

# UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

How our government is doing



easy  
read

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In this Easy Read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

# Introduction



This report was put together by Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations.



It is about how well the UK Government is doing with the **United Nations** Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (**CRDP**).



The **United Nations** (UN) is an organisation made up of many countries working together. It works to make the world a safer and better place.



The **CRDP** aims to make sure Deaf and Disabled people have the same **rights** as everyone else.



**Rights** are things that every person should have, by law. Like the right to be safe, the right to education, the right to be respected.

# Background



You can see an Easy Read copy of the CRDP here: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/345108/easy-read-un-convention.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/345108/easy-read-un-convention.pdf)



There is a website with lots of information about the CRDP here: <https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/uncrdp/>



Every 5 years the UN looks at how well the government make sure Disabled people have equal rights.



The last time that happened was in 2017.

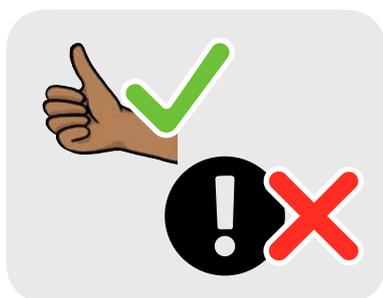


This report will help the United Nations to see how well the UK is doing.

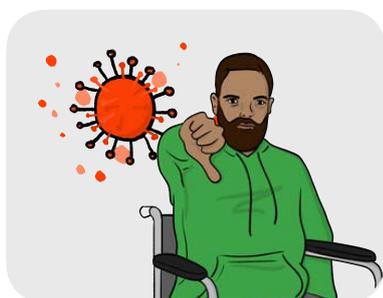
# Our most important findings



We found things have got worse for Disabled people since 2017.



The UK Government has done some good things to help, but they haven't sorted out the most important problems.



What the Government did about the Covid-19 pandemic treated Disabled people unfairly.

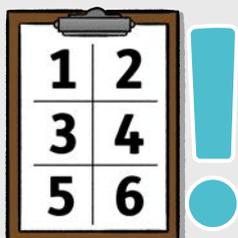


Disabled people have had their human rights reduced since 2017.



The UK Government isn't doing enough to follow the Convention on the Rights of Disabled People.

# Different areas that need to be looked at



We found 6 important areas when talking to Disabled people and organisations.

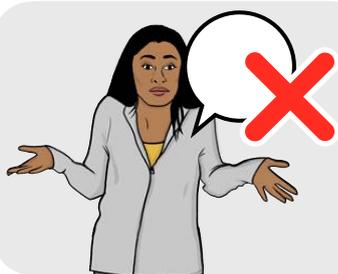
These areas are:



1. How Disabled people from different communities are affected.



2. The UK going backwards on Disability rights.



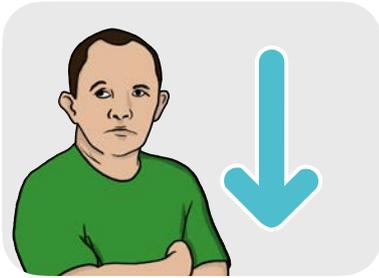
3. Taking away Deaf and Disabled people's voices.



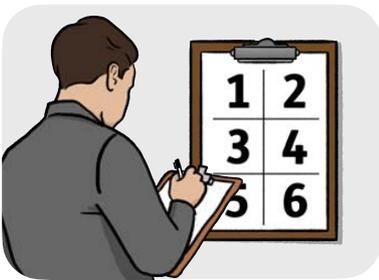
4. Disabled people being locked away in hospitals or care homes.



5. Bad planning for disasters and emergencies.



6. Disabled people's lives being less worthy.



We will look at each area and how the UK Government is doing with each one.

## How Disabled people from different backgrounds are affected



Some Disabled people face more difficulties with inequality in life.

Especially Disabled people who are also:



- Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic.



- Women.



- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans or Queer.



Rules that help some of these groups of people don't consider the needs of Disabled people.



Deaf and Disabled people have difficulty speaking up about issues that aren't about Disability.

## The UK going backwards on Disability rights

Things have got worse for Deaf and Disabled people in areas of their lives, like:



- Living in the community with the same choices and control as other people.



