Climate Change and Disability Workshop – Feedback Notes

DPAC UN CRDP Consultation event, for Shadow Report to the UN.
13th November 2021

1. **Have things got better or worse or stayed the same since the last examination in 2017?**
* There was a consensus of opinion that things have got worse, much worse, since 2017 and that they are set to get a whole lot worse with Climate Change and the Climate Crisis, as well as as a result of the cumulative effects of the attacks on our Right To Protest and the Government’s political choices of Funding Cuts and Cuts to services, support, information availability as well as to Benefits and Care together with their escalating privatisation of Our NHS and dismantling of our Social Security System and the safety net it is meant to provide, leaving millions of children and people, especially disabled people, in poverty and debt and dependent on charity.

Deaf and disabled people depend upon the NHS and Welfare State more than most. As extremes of heat and cold and increasing shortages of food, fuel and water, etc., together with rising anxiety over the impacts of climate change, hit deaf and disabled people’s health and well being ever harder, resulting in increased health issues as well as levels of hunger and malnutrition and mental health issues, we will need our NHS and Social Security even more and will suffer greater levels of deprivation as a result of its dismantling and privatisation, especially when combined with the climate emergency.

**2. Which if any of the Committee’s recommendations from 2017 and 2016 have been implemented by the government?**

* Recommendations have not been implemented
* There are grave concerns about this, in particular around:

**a)** The lack of a commitment to meet its obligations to proper Dissemination of information, especially when it endangers and costs lives, ‘*disseminate the present concluding observations widely, including to non-governmental organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities, and to persons with disabilities themselves and members of their families, in national and minority languages, including sign language, and in accessible formats, including Easy Read, and to make them available on the government website’.*

**b)** to ‘Establish mechanisms to secure the full participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of strategic policies aimed at implementing the Convention across the State party, through objective, measurable, financed and monitored strategic action plans.’

**c)** With the hundreds of thousands of #BenefitDeaths and and #CovidDeaths the ‘Climate Change and Disability’ workshops participants all voiced very similar and very real worries about the UK Government’s attitudes and the policies being enacted that are costing lives. '
'We're expendable.'
“The Tory government are eugenicists. They don't include us because they don't want us to be here.”

**d)** The other gravest concerns seemed to centre around **Article 11**:

* **Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies - Article 11**
* 29. The Committee recommends that the State party:
* (a) Adopt a comprehensive disaster risk reduction plan and strategies that provide for accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;
* (b) Mainstream disability in all humanitarian aid channels and involve organizations of persons with disabilities in setting priorities on aid distribution in the context of risk and humanitarian emergencies, paying attention to the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action;
* (c) Develop information and warning systems in humanitarian emergencies that are accessible for all persons with disabilities;
* (d) Ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities participate in resilience teams at the local level and have an active role in advising on and formulating policies and guidelines regarding disaster preparedness and planning.

**3. Have any new issues emerged since 2017?**

* Since 2017 the Climate Crisis issue, as well as the Coronavirus and Brexit Issues, have all impacted hugely on deaf and disabled people and their lives. The Coronavirus Act 2020 and Covid itself, with, according to the ONS, 6:10 Covid Deaths being that of Disabled People, have shown that the Government’s response to deaf and disabled people is to reduce rights, inclusion and support, rather than to meet the committees recommendations to: ‘*support organizations representing persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, and develop mechanisms to ensure the inclusive, strategic and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, including women, children and intersex persons, in the planning and implementation of all legislation and measures that affect the lives of persons with disabilities*’.
* Local and national government responses to the climate crisis, such as LTNs and pedestrianisation, without the necessary discussion and inclusion, let alone any consideration of the impacts on deaf and disabled people, without seeking or including or enabling the expertise and input and views of the user led deaf and disabled organisations that are led by and representing us, have resulted in further marginalising and excluding deaf and disabled people and in reducing disabled accessibility and inclusion within the community.
* Increased flooding affecting lives and disabled access and increasing disabled accessible housing shortages
* Increased intrusive surveillance while reducing accountability, democracy and the right to protest
* Lack of BSL and other inclusive formats of dissemination of vital information
* Cuts to Disability Benefits and the denial of £20 a week to Disabled People and others on Legacy Benefits further impoverishing Disabled People and making it harder to stand up, speak out and fight for our rights and lives.
* Alarm over the fact that Deaf and Disabled People are increasingly becoming an afterthought, if thought of at all.
* Lack of support for deaf and disabled people to be kept informed and thus be empowered to be involved in and participate in the protests about the Humanitarian Emergency, the Environmental Emergency and the Ecological Emergency, despite their impacts, as with all other crises and emergencies, hitting us all including hitting disabled people first and hardest.

