

Being disabled in Britain

Easy Read

Who we are



We are called the **Equality and Human Rights Commission**.



We work to make sure everyone is treated fairly and gets their rights.

What is this report about?



This report is about life for disabled people in England, Wales and Scotland.



This report says:

- what is happening now
- what needs to change.

What is happening for disabled people in England, Wales and Scotland?



Some things have got better for disabled people.

But many things are getting worse.



Many disabled people are not getting their rights.

This is wrong and needs to change.

The main problems for disabled people



We found out about life for disabled people in England, Wales and Scotland.

As part of this we also looked at life for different groups of disabled people.

Here are the main things we found out.



Education

Many disabled children do not get a good enough education.



For example, many disabled children do not get:

- the support they need to do well at school
- more education or training after they leave school.



This can make it harder for them to get a job and do well later on.



Many disabled children are bullied at school.



More disabled children are forced to leave school if there are problems.

For example, if the school thinks there is a problem with their behaviour.



Schools should help disabled children stay at school if this happens.

Work



Less than half of disabled people have a job.

Many more people who are not disabled have a job.



Most disabled people who work earn less than people who are not disabled.

Having enough money to live on



Disabled people are more likely to be poor than other people.



Many disabled people cannot buy all the things they need.

For example, enough food or things they need for their disability.



The rules about benefits and support in England, Scotland and Wales have changed.

Now it is harder for disabled people to get the money and support they need.



There are not enough good houses for disabled people.

And most local councils do not have plans to build more.



Health

It is harder for disabled people to get all the healthcare they need.

This means mental health care as well.



For example, someone may need a person to talk to if they feel very upset or worried.

This person is called a therapist or counsellor.



Many adults and children have to wait too long for this care.



Some disabled people are treated badly in places like mental health hospitals and care homes.

Staff may hold their bodies down to stop them moving.



Staff may do this if the person is upset and may hurt themselves or others.

This is wrong and should not happen.

Prisons and mental health hospitals

We are worried about people with mental health conditions who are kept in places like:



- prisons
- mental health hospitals
- places for people who come to the UK from other countries.



For example, more people in England and Wales are being kept in mental health hospitals.

Some people can be kept there even if they do not want to.



We are worried that people are not always treated fairly or getting the right care.

Crime



More crime happens to disabled people than other people.



Many disabled people feel unsafe where they live.



It is hard for many disabled people to get help from the law if they are treated badly.



For example, people now have to pay for help if they are treated badly at work.

This stops many people getting the help they need.

Voting and taking part in the community



It is hard for many disabled people to join in and be part of the community.

For example, many things are harder for disabled people, like:



- voting
- taking part in politics and making big decisions about the country
- using transport
- using other services like healthcare, banks, the internet and sports places.



And many people think bad or wrong things about disabled people.

What needs to change



We want the UK, Welsh and Scottish Governments to do much more for disabled people.

We want disabled people to have the same chances as everyone else to:



- do well in education and get a job

- get the right healthcare

- get the right housing

- get help from the law

- use transport

- have a say in what happens to them, their local areas and their countries.





We want the UK, Welsh and Scottish Governments to make sure that:

- laws and plans talk about what disabled people need and how to make sure this happens



- there is better information about what life is like for all disabled people and what needs to change.



We will help governments and others with this work.

Pictures by Photosymbols

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