



An alliance of Disabled People
& our organisations in England

Disabled People's 'Asks' for first 100 days of the new Government

1. Commit to ending austerity. Carry out a comprehensive cumulative impact assessment (CIA) on the impact of austerity measures on disabled people and commit to a planned and co-produced programme of strategic, national and local investment in support for disabled people to address the impacts of austerity and get progress towards our equality and inclusion back on track.
2. Draw up legislation to bring the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) ¹ into domestic law, based on the work done by the EHRC and UK Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)², which will become law within 12 months.
3. Work with DPOs to co-produce a UK wide strategic engagement and co-production policy and plan detailing how the UK Government will work with DPOs across all areas of government policy. Establish a cross-government disability equality unit, co-led with disabled people within the first 100 days.
4. Co-produce with DPOs a strategic plan to implement the UNCRPD and the Interpretative Declaration (removing all reservations) and address the impact of austerity identified in the CIA. The first outline of an action plan to be produced in the first 100 days.

¹ The UNCRPD was ratified by the UK Government in 2009. It sets out the rights of disabled people see: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=150>

² Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) are organisations run and controlled by Disabled people with Disabled people representing at least 75% of Board /Management committee and 50% of staff teams. DPOs also use and follow a Social model of Disability approach.

5. Announce a legal right to independent living and commit to developing a National Independent Living Support Service (NILSS)³ within 2 years. Launch a resourced NILSS implementation group, co-led with DPOs, in line with article 19, of the UNCRPD.
6. Provide immediate short-term funding to local authorities to address the social care crisis and reverse the cuts since 2010. With continuing funding to meet these aims being provided in the first budget. While NILSS and a legal right to independent living is being enacted short-term measures are required to ensure continuity of care for existing service users and those in need not currently receiving support. This will involve investing to bring funding back to 2010 levels, ending social care charging and restrictions on people who use self-directed support, such as the compulsory use of prepaid payment cards; extending and ring-fencing the 'Former ILF Recipient Grant' for another four years and urgently introducing an appeals system for social care (independent living support).
7. Commit to establishing and providing strategic funding to DPOs in each local authority area to monitor and deliver UNCRPD responsibilities and lead on NILSS development and delivery.
8. The national Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) funding crisis must be ended and the increase in segregated education for disabled children reversed. The Government should commit to implementing Article 24 UNCRPD and producing an action plan in coproduction with the Alliance for Inclusive Education.
9. Announce the ending and reverse the cuts and privatisation to the NHS since 2010 and the ending of PFI. Develop an action plan and timescale for implementation.

³ <https://www.rofa.org.uk/independent-living-for-the-future/>

10. Co-produce a plan to bring private providers of social care, including residential care and nursing homes, into the public/not for profit sector through the establishment of disabled person/user and worker-led cooperatives, social enterprises and collectives.
11. Reinstating access to legal aid at pre-Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) rates. Provide funding to DPOs to provide information, advice and advocacy to disabled people.
12. Announce the closure of all ATUs and hospitals/institutions for people with learning difficulties and autism and establish an implementation group which will coproduce a deinstitutionalisation action plan with DPOs. This should focus investment in community-based resources so that there is local support for people leaving institutions.
13. Commit to scrapping Universal Credit, benefit cuts and sanctions, the Bedroom Tax and all regressive changes to the benefits system since 2010. Co-produce a new approach to welfare state based on UNCRPD with DPOs.
14. Plan a large social housing building programme based on universal design and lifetime homes standards to provide accessible housing options for disabled people. Lifetime home standards aren't wheelchair accessible so at least 10 % of new homes will need to be wheelchair accessible.
15. Commit to working with DPOs to re-think approaches to employment issues with a focus on removing disabling barriers and ensuring workforces in public and private sector reflect the diversity of the community by age, disability, race, gender, sexuality. Carry out an independent review of Access to Work, expand its remit and scope and improve delivery.
16. The Government's focus on work as a health outcome and increasing use of conditionality, including access to health services, and sanctions, has to be reversed. Restore the principle of social security recognising that people have a right to an income replacement payment in order not to live in poverty when they are

too ill and/or experience too many barriers to engage in paid employment.

17. Commit to funding mental health support services based on parity of esteem to address the short-term crisis while longer term solutions are sorted. Draft new legislation based on UNCRPD, co-produced with DPOs and user and survivor groups.

For further information about the Reclaiming Our Futures Alliance (ROFA) please go to

<https://www.rofa.org.uk/>

ROFA

November 2019