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| **DELETE THIS BOX:** Human Rights Act Advocacy Initial Template Letter comes from a Guide made by the British Institute of Human (BIHR), with the Parent & Carer Alliance CIC: “**Parents & Carers Advocating for Their Disabled Children & Their Families:** Our Human Rights Act for All The Family.” It is intended to be used with the Guide and the steps it outlines. The Guide is available on [BIHR’s website](https://www.bihr.org.uk/get-informed/resources) and the [Alliance’s website.](https://www.parentandcareralliance.org.uk)  This letter is based on a story in the Guide. You can change it to work for your situation, using the information in the Guide. In **[Grey square brackets]** we have included information which are tips to help you write your letter; make sure you delete these tips from your letter. |

**[Make sure you include:**

* **Your full name and the names of your children that you are advocating for.**
* **Your full contact details, including email, telephone, and address.**
* **The date you have sent the letter**

**It’s important to keep your letter polite, to make it clear, and concise.]**

Dear **[Add the names of the key people you need to contact, e.g. social services, SEND team, CAMHS, etc]**

**[Explain who you are and who else you are writing on behalf of and your relationship to them. E.g.:]** I am the parent advocate for Al and Samir Shah who are both known to your services through their special educational needs and disabilities. Both children currently have unmet needs, ranging from no alternative provision as they are both EOTAS, through to serious concerns about Al’s physical health due to AFIRD.

**[Explain the Human Rights Act duty and which human rights you think are at risk and why. E.g.:]** As services who should be involved the meeting the needs of my two disabled children through health, education, and care provision, you are public officials, with a duty under the Human Rights Act to respect, protect and fulfil human rights. However, the lack of provision for both children is interfering with their right to respect for private and family life (Article 8 in the Human Rights Act), by negatively impacting their wellbeing, involvement (or lack of) in decisions about their lives, and significant interference with our family life.

**[Explain any discrimination issues under the Human Rights Act and/or if there are any absolute human rights that may be at risk and the need for immediate action. E.g.:]** For Al in particular, he currently has no support for AFIRD, having been discharged from CAMHS inpatient care but also told the Eating Disorder Service does not treat this disorder. This raises Al’s right to non-discrimination under Article 14 (HRA), as it prevents him from accessing treatment support on the basis of his disability and health-related condition. I am also concerned that his Article 3 right to free from inhuman and degrading treatment is at risk, because the refusal of support has left him in a situation of seriously declining physical health. Article 3 is an absolute human right which can never be interfered with. This means your positive obligation under the HRA to step in and take action to protect Al from such treatment is triggered. As a matter of urgency, Al needs to be able to access appropriate support for AFIRD and reduce the significant risk of harm.

**[Set out next steps and a timeframe to receive their response.]** There are a number of other additional related matters, which also raise human rights risks that I would like to discuss. I would be grateful if you could please respond to my letter within the next 7 days so that we can resolve these issues amicably, working to protect my disabled children’s human rights.

Yours sincerely

Mo Shah