The Government and police have even actively attacked disabled people and their disability equipment to try to disenfranchise, prevent and dissuade their participation in climate actions and protests.
* Government haven't identified risk. Mixed messaging regarding safety and isolation etc. They didn't know or care or inform during Covid all those who were vulnerable and left people more vulnerable exposed to unacceptable levels of poverty, hardship and danger, resulting an an inordinate number of disabled people dying of Covid-19.
* Fears the same will happen over the impacts of the Climate Crisis and Climate Change, i.e. that even more disabled will pay with their lives.

If there was a flood risk or any other climate related emergency, how would this be communicated to deaf people or disabled people? How would they be supported?
* How would deaf people communicate using a helpline number?
* Most government websites are not screen-reader compliant; the government expects people to use these sites for up-to-date information

**4. Which are the top three issues in this area are most important to bring to the Committee’s attention?**

* **1.** UK Government’s disabling attitude, policies, CUTS to benefits and the resulting increases in poverty and debt and risk to lives as well as CUTS to care support and services and the lack of inclusion or even consideration and awareness of deaf and disabled people in any current or future response to climate change and the climate emergency. Deaf and disabled people are seen as expendable, collateral damage and an afterthought, if at all.
* **2.** Deaf and disabled people’s lives are being put at greater and additional risk through lack of BSL and other alternative means of communication around flooding, temperature changes, safety provisions and responses and other climate related responses locally and nationally. Changes being implemented in response to the Climate Crisis without any consideration and consultation whatsoever with DDPOS that are resulting in the worsening and eroding of already poor Disability Access, Rights and Inclusion such as the LTNs being brought in which impact negatively on disabled access in our communities and the move to the removal of petrol and diesel cars without consideration of the needs of impoverished and disabled people who cannot afford new cars but depend on private transport due to disabilities and or the lack of affordable accessible public transport provision and infrastructure.
* **3.** The alarming changes in democracy and legislation. E.g. the CHIS Bill and Policing Bill. The bills being brought in by the UK Government are attacking, diminishing or even removing our rights, liberties and freedoms. The Right To Protest is of particular concern as it threatens us with arrest, criminalisation and imprisonment and thus attacks, undermines and removes our rights and ability to protest as a means of bringing attention to the injustices, exclusion, hate crimes, dangers and death that Deaf and Disabled People are already being exposed to. All of which is set to get much, much worse as the Climate Crisis intensifies and floods, food, medicine and housing shortages as well as societal collapse becomes an increasingly harder hitting and more terrifying reality.

**Links to web pages and online articles discussing the subject of Climate and Disability and the lack of inclusion, research and support:**

Climate Change and COP 26 in Glasgow
Inclusion Scotland publishes climate change report ahead of COP 26
<https://inclusionscotland.org/get-informed/our-policy-focus/climate-change>

UN Climate Resolution Emphasizes Protection of Disability Rights
People with Disabilities Should Be Included in Climate Action
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/07/15/un-climate-resolution-emphasizes-protection-disability-rights>

How climate change disproportionately impacts those with disabilities “There's very little research on the topic,”
<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/how-climate-change-disproportionately-impacts-those-disabilities>

The climate revolution must be accessible – this fight belongs to disabled people too
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/oct/15/climate-revolution-disabled-people-activism>

What’s climate change got to do with disability?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0b0ylhs>

Disability inclusion in UK climate action
<https://www.bond.org.uk/resources/disability-inclusion-in-uk-climate-action>

**Overview of recommendations:**

1. Make sure disabled people have equal access to justice, legal advice, and support, especially when their rights have been violated. This access must include reasonable adjustments.

