



New Zealand House of Representatives
Te Whare Māngai o Aotearoa

Petitions Committee

Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Petihana

54th Parliament
September 2025

Petition of Ponsonby Chambers (est. 2023): Protection from all forms of discrimination in the Human Rights Act

The Petitions Committee has considered the petition of Ponsonby Chambers (est. 2023), which was presented to the House on 10 December 2024 by Hon Phil Twyford. The petition was signed by 13 people, and requests:

That the House of Representatives expand the scope of discrimination under section 21 of the Human Rights Act 1993 to include culture, personality type, reputation, other agency opinions or dealings, and occupation as prohibited grounds of discrimination.

We invited, but did not accept, a written submission from the petitioner. Parliament's select committees have a responsibility not to accept submissions that may undermine the mutually respectful relationship between the legislative and judicial branches of government.

The petitioner asks that the prohibited grounds of discrimination in section 21 of the Human Rights Act 1993 be expanded. We suggest that if the petitioner wishes to pursue this matter in future it does so without criticising members of the judiciary.

We have no further matters to bring to the attention of the House. We recommend that the House take note of our report.

Presented to the House of Representatives
by Greg O'Connor, Chairperson