

Disabled people's right to independent living



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Introduction



The **Equality and Human Rights Commission** works to make sure everyone is treated fairly and gets their rights.



Equality means treating everyone in the same fair way.



Human rights are the things that every person should have or be able to do, by law.



We have written this information about what we think needs to happen so that disabled people have the right to live independently in the community.

The right to independent living



Everyone has the right to live independently as part of a community.



This right is set out in the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



The **United Nations** is an organisation made up of many countries working together. They work to make the world a safer and better place.



The **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is a set of rights that have been agreed by all the countries in the United Nations.

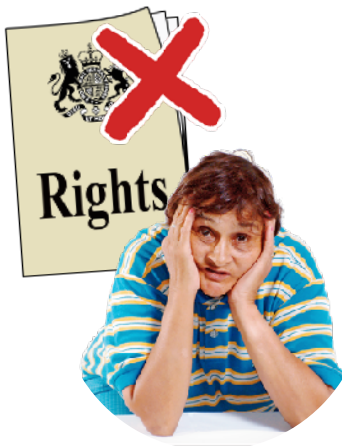


UK law

The UK Government has agreed with these rights.



But has not included them in UK law.



This means that disabled people in the UK may not be getting the rights that they deserve.

What is stopping people having their right to independent living?



Many disabled people are not getting the same choice, control and opportunities as other people.



Thousands of disabled people are kept in long stay hospitals.

Living in a long stay hospital means you don't get a choice or control over:

- what you do day to day
- things you can do in your spare time
- seeing family and friends
- taking part in a local community.



Disabled people who do live in the community often don't get the same chance to:



- go to school or college



- get a job



- get paid the same as other people



- use public transport



- use healthcare services.



There is not enough accessible housing available for disabled people.

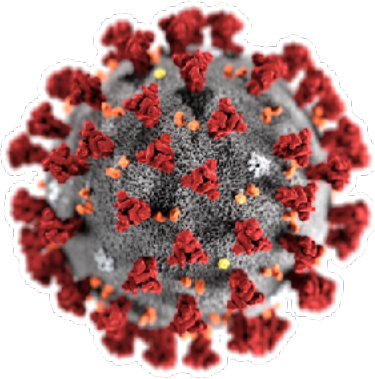


People often have to wait to get the care and support they need.

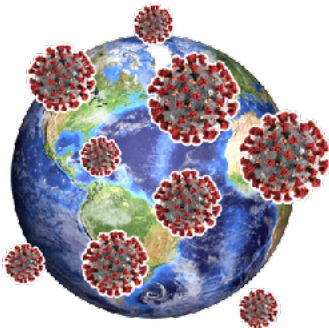


COVID-19

The **COVID-19 pandemic** has made things worse for many disabled people.



COVID-19 is also called Coronavirus. It is a new illness that can affect your lungs and breathing.



Pandemic means it is spreading around the world.

What should happen



Disabled people can take part in the same way as everyone else if they have:

- the right support



- the same rights.

The right to independent living



The UK Government should bring in a new law that includes the right to independent living.

The new law should make sure:

- **public bodies** follow the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Public bodies are organisations that do work for the government but are not part of it, like local councils and the NHS.





- public bodies provide places for people to live in the local community



- public bodies let disabled people make decisions about their care and support



- no more long stay hospitals are set up



- local councils find out how much accessible housing is needed in their local areas



- local councils have a plan to create enough accessible housing in their local areas



- disabled people have information and support so that they can get their rights.

Other things that should happen



The UK Government should:

- reduce the number of people who are being kept in long stay hospitals



- provide enough support in the community for people to live with as much freedom as possible



- make sure that adult social care services follow the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



- provide:
 - schools and colleges that are accessible to everyone



- jobs for disabled people



- accessible housing, transport and community services



- a good standard of living for disabled people



- equal access to healthcare.

For more information

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