2. Discourage the media and the public from creating and reproducing negative and discriminatory stereotypes and prejudice against disabled people. Combat the incorrect stereotype that people relying on state benefits are just trying to avoid getting a job. Instead, create positive awareness-raising mass-media campaigns in collaboration with disabled people which strengthen the human rights of disabled people.

3. Reports of hate crimes and harassment towards disabled people must be taken very seriously, and those responsible should be held accountable for their actions.

4. Disabled people who are also living on a low income or in poverty, as well as those with intellectual, mental health and multiple conditions must be explicitly considered when designing new legislation, policies, and programmes. There must be the case for all disabled people at a higher risk of exclusion, including women, children, and older disabled people.

5. Fund disabled people’s organisations and ensure their active involvement in the planning and putting in place of all laws and programmes which affect the lives of disabled people.

6. Ensure women’s rights to reproductive and sexual autonomy are respected without legalising selective abortion because of fetal differences such as Downs Syndrome.

7. Explicitly protect people from multiple and intersectional discrimination based on gender, age, race, disability, migrant, refugee, or other status.

8. Anti-discrimination laws must be brought up to date with the Equality Act 2010, including disabled people’s right to accessible accommodation and housing.

9. Protect disabled people in Northern Ireland from direct or indirect disability-based discrimination through implementing the recommendations made by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in 2012.

10.                  The rights of disabled women and girls should be explicitly included in all disability and gender equality policies. And multiple and intersection discrimination against disabled women and girls should be prevented, especially for those with intellectual and mental health conditions and neurodivergence in access to education, employment, health, and justice.

11.                  In consultation with Black and minority ethnic disabled people’s groups, abolish all forms of substituted decision-making and create new policies about mental capacity and mental health law

12.                  Ensure that disabled asylum seekers and refugees can exercise their rights as described in the Convention of the Rights of Disabled People.

**Concluding Observations 2017 Recommendations**

**General Principles and Obligations**

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Incorporate the Convention into its legislation, recognizing access to domestic remedies for breaches of the Convention, and adopt an appropriate and comprehensive response to the obligations enshrined in the Convention in its policies and programmes across the State party, including all devolved governments;

(b) Strengthen its efforts to extend the Convention and support its implementation in the Overseas Territories;

€ Adopt legally binding instruments to implement the concept of disability, in line with article 1 of the Convention, and ensure that new and existing legislation incorporates the human rights model of disability across all policy areas and all levels and regions of all devolved governments and jurisdictions and/or territories under its control;

(d) Undertake a comprehensive cross-cutting review of its legislation and policies to bring them into line with article 1 of the Convention, and ensure that the legal framework protects persons with disabilities against discrimination on the grounds of disability. The State party should involve organizations of persons with disabilities and national human rights institutions in this process;

€ Expedite the process to develop a measurable strategic framework and plan of action, with sufficient financial resources, aimed at abolishing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities and ensuring the equal protection of persons with disabilities;

(f) Prevent any negative consequences for persons with disabilities resulting from the decision to trigger article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

**Northern Ireland and other territories**

9. The Committee recommends that the State party collect information and adopt a strategic and measurable plan of action for improving the living conditions of all persons with disabilities, including in close cooperation with the authorities in Northern Ireland and the territories under its jurisdiction and/or control.

**Intersectionality**

11. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Allocate financial resources to support organizations representing persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, and develop mechanisms to ensure the inclusive, strategic and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, including women, children and intersex persons, in the planning and implementation of all legislation and measures that affect the lives of persons with disabilities;

(b) Establish mechanisms to secure the full participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of strategic policies aimed at implementing the Convention across the State party, through objective, measurable, financed and monitored strategic action plans.