- Being able to work.



- Getting healthcare.



Deaf and Disabled people get less support to live in the community.

This has had a bad effect on their lives and rights.

## Disabled women



Disabled women are more likely to experience violence and abuse.



The police and other services need to do more to support disabled women.

## Disabled children

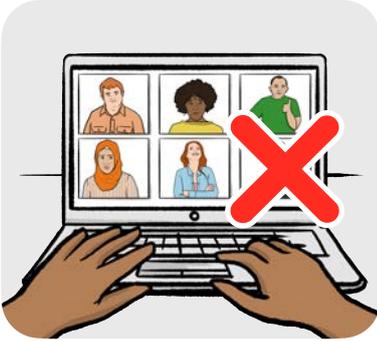


There isn't enough support for Disabled children and young people.

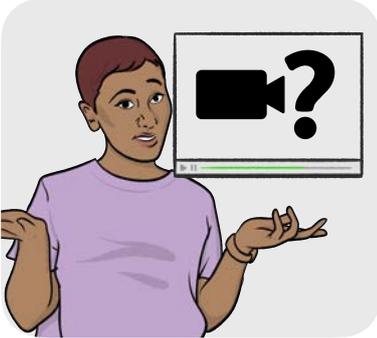


Services that support them have been slow to start again after Covid-19.

## Accessibility



More and more things are moving online and many Disabled people are left out because they don't have access.



There isn't enough support for British Sign Language (BSL) users.



A law is being made about BSL but people are worried it won't do enough to help.



Deaf and Disabled people still have problems using public transport, like buses, trains and trams.

## Independent living and being a part of the community



There are different ways that Disabled People have difficulties with living independently, these include:

### ● Social Care



Disabled people don't always get the support they need to live independently.



There have been cuts to support and people have to wait longer to get support.



During Covid-19, many people were left without support.



- **Housing**

Disabled people are living in bad conditions because landlords are not fixing repairs.

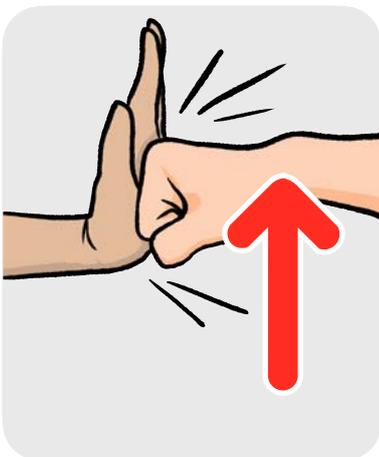


There are no rules to make sure Disabled people get the housing that they need.



- **Mental Health services**

It is difficult for Disabled people to get help from Mental Health services.

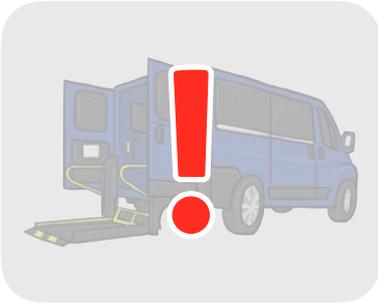


- **The right to be safe and not abused**

**Hate crime** against Disabled people has gone up and the police and courts don't do enough to stop it.

**Hate crime** is being harassed or attacked because people think you are different.

## ● Getting about



Many Disabled people have had the cars that help them get around taken away, to cut costs.



Disabled people find it difficult to get around because some parts of cities have banned cars.

## ● Respect for the home and the family



Disabled parents don't get enough support to look after their family.



Disabled parents who struggle to look after their children have them taken away by social services too often.



Disabled parents don't get enough support to try and keep their children.



## ● Education

There is not enough support for Deaf and Disabled children in regular schools.



Disabled children get banned from school more than non-disabled children.

## ● Health

Disabled people find it difficult to get the services they need from the NHS because of things like:



- Long waiting times.



- Complicated systems.



- Staff who don't have the right training.

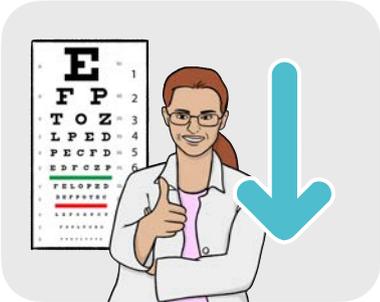


It is difficult for Disabled people to get proof from doctors to show they need benefits.



