

Mission Statement

The CSA Human Rights Office (HRO) works to promote human rights on the University of Guelph campus in three ways: through raising awareness and human rights issues, taking action against human rights abuses, and advocating for students and groups who experience human rights abuses or oppression.

Awareness: The HRO coordinates a variety of human rights and anti-oppression awareness events and campaigns that can include video screenings, workshops, group discussions, guest speakers and social events. We frame all our campaigns within an anti-oppression analysis framework, striving to make our events accessible to anyone that would like to attend. Our events attempt to highlight the interlocking nature of different forms of oppression and initiate dialogue on these important issues. We believe that education is a necessary component in the struggle to live our lives with more dignity and of creating a more equitable society.

Action: We take action by questioning, challenging and changing the ways in the world currently operates. On this campus the HRO takes action in response to the many forms of discrimination that occur. Oppressive action and human rights abuses can take many forms, which can be subtle and hard to notice. We believe that all acts of discrimination must be questioned and fought against. We work to relate what is happening on our campus, and to our students, with what is happening globally. In taking such actions, the CSA Human Rights Office hopes to affect human rights on our campus, in Canada, and around the world.

Advocacy: If you're experiencing acts of discrimination or oppression, you can rely on the resources of two organizations on campus. Both the HRO and the University's Human Rights and Equity office (HREO) offer support by trained staff to help you proceed in an informed manner. Both organizations treat all inquiries, visits, and correspondence with absolute confidentiality.

At the HRO, we are neither therapists nor support workers, but we are trained and experienced in providing various levels of support and advocacy. Whether you want to go public with a concern, file a complaint, or just need to talk to a supportive listener, the HRO is always a place you can come to. We are complainant driven, which means that you have complete control over the process at all times. We will not take any action without your explicit consent and will never try to coerce or convince you to act a certain way. We are simply here to listen, and to help you make informed decisions and put them into action. We also assist in dealing with system issues on campus.