**Equality and non-discrimination – Article 5**

13. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its abortion law accordingly. Women ’ s rights to reproductive and sexual autonomy should be respected without legalizing selective abortion on the ground of fetal deficiency.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with Goal 10 and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, explicitly incorporate in its national legislation protection from multiple and intersectional discrimination on the basis of gender, age, race, disability, migrant, refugee and/or other status, and provide appropriate compensation and redress for victims, and sanctions proportional with the severity of the violation.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Bring its anti-discrimination legislation into accordance with the Convention and speed up the process to bring into force all legislative provisions in the Equality Act 2010, including those concerning reasonable accommodation in the housing sector;

(b) Take the necessary measures through the appropriate authorities, once the Northern Ireland government is in place, to ensure that the Northern Ireland Executive reform on disability rights law reflects the recommendations made by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in its 2012 Strengthening Protection for Disabled People report to protect persons with disabilities in Northern Ireland from direct and indirect disability-based discrimination and discrimination through association.

**Women – Article 6**

19. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of women and girls with disabilities, mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into disability and gender equality policies. It also recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee ’ s general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, adopt inclusive and targeted measures, including the collection of disaggregated data, to prevent multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, in education, employment, health and access to justice and in terms of poverty and violence.

**Children - Article 7**

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations representing children with disabilities, develop and implement policies aimed at:

(a) Eliminating the higher level of poverty among families with children with disabilities;

(b) Incorporating the human rights model of disability into all laws and regulations concerning children with disabilities;

(c) Setting up an independent monitoring mechanism to assess the situation of children with disabilities in school, particularly those facing bullying, through reliable indicators;

(d) Securing sufficient and disability-sensitive childcare as a statutory duty across the State party;

(e) Strengthening measures to prevent bullying, hate speech and hate crime against children with disabilities.

**Awareness-raising - Article 8**

23. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, strengthen its awareness-raising campaigns aimed at eliminating negative stereotypes and prejudice towards persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with neurological and cognitive conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer ’ s. To that end, the State party should include mass media strategies and campaigns, with different target audience groups, based on the human rights model of disability.

**Accessibility - Article 9**

25. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Identify outstanding gaps across the State party in terms of obligatory accessibility standards in all areas of the Convention, among others, the design of affordable and accessible physical environments, housing, ICT, information formats and transport infrastructure, including emergency services and green and public spaces in both urban and rural areas, and ensure that the standards are met;

(b) Pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and the Committee ’ s general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and targets 9, 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Monitor the development towards full inclusion through accessibility and sanction violations of accessibility regulations.

**Right to life - Article 10**

27. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a plan of action aimed at eliminating perceptions towards persons with disabilities as not having “ a good and decent life ” and recognizing persons with disabilities as equal to others and part of the diversity of humankind. It also recommends that the State party ensure access to life-sustaining treatment and/or care.

**Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies - Article 11**

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive disaster risk reduction plan and strategies that provide for accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;

(b) Mainstream disability in all humanitarian aid channels and involve organizations of persons with disabilities in setting priorities on aid distribution in the context of risk and humanitarian emergencies, paying attention to the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action;

(c) Develop information and warning systems in humanitarian emergencies that are accessible for all persons with disabilities;

(d) Ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities participate in resilience teams at the local level and have an active role in advising on and formulating policies and guidelines regarding disaster preparedness and planning.

**Equal recognition before the law - Article 12**

31. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including those representing persons from black and minority ethnic groups and in line with the Committee ’ s general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, abolish all forms of substituted decision-making concerning all spheres and areas of life by reviewing and adopting new legislation in accordance with the Convention to initiate new policies in both mental capacity and mental health laws. It urges the State party to step up efforts to foster research, data and good practices in the area of, and speed up the development of, supported decision-making regimes. It recommends that the State party ensure that asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities can exercise all rights enshrined in the Convention.

**Access to justice - Article 13**33. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Develop and implement capacity-building programmes among the judiciary and law enforcement personnel, including judges, prosecutors, police officers and prison staff, about the rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) Design and implement a decision-making regime with guidelines and appropriate resources, focusing on respecting the will and preferences of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, in court proceedings;

(c)Provide free or affordable legal aid for persons with disabilities in all areas of law and remove fees to access courts and employment tribunals, bearing in mind the Supreme Court ruling of 26 July 2017 regarding the Employment Tribunal ’ s fees (*R (on the application of UNISON) (Appellant) v. Lord Chancellor (Respondent)*) ;

(d) Ensure that all persons with disabilities enjoy the right and are provided with adequate procedural accommodation within the justice system, and enable in particular deaf persons through the use of sign language interpreters, to fully and equally participate as jurors in court proceedings;

(e) Take measures to empower persons with disabilities to work in the justice system as judges, prosecutors or in other positions, with the provision of all necessary support.