- **Services to help you recover**

There aren't enough trained staff to help Disabled people.



Not enough is known about the need for services to help people who are visually impaired.

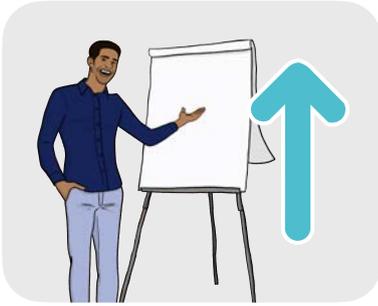


- **Work**

Disabled people are finding it more difficult to get and find a job.



Disabled people get paid less than non-disabled people.



Work coaches in job centres need more training to support Deaf and Disabled people.



Disabled people looking for work might have their benefits cut.



Disabled people applying for benefits aren't given the full details about what rights they have.

### ● Standards of living



Nearly half of people living in **poverty** have someone who is Disabled in their family.

**Poverty** means not having enough money to buy the basic things you need to live.



The Government's changes to benefits have had a bad effect on Disabled people.



Getting benefits is still very difficult and complicated.



The Government made it easier for people to get benefits if doctors think they will die within the next 12 months.



The Government is planning to change benefits for Disabled people and they might cut some of them.

# Taking away Deaf and Disabled people's voices



It is becoming much harder for Deaf and Disabled people to have their voice heard.

Below are some of the different reasons why:

- **Getting justice**



The Government took away free legal support for people who might need help with benefits or jobs.



Complaining about care and support or getting things changed with care providers or local authorities is difficult and doesn't work properly.

## ● Saying what you want



The police have given information about Disabled **protesters** to the benefits office.

**Protesters** are people who show they are for or against something in public.



Some Disabled protesters have been called up to have their benefits checked.

This is a way of punishing Disabled people for speaking up about what they think.

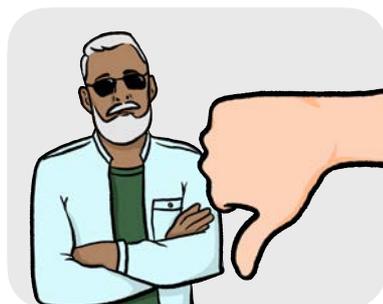


New laws about protesting will stop Deaf and Disabled people having their voice heard.

## ● Voting and politics



Deaf and Disabled people can find it difficult to vote.



The high court found that changes in voting for blind people aren't enough to help.

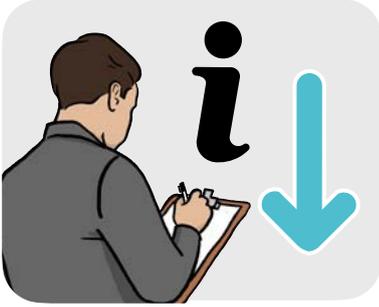


Not enough Deaf and Disabled people are involved in politics.



The Government has made some changes to help but they won't stop these problems.

## Information



Less information about people on benefits is being collected by the Government.



This makes it harder to know what is happening to Deaf and Disabled people.

## Making this agreement happen



The Government didn't involve enough Deaf and Disabled people when they wrote the National Disability Plan.



Deaf and Disabled people's organisations weren't asked about social care changes or Covid-19 rules.



We are worried that what the Government does about the CRDP can't be checked fully.

## Disabled people being locked away in hospitals or care homes.



Recent changes to the laws on **Mental Capacity** weren't good enough for the Convention on the Rights of Disabled People.



If you have **Mental Capacity** it means by law you are able to make choices for yourself.



People are being locked away in hospitals and important decisions are made about them without them.



Changes to the law the government is making will not go far enough.

## Being treated equally by the law and being free and safe



People with learning difficulties aren't helped to make their own choices and decisions.



People held under the Mental Health laws can now stop treatment if they want to.



But the person's decision can be ignored by a doctor.



Changes in the law have made people who can't make their own choices less safe.



Over 2000 people with learning difficulties are held in hospitals and treatment centres.



