

The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP
Minister of State (Minister for Social Security and Disability)

United Kingdom Independent Monitoring Mechanism

25 June 2025

Dear Minister,

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Report on follow-up to the inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

One year ago, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ('the Committee') conducted a follow-up assessment on its Inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention (CRPD/C/15/4).

As you are aware, the Committee determined that "no significant progress has been made in the State party concerning the situation of persons with disabilities addressed in the inquiry proceedings" and that "the State party has failed to take all appropriate measures to address grave and systematic violations of the human rights of persons with disabilities and has failed to eliminate the root causes of inequality and discrimination."

The conclusion of the Committee was that the 2017 recommendations had not been fulfilled. Given the release of an additional ten recommendations in 2024, we suggest the justification for swift action is obvious. To ensure the UK's compliance with its international human rights obligations, implementation should be expedited.

As the designated Independent Monitoring Mechanism established under Article 33 of the UNCRPD, our organisations – the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI), Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) and Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) - would welcome an update from the UK Government on its efforts to take forward the Committee's findings. Our own evidence to the Committee provides an independent and comprehensive analysis of gaps that, in our view, would improve compliance.

Since publication of the Committee's report, the UK Government has also announced changes to the health and disability benefits system and employment support. UKIM is concerned that a significant number of these changes will be progressed without any public consultation process, including changes likely to have far reaching consequences for the rights of disabled people.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to understand how UK Government plans to implement the Committee's recommendations and discuss the implications of recent proposals on the Government's treaty obligations.

Yours sincerely,



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