**Liberty and security of the person - Article 14**

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal legislation and practices that authorize non-consensual involuntary, compulsory treatment and detention of persons with disabilities on the basis of actual or perceived impairment;

(b) Take appropriate measures to investigate and eliminate all forms of abuse of persons with disabilities in institutional facilities.

**Freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment - Article 15**

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt appropriate measures to eradicate the use of restraint for reasons related to disability within all settings and prevent the use of Taser guns against persons with disabilities, as well as practices of segregation and isolation that may amount to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment;

(b) Set up strategies, in collaboration with monitoring authorities and national human rights institutions, in order to identify and prevent the use of restraint for children and young persons with disabilities;

(c) Implement the outstanding recommendations contained in the February 2015 report of the inquiry by the Equality and Human Rights Commission entitled “ Preventing Deaths in Detention of Adults with Mental Health Conditions ” ;

(d) Prohibit any use of non-consensual electroconvulsive therapy on the basis of any form of impairment, in all regions, ensure that safeguards are based on the human rights model and are not limited to medical criteria, and work through appropriate authorities to ensure monitoring of this development, particularly in Northern Ireland.

**Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse - Article 16**

39. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, and in line with target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Establish measures to ensure equal access to justice and to safeguard persons with disabilities, particularly women, children, intersex persons and elderly persons with disabilities from abuse, ill-treatment, sexual violence and exploitation;

(b) Define comprehensively the offence of disability hate crime, and ensure appropriate prosecutions and convictions;

(c) Ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention.

**Protecting the integrity of the person - Article 17**

41. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all types of legislation, regulations and practices allowing any form of forced intervention or surgery, and ensure that the right to free, prior and informed consent to

treatment is upheld and that supported decision-making mechanisms and strengthened safeguards are provided, paying particular attention to women, intersex persons, girls and boys.

**Liberty of movement and nationality - Article 18**

43. The Committee recommends that the State party withdraw its reservation to article 18 of the Convention.

**Living independently and being included in the community - Article 19**

45. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee ’ s general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and the Committee ’ s report on its inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland carried out under article 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention:

(a) Recognize the right to living independently and being included in the community as a subjective right, recognize the enforceability of all its elements, and adopt rights-based policies, regulations and guidelines to ensure implementation;

(b) Conduct periodic assessments in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities to address and prevent the negative effects of policy reforms through sufficiently funded and appropriate strategies in the area of social support and living independently;

(c) Provide adequate, sufficient earmarked funding to local authorities and administrations, including the devolved governments, to be able to continuously allocate adequate resources allowing persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community and to exercise their right to choose their place of residence and where and with whom to live;

(d) Set up a comprehensive plan, developed in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, aimed at the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, and develop community-based independent living schemes through a holistic and cross-cutting approach, including education, childcare, transport, housing, employment and social security;

(e) Allocate sufficient resources to ensure that support services are available, accessible, affordable, acceptable, adaptable and are sensitive to different living conditions for all persons with disabilities in urban and rural areas.

**Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information - Article 21**

47. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations representing persons with disabilities:

(a) Identify outstanding gaps in the implementation of obligatory accessibility standards on information channels based on ICT;

(b) Ensure that legislation provides for the right to high-quality sign language interpretation and other forms of alternative communication in all spheres of life for deaf persons and hard of hearing persons, in accordance with the Convention;

(c) Allocate resources for the education of children with hearing impairments, their families and others, such as classmates and co-workers, in British Sign Language and tactile language.

**Respect for privacy and the family - Article 23**

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure appropriate support for parents with disabilities to effectively fulfil their role as parents and ensure that disability is not used as a reason to place their children in care or remove them from the family home;

(b) Ensure that local authorities have the legal duty to allocate and provide funds for parents wishing to learn sign language.