These people are at more risk of abuse.



The law doesn't do enough to protect Deaf and Disabled people.

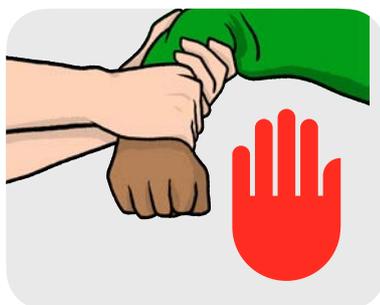
## **Not being tortured or treated badly**



Secret filming showed that some people with learning difficulties were seriously abused.



A group in Parliament heard that young people in treatment centres were treated badly.



There is a law that is supposed to limit how much force is used on patients.



People living in the community don't have enough support and might be abused by criminals.

## Planning for disasters and emergencies

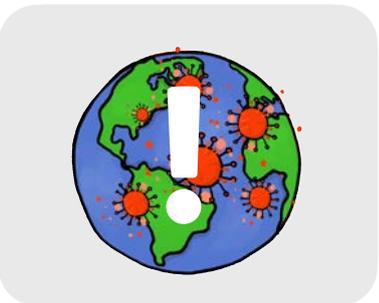
### Public emergencies



Deaf and Disabled people are at a higher risk of needing help in a public emergency.



What Deaf and Disabled people need in public emergencies is often ignored.



We have seen this in the Government's reaction to Covid-19 and other public emergencies.

## Disabled people's lives being less worthy



Covid-19 made Deaf and Disabled people feel that their lives are worth less than other people's.

### Being Equal



Deaf and Disabled people don't have the same equal chance to get healthcare as other people.



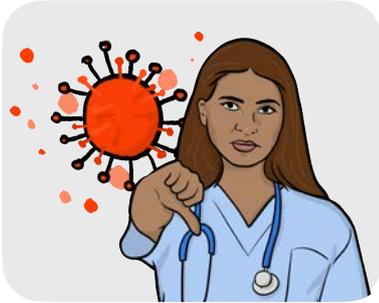
It is even less equal for:

- Disabled women.
- Deaf British Sign Language users.
- People who are Gypsy, Roma or Travellers.





- People who can't leave their house.



Covid-19 made it more difficult to get healthcare.

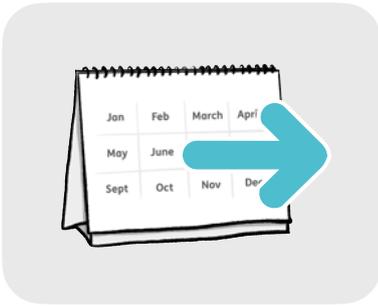


Over half of Covid-19 deaths were people who were Deaf or Disabled.



Deaf and Disabled people's chance of surviving Covid-19 was down to the Government's decisions.

This included:



- Starting the lockdown late.



- Not making NHS treatment available to Deaf and Disabled people in a fair way.



- Moving untested patients from hospitals into care homes which increased the risk of catching Covid-19.



Disabled people who were **shielding** found it hard to get food and other basic things they needed to live.



**Shielding** is when people stay inside their house to protect themselves from Covid-19.



Disabled workers who needed to shield had to go into work or lose their job.



Disabled people had to campaign to get vaccines before the general public.



It was hard to get information about the Covid-19 rules in a way that was easy to understand.



The UK Government didn't have sign language for the public announcements.

# Other information about the UK



The law lets women get an **abortion** if the baby will be born with serious health issues.

An **abortion** is ending a pregnancy before the baby is born.



Disabled people want abortion laws that are fairer to Disabled people.



This includes protecting a woman's right to choose to have an abortion.



Laws about Hate Crime against disability are not equal to other Hate Crimes.



Some Deaf and Disabled people say they feel like criminals because the benefit office checks if they should have benefits.

# For more information



You can look at our website here:  
<https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk>

If you need more information please contact us by:

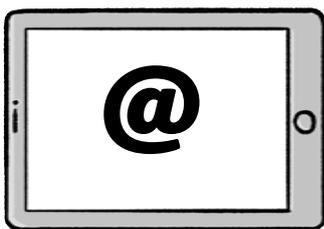
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