTICE RESEARCH

# Rights-based practice with older people

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# Human Rights: *definition*

“the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, from birth until death. They apply regardless of where you are from, what you believe or how you choose to live your life”.

Equality & Human Rights Commission (2017)



# Human Rights: *evolving*

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- The European Convention on Human Rights (1950)
- Race Relations Act (1965)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)
- UK signs up to the European Court of Human Rights (1966)
- Sex Discrimination Act (1976)
- Race Relations Act (1976)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (1976)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979)
- UN Convention against Torture & Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment & Punishment (1984)
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
- Disability Discrimination Act (1995)
- Human Rights Act (1998)
- Scotland Act (1998)
- Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act (2006)



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# Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

“the basis of our understanding of human rights today”



# The European Convention on Human Rights (1950)

“protects and contains rights that can be  
relied upon in a court of law”



# Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act (2006)

“promote awareness and understanding of, and respect for, human rights”



# Friedland (2011)

“will enable people with disabilities, chronic illness and marginalized social circumstances to achieve their right to participate in meaningful occupation”



# Everyday Practice

“settings and client populations that are considered ‘traditional’ in Western and Northern parts of the world”

(Balliard & Aldrich, 2017: p. 84)



# Influencers of justice in everyday practice...

- cultural
- institutional
- social and political differences
- who should respond?

(Bryant, 2010)

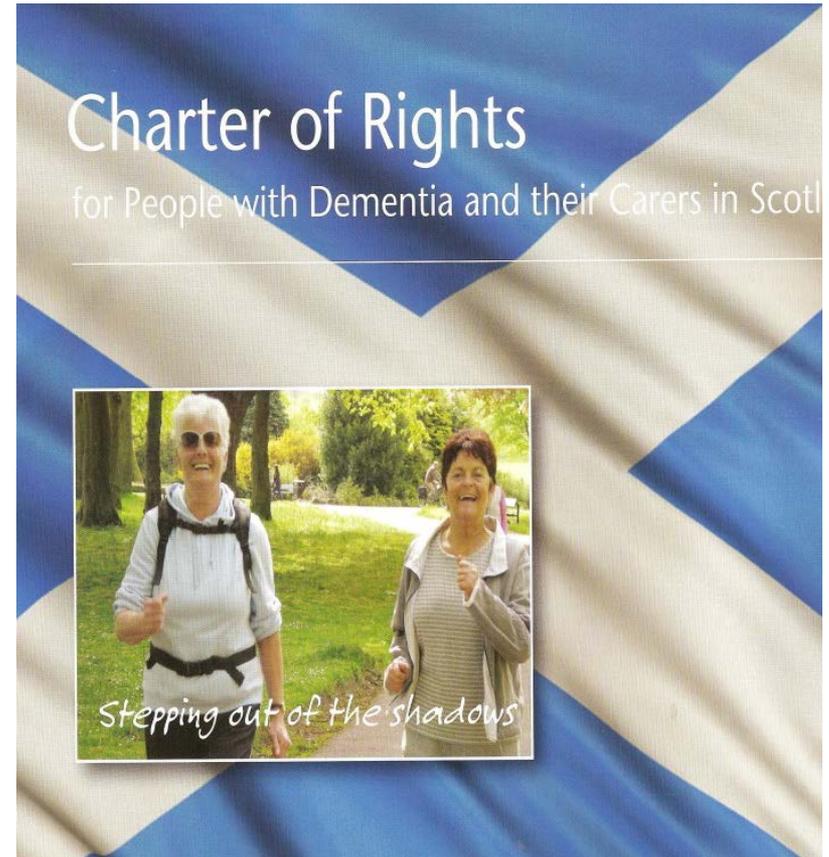


# Ensuring the rights of people living with dementia: Alzheimer Scotland

We affirm that every person living with dementia has:

- The right to a timely diagnosis
- The right to access quality post diagnostic support
- The right to person centred, co-ordinated, quality care throughout their illness
- The right to equitable access to treatments and therapeutic interventions
- The right to be respected as an individual in their community

(Glasgow Declaration)



# Human Rights based approach: *PANEL principles*

- **Participation**: Everyone has the right to participate in decisions which affect them.
- **Accountability**: Requires effective monitoring of human rights standards as well as effective remedies for human rights breaches.
- **Non-Discrimination & Equality**: A human rights based approach means that all forms of discrimination in the realization of rights must be prohibited, prevented & eliminated.
- **Empowerment**: Everyone, individuals & communities, should understand their rights & should be fully supported to participate in the development of policy and practices which affect their lives.
- **Legality**: A human rights based approach requires the recognition of rights as legally enforceable entitlements and is linked in to national and international human rights law.