**Education - Article 24**

51. The Committee recommends that the State party withdraw its reservation to article 24 (2) (a) and (b) of the Convention without further delay.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, especially organizations representing children and young persons with disabilities, and in line with the Committee ’ s general comment No. 4 (2014) on the right to inclusive education and targets 4.5 and 4.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Develop a comprehensive and coordinated legislative and policy framework for inclusive education and a timeframe to ensure that mainstream schools foster real inclusion of children with disabilities in the school environment and that teachers and all other professionals and persons in contact with children understand the concept of inclusion and are able to enhance inclusive education;

(b) Strengthen measures to monitor school practices concerning enrolment of children with disabilities and offer appropriate remedies in cases of disability-related discrimination and/or harassment, including deciding upon schemes for compensation;

(c) Adopt and implement a coherent and adequately financed strategy, with concrete timelines and measurable goals, on increasing and improving inclusive education. The strategy must:

(i) Ensure the implementation of laws, decrees and regulations on improving the extent and quality of inclusive education in classrooms, support provisions and teacher training, including pedagogical capabilities, across all levels providing for high-quality inclusive environments, including within breaks between lessons and through socialization outside “ education time ” ;

(ii) Set up awareness-raising and support initiatives about inclusive education among parents of children with disabilities;

(iii) Provide sufficient, relevant data on the number of students both in inclusive and segregated education, disaggregated by impairment, age, sex and ethnic background, and on the outcome of the education, reflecting the capabilities of the students.

**Health - Article 25**

55. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Develop a targeted, measurable and financed plan of action aiming at eliminating barriers in access to health care and services, and monitor and measure its progress, especially in relation to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and those with neurological and cognitive conditions;

(b) Set up protocols for medical services that respect the right of persons with disabilities to privacy in information about health;

(c) Ensure equal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as set out in target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and provide information and education on family planning for persons with disabilities in accessible formats, including Easy Read;

(d) Ensure that medical professionals are under the obligation to enforce standards set in guidance and criteria on “ do not resuscitate ” orders for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others;

(e) Address the high suicide rate among persons with disabilities, especially persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

**Work and employment - Article 27**

57. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, and in line with the Committee ’ s report on its inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland carried out under article 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention:

(a) Develop and decide upon an effective employment policy for persons with disabilities aimed at ensuring decent work for all persons with disabilities, bearing in mind the State party ’ s target of 1 million jobs for persons with disabilities, and ensure equal pay for work of equal value, focusing especially on women with disabilities, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with visual impairments, and monitor those developments;

(b) Ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to all persons with disabilities who require it in the workplace, that regular training on reasonable accommodation is available to employers and employees without disabilities, and that dissuasive and effective sanctions are in place in cases of denial of reasonable accommodation;

(c) Ensure that the legal and administrative requirements of the process to assess working capabilities, including the Work Capability Assessment, are in line with the human rights model of disability, that those who conduct the assessments are qualified and duly trained in that model, and that the assessments take into consideration work-related as well as other personal circumstances. The State party must ensure that the adjustments and support necessary to access work, as well as financial support, are provided and that they are not subject to sanctions or conditional upon carrying out job seeking activities;

(d) Withdraw its reservation to article 27 of the Convention;

(e) Bear in mind the links between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Adequate standard of living and social protection – Article 28**

59. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities across all territorial entities, in line with the Committee ’ s report on its inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland carried out under article 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention, guided by article 28 of the Convention and implementing target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Introduce, adopt and implement legislative frameworks to ensure that social protection policies and programmes across the State party secure income levels for all persons with disabilities and their families, by taking into account the additional costs relating to disability, and ensuring that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their parental responsibilities. The State party must ensure that members of the new Employment and Support Allowance work-related activity group have access to full compensation of disability-related costs;

(b) Carry out a cumulative impact assessment, based on disaggregated data, of the recent and forthcoming reforms of the social protection system for persons with disabilities, and in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities define, implement and monitor measures to tackle retrogression in their standard of living and use the cumulative impact assessment as a basis for policy development across the State party;

(c) Repeal the Personal Independence Payment (Amendment) Regulations of 2017 and ensure that eligibility criteria and assessments to access Personal Independence Payments, Employment Support Allowance and Universal Credit are in line with the human rights model of disability;

(d) Ensure that the budget allocation is sufficient for local authorities to meet their responsibilities regarding assistance for persons with disabilities, and extend support packages to mitigate the negative impacts of social security reform in Northern Ireland;

(e) Conduct a review of the conditionality and sanction regimes concerning the Employment and Support Allowance, and tackle the negative consequences on the mental health and situation of persons with disabilities.

