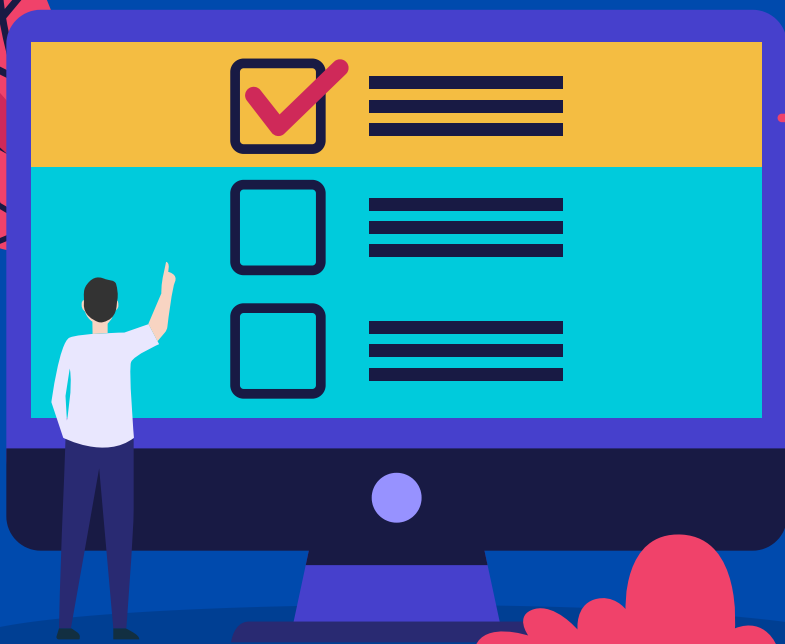


THE **1928**
INSTITUTE

shrg

SIKH HUMAN
RIGHTS GROUP

WE WANT TO KNOW YOUR OPINION ON THE DRAFT MENTAL HEALTH BILL 2022



SIKH
NEURODIVERSITY
NETWORK

Website: shrg.ngo

Instagram: [shrg_ngo](https://www.instagram.com/shrg_ngo)

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The Draft Mental Health Bill 2022 is a proposed update to the Mental Health Act 1983.

The existing Mental Health Act outlines the legal requirements for individuals who are detained due to their need for urgent mental health treatment due to them being deemed a risk to themselves or others.

Following a recent review, by the UK Government, it was found that too many autistic people and people with learning disabilities were inappropriately admitted to mental health wards and once admitted, stayed in hospital too long.

This is concerning as instead of helping the patient, detention can lead to a deterioration in their condition, particularly for those with lifelong neurodivergent characteristics such as Autism.

In other words, the draft Bill seeks to take forward recommendations for legislative changes made by an Independent Review of the Mental Health Act, which was chaired by Professor Sir Simon Wessely, consultant psychiatrist and professor of psychiatry at King's College London. Sir Simon Wessely was commissioned by then Prime Minister Theresa May to consider the following issues with the current Mental Health Act:

- The reasons for the rising number of detentions under the Mental Health Act, which had increased by 40% between 2007 and 2016;**
- The disproportionate number of people from black and minority ethnic groups detained under the Act, with black people four times more likely than white people to be detained; and**
- Processes that are out of step with a modern mental health care system.**

Therefore, the primary aim of the Mental Health Bill 2022 is to improve not only how people with a disability, such as autism, are treated by the law of England and Wales, but also to ensure that the individuals concerned receive the dignity and respect that they deserve.



Here at the Sikh Human Rights Group (an NGO with Special Consultative Status at the United Nations) and The 1928 Institute (a not-for-profit University of Oxford spin-out), we are keen to gain feedback from individuals with lived experience of autism, learning disabilities and the current operation of the Mental Health Act 1983 on these proposed reforms.

This will allow us to advocate for the most appropriate changes based on the lived experiences of those directly impacted by autism, learning disabilities and the current operation of the Mental Health Act 1983.



If you are someone with lived experience of autism, learning disabilities or the Mental Health Act 1983 then we would absolutely love to hear your views!



We aim to collate your feedback and submit our findings to the UK Government. Our aim is to have the opinions of people who will be directly impacted by these changes heard.

We have put together a survey to obtain your feedback on the proposed reforms.

If you would prefer not to be included in the Sikh Human Rights Groups and The 1928 Institutes submission, but still wish to share your feedback, then the UK Government would still love to hear from you!

You can find links to both our survey and the survey from the UK Government website below or in our bio.

Thank you :)

