

# What we want the UK governments to do to make life better for disabled people



# About this report



We are a group called **UKIM**.



We are made up of 4 organisations in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



We check that the UK governments are doing what they should for disabled people.



The UK governments are:

- the government for the whole of the UK
- the governments for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.



This report is about the work of the UK governments to make life better for disabled people.



There is a document that says all disabled people should be treated fairly and get their rights.

The document is called the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**



The UK governments have agreed to do what this document says.



We check that the UK governments are doing what they agreed to.



There is another group called the **CRPD Committee**.

They check what all governments are doing to make life better for disabled people and ask them questions about it.



This report looks at:

- some problems for disabled people in the UK
- what we want the UK governments to do about the problems.



We want the CRPD Committee to use this report when they tell the UK governments what they should do.

# Problems for disabled people in the UK and what we want the UK governments to do about them

## 1. Making sure UK laws are right for disabled people



There is a document about making sure disabled people get their human rights.

It is called the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



All the UK governments have agreed to do what this document says.



But we think they are not doing enough to make it happen.

We want all the UK governments to:



- make the document about the rights of disabled people part of UK laws and plans.

This will help disabled people get their rights in UK courts.



- make sure any new laws about human rights give disabled people the same rights as they have now.

There is also a law about treating everyone fairly. It is called the **Equality Act 2010**.



We want the UK and Scottish governments to make all of this law happen. Not just some of it.



We also want the law in Northern Ireland to change.

At the moment, Northern Ireland has a different law. It does not give disabled people the same rights as the rest of the UK.





## 2. Helping people think good things about disabled people

Many people think bad or wrong things about disabled people.



We want the UK governments to do more to stop this.

For example, they should give people more information and training.

## 3. Making everything easy for disabled people



Many things are still too hard for disabled people to use.

Like information, the internet, transport, housing and buildings.



We want all the UK governments to:

- make plans about things that are hard for disabled people and how to change this.



We want all the UK governments to work on:

- more housing for disabled people



- making buildings, transport and the internet easy for disabled people to use



- giving deaf and deafblind people the support they need to communicate with their families and services.

For example, giving people more support to learn sign language.



#### 4. Money and support

Too many disabled people are poor. And some disabled people may not have enough to eat.





We want all the UK governments to:

- make plans about how to stop disabled people being poor



- make sure disabled people can get support to live in the community and make their own choices.



We want the UK government to:

- make sure disabled people have enough benefits to live on.

This is money from the government to help people who need it.



- check how changes to benefits are affecting disabled people and write reports about this.



## 5. Jobs

Many disabled people find it hard to get and keep a job.

And disabled people in jobs are often paid less than people who are not disabled.



We want the UK government to:

- make a plan about helping more disabled people get and keep a job
- show what it has done about this.



We want all the UK governments to make sure that:

- disabled people get the right support to find and keep a job
- disabled people are not paid less than people who are not disabled.



## 6. Help from the law

It is hard for many disabled people to get help from the law and the courts.

We want all the UK governments to make sure that:



- disabled people can get advice about the law or go to court if they need to

It should not cost too much money to do this.



- people who work in courts get training about the rights of disabled people and the support they may need.

## 7. Education

We want all the UK governments to make sure that disabled children:



- can do well at school and learn together with other children who are not disabled



- get support to stay at school if there are problems. They should not be forced to leave.



- get support to get a job or learn more in the future.

## 8. Health and life



Many disabled people are not getting the healthcare they need.

We want all the UK governments to make sure that:



- disabled people get the healthcare they need to be healthy and live a long life

- there is information to show this is happening



- people can get good mental health care if they need it



- disabled women can get the right healthcare to do with sex, relationships and babies.





We want all the UK governments to make sure that:

- people with learning disabilities and autism can get support near where they live.



They should not have to stay in mental health hospitals or homes when they don't need to.

## 9. Hate crime, bullying and abuse of disabled people



This is when disabled people are hurt or treated very badly by others.

This happens too often to disabled people.



We want all the UK governments to make sure that:

- it is easy for disabled people to report bad things that happen to them.





We want all the UK governments to make sure that:

- more is done to stop disabled people being bullied at school



- disabled women get the right support if people are violent to them or want to force them to get married



- disabled people in places like prisons, police cells, mental health hospitals, and care homes are safe and treated well.



For example, staff should not do things like hold people's bodies down to stop them moving.

## 10. Making your own choices



We want the UK governments to make sure that disabled people get support to make their own choices if they need it.

Other people should not make choices for them or do things that are not right for them.

## 11. Voting and having a say



We want the UK government to:

- show how it will make voting easy for disabled people
- help more disabled people take part in politics and make decisions about their country.





## 12. Information about disabled people

We want all the UK governments to keep better information about:

- disabled people in the UK
- how they are treated.



## 13. Our work

We want the UK governments to give UKIM enough money for our work on the rights of disabled people.

## To find out more



For questions about this booklet email:  
[correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com)

You can also look on our websites at:

Equality and Human Rights Commission:  
[www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland:  
<http://www.equalityni.org>

Northern Ireland Human Rights  
Commission:  
<http://www.nihrc.org>

Scottish Human Rights Commission:  
<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com>



For advice about being treated fairly  
you can get in touch with the  
**Equality Advisory and Support Service.**

This is free.

Phone            0808 800 0082

Textphone      0808 800 0084

They are open 9am to 7pm  
Monday to Friday and 10am to 2pm  
Saturday.

Their website is:

[www.equalityadvisoryservice.com](http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com)

Or write to them at:

**FREEPOST EASS HELPLINE FPN6521**

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