Alzheimer Scotland (2017)



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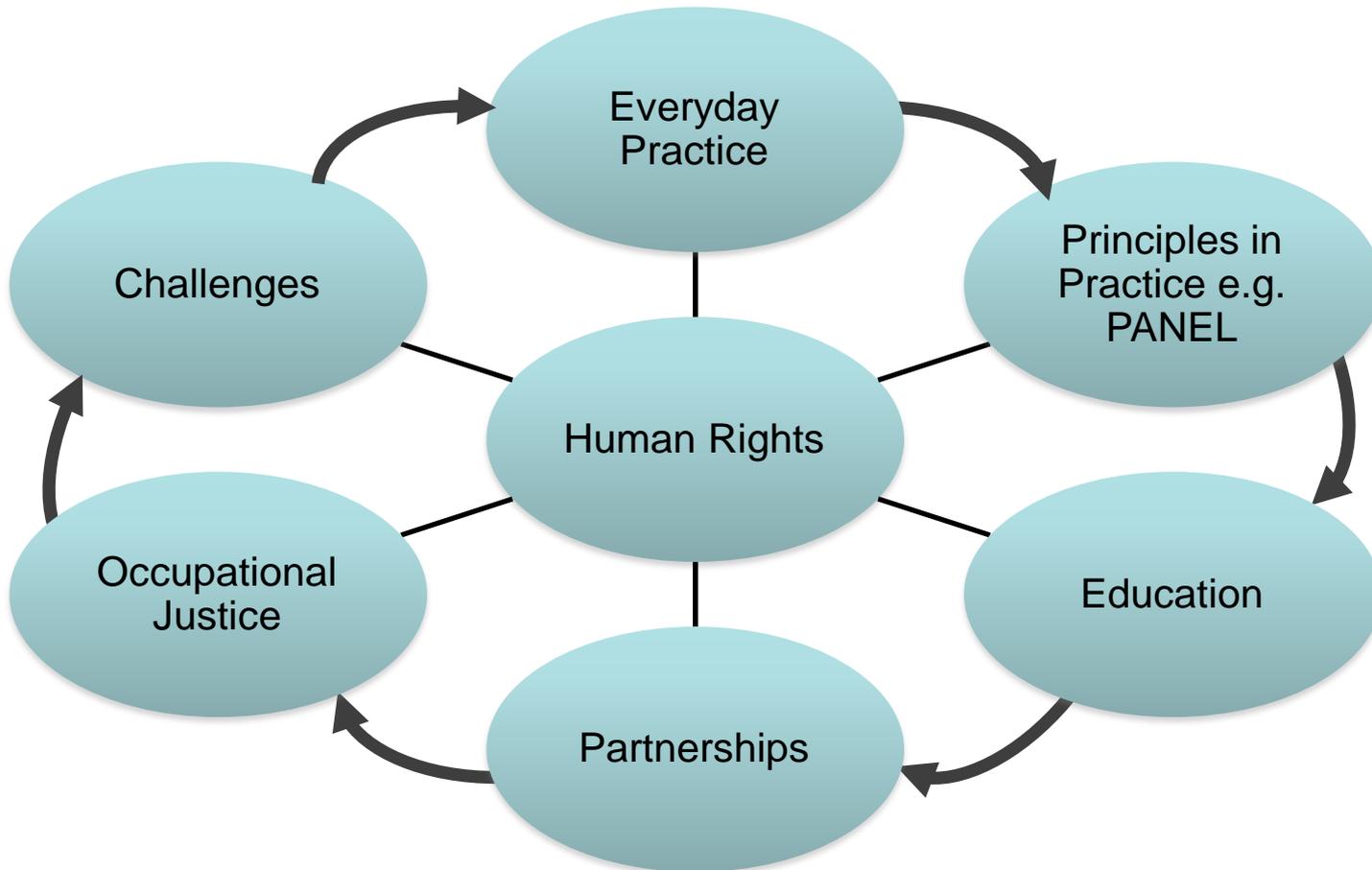


# Scottish Dementia Working Group: *What is important to me?*

Member	Response
1.	To challenge stigma and that we all work together to respect each other.
2.	To be heard. To be listened to. To be treated with dignity and respect. To be treated the same as we treat anyone else.
3.	Don't judge me & remember the person inside. Don't patronize me as we are all the same.
4.	For people to listen and give time to answer. To be involved with new people and put at my ease.
5.	My family, good health and to live well in my community. Treated with respect.



# Conclusion





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