**Participation in political and public life - Article 29**

61. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, take appropriate measures to secure accessibility for persons with disabilities, regardless of the type of impairment, repeal provisions restricting the right of persons with disabilities to vote, and ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation to guarantee the possibility of and right to universal and secret suffrage.

**Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport - Article 30**

63. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all necessary steps to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled as soon as possible;

(b) Adopt a concrete plan of action, with resources and measurable objectives, to implement legislation, regulation and standardization to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to inclusive participation in all sports facilities and heritage sites, including UNESCO heritage sites.

**Specific obligations**

**Statistics and data collection - Article 31**

65. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 17, significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by, among others, income, sex, age, gender, race, ethnic origin, migratory, asylum-seeking and refugee status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, including in all general population surveys and censuses. It also recommends that the State party use the sets of questions and tools developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics for the collection of comparable disability statistics.

**International cooperation - Article 32**

67. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities in the countries where it works:

(a) Expedite the process to update the Disability Framework of the Department for International Development, including by adopting measurable targets and specific commitments to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in the countries where it works;

(b) Put in place the necessary measures to ensure that all relevant departments of the State party that allocate overseas development assistance funds systemically monitor and include persons with disabilities in their international development and cooperation;

(c) Carry out a consultation process involving organizations of persons with disabilities on all policies and programmes aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, nationally and internationally.

**National implementation and monitoring - Article 33**

69. The Committee recommends that the State party set up an appropriate coordinating structure of focal points with sufficient funding to strengthen the implementation of the Convention under all devolved governments and territories under its jurisdiction and/or control.

71. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure in all its entities the independence of, and provide sufficient funding for, both established monitoring frameworks and organizations of persons with disabilities to enable them to monitor the implementation of the Convention across the State party, taking into account the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (see CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex).

**Dissemination of information**

73. The Committee requests the State party to provide information, within 12 months of the adoption of the present concluding observations and in accordance with article 35 (2) of the Convention, on the measures taken to implement the Committee ’ s recommendations contained in paragraphs 45 (living independently and being included in the community), 57 (work and employment) and 59 (adequate standard of living and social protection).

74. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close cooperation and collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, initiate a process to implement and follow-up the recommendations issued by the Committee in its report on its inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland carried out under article 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention, and provide the Committee with information on the progress and achievements made in that regard every 12 months until the consideration of the next periodic report takes place.

75. The Committee requests the State party to implement the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. It recommends that the State party transmit the concluding observations for consideration and action to members of the Government and Parliament, officials in relevant ministries, devolved administrations, Crown Dependencies, Overseas Territories, local authorities, organizations of persons with disabilities and members of relevant professional groups, such as education, medical and legal professionals, as well as to the media, using modern social communication strategies.

76. The Committee strongly encourages the State party to involve and financially support civil society organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, in the preparation of its periodic report.

77. The Committee requests the State party to disseminate the present concluding observations widely, including to non-governmental organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities, and to persons with disabilities themselves and members of their families, in national and minority languages, including sign language, and in accessible formats, including Easy Read, and to make them available on the government website on human rights.

**Next periodic report**

78. The Committee requests the State party to submit its combined second, third and fourth reports by 8 July 2023 and to include in them information on the implementation of the recommendations made in the present concluding observations. The Committee also requests the State party to consider submitting the above-mentioned reports under the Committee’s simplified reporting procedure, according to which the Committee prepares a list of issues at least one year prior to the due date set for the report of a State party. The replies of a State party to such a list of issues constitute its report.