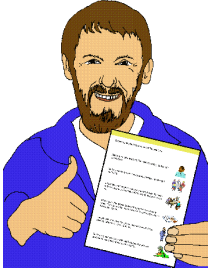


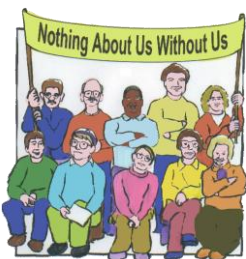
Newsletter about the UN Disability Convention in Scotland. Easy Read version.



This newsletter is from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC). It tells you about some of our work. It also tells you about our online meetings running until March 2012. If you would like this newsletter in a different format or language please contact the EHRC to let us know. The contact details are at the end of this newsletter.



The rights of all disabled people and people with injuries or health conditions who face barriers are protected by the UN Disability Convention. This **convention** is an agreement that says how governments will protect disabled people and their rights.



The UK Government must **implement** (put into place) the convention. They must make sure that disabled people are involved in checking how it is being put into place.

The governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are also involved in this work.



The EHRC and SHRC are the independent organisations that promote, protect and check how the convention is being put into place in Scotland. This work involves legal and policy work and research. They also support disabled people and Disabled Peoples' Organisations (DPOs) to take part in the work.

About our online seminar (meetings).



We are organising four free online meetings. These will discuss the convention and the main issues disabled people in Scotland have told us about. These meetings are part of our work to tell people about the convention and check how it is being put into place.



The first online meeting will discuss how cuts and welfare reform affect disability equality and human rights. The other meetings will discuss access to justice (law), independent living and children and young people.



Each online meeting will last one hour from 12pm until 1pm. You can watch or listen and join in over your lunch. You can take part on your own or join with a group.



You will need to use the internet to join the meeting. If you do not have the internet at home please contact us. We will do our best to help you find a local place where you can join the meeting with other people.



The meetings will give information about how to use the convention. We want to give people the chance to shape what needs to happen to make sure the convention is put into place in Scotland. What people say during the meeting will be typed live on the website.

How the online meeting will work.

You can join the meeting by clicking on this link: [Meetings about the Disability Convention.](#)

This will open as a pop up box with a video frame. The meeting is being filmed live in the SHRC office in Edinburgh.





The meeting will start with an introduction by one of the SHRC staff. Then our guest speaker will share their knowledge and experiences. We will explain about the convention rights that Governments must provide or be working towards. Then we will give people the chance to ask questions, suggest action that needs to be taken and share experiences or opinions.

You do not need to register or give log in details to take part. But you need to check that your computer is able to run video and sound.



Please let us know if you plan to join in so we can make sure you know about the website we are using. We can give you the information you need in an accessible format and let you know about any changes. You can send an e-mail to hello@scottishhumanrights.com or telephone us on 0131 240 2985.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

The first meeting is from 12pm – 1pm on:
12 December 2011. Topic: Rights in a recession.

The next meetings are from 12pm – 1pm on:

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

16 January 2012. Topic: Getting justice.

13 February 2012. Topic: Independent living.

12 March 2012. Topic: Children + Young People.

If you use **Twitter** the hash tag will be:

#crpdseminar



There will be recordings of the meetings on our website for people to watch. We will also write a short summary of each online meeting and put this on our website for people to read.

The UK government report on the UNCRPD.



The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) is a department of the UK Government. The ODI is responsible for making sure the Government puts the convention into place.

It does this by supporting action across Government departments. The ODI must send a report to the UN Disability Committee every four years. This report will say how the UK Government is protecting and delivering the rights in the convention for disabled people.



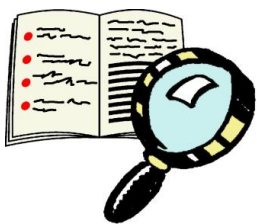


Earlier this year there was a chance to give comments about the first UK report from the ODI. The four UK human rights and equality commissions sent their comments to Maria Miller MP the Minister for Disabled People. They felt the UK report needed to have more details and gave some suggestions. The UK Government sent its final report to the UN Committee on 24th November 2011. More information about the UK report is on the ODI website: [Implementation of the UN Convention](#)

The UN Disability Committee timescales.



The UN Disability Committee usually meets in April and October. The UK report will not be looked at until 2013 or 2014. This is because lots of other countries will be examined first.



The UK Government report will only be part of the information the UN Committee will look at. The four UK human rights and equality commissions will also send reports. They will involve and consult disabled people and their organisations to help write their reports.



Disabled people and DPOs can also send their own reports. This will help the UN Committee have a fuller picture. It is important that we make sure action to put the convention into place is not delayed.

International Disability Alliance.

[The International Disability Alliance](#) (IDA) is an international network of disabled people. It is based in Geneva and coordinates work to support the UN Disability convention to be put into place. The IDA has lots of experience of supporting action and wants to help disabled people and DPOs in Scotland to send reports to the UN committee. One way to do this is by using the universal periodic review process. There is more information about universal periodic review here: [What is the Universal Periodic Review?](#)



If your organisation would like help from IDA please contact Ellen Walker, Human Rights Officer, Intergovernmental Processes at IDA, by emailing ewalker@ida-secretariat.org.



Report from the 28th March 2011 event.

The commissions held an event on 28th March 2011 to tell disabled people about the convention and hear their views. The event brought together over two hundred disabled people and DPOs across Scotland. They were able to learn more about the convention and how to be involved in making it a reality.



Discussions took place in Inverness, Oban and Inverurie. People joined in the discussions online from their homes and offices. Inclusion Scotland and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations also supported the event.



The experiences people shared will be included in the report the commissions will send to the UN committee. The report of the event explains what disabled people told us needs to happen so they can get their human rights in Scotland. You can read the report here: [Participation Day.](#)

Report to the UN Office of the High Commission on Human Rights.



The commissions sent a detailed joint report to the UN Office for the High Commissioner on Human Rights. This was for their study on how disabled people can access and take part in public and political life. You can read this here:

[Joint response to OHCHR study](#)



UK Parliament Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) Inquiry into Independent Living.

The commissions sent reports and spoke to the inquiry (review) into Independent Living. This involved going to meetings in the Houses of Parliament and answering questions about human rights asked by MPs and Lords. We then answered more questions from the JCHR.

You can read more about this here:

[Submission to Joint Committee Inquiry on Independent Living](#)

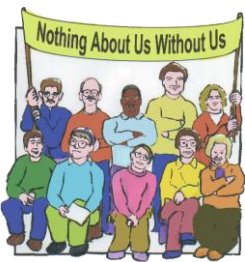




Action plan for the disability convention.

The UK and Scottish Governments could develop a disability convention action plan.

This would say what should be done and who should do it. It would say when things needed to be done.



An action plan must be developed with disabled people. This is called coproduction.

The commissions are asking if an action plan is the best way to make sure the convention is properly put into place in the UK.



There are lots of things happening to promote, protect and monitor how the disability convention is being put into place in Scotland!

You can share your experiences about rights by taking part in the online meetings. You can also get in touch with us by contacting the commissions.



Please let us know if you do not want to receive any more newsletters like this.

How to contact us.



Equality and Human Rights Commission in Scotland (EHRC).

Call 0141 228 5910 or Fax 0141 228 5912
email scotland@equalityhumanrights.com

Write to us at: EHRC, The Optima Building, 58
Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DU



Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC).

Call 0131 240 2989.

E-mail hello@scottishhumanrights.com

Write to us at: SHRC, 4 Melville Street,
Edinburgh, EH3 7NS.

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