

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday 20th June 2011

Contact: Lili Hoag 020 7241 8523 (out of hours on 0787 555 9161)

EHRC REPORT REVEALS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN HOME CARE

Counsel and Care, the national charity working with older people, their families and carers, is concerned by the report published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission exposing the poor care of older people who live at home. The failure of home based care and support system to recognise the rights and dignity of older people and their mistreatment are clear indications that changes must be made in the social care system to protect the rights of all older people, including those who are the most vulnerable.

Caroline Bernard, Deputy Chief Executive, Counsel and Care expressed concern about the report's findings: "This report is extremely alarming. Following recent reports into the quality of care in residential and nursing homes, it is distressing to see that in some cases, there is also a lack of good quality homecare provision for older people.

"Every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Having only fifteen minutes with a care worker per day and being left in soiled clothing, as has been reported by the EHRC, is a deep injustice to older people and is clearly unacceptable. For fear of reprisal many older people don't complain about poor care at home. It is essential that steps are taken to stop these serious breaches of human rights."

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Copies of *Home Care Agencies: what to look for* can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.counselandcare.org.uk/category/advice/pdf/home-care-agencies---what-to-look-for-guide-15>
2. Counsel and Care is a national charity working with older people, their families and carers to get the best care and support. Advice on issues affecting older people and carers can be obtained by calling 0845 300 7585 or emailing advice@counselandcare.org.uk
3. Counsel and Care's Advice Service opening hours are 10am-4pm Monday-Friday.
4. More information about Counsel and Care can be obtained from www.counselandcare.org.uk