Inclusion Scotland has put together this manifesto.

A manifesto is a list of asks to help disabled people ask questions of their local and regional candidates.

These asks are based on what disabled people have told us needs to happen to improve life in Scotland for disabled people.
Scotland is rich in natural resources, talent and cultural heritage.

But Scotland also has poverty, inequality, discrimination and exclusion.

One of the groups worst affected is disabled people.

We are still left out of many areas of Scottish economic, political and social life.

At every stage of our lives we face barriers to inclusion.

We are more likely than non-disabled people to be bullied at school

and to be living in poverty.

We are less likely to be in employment
and less likely to hold elected office.

Too often we have no voice and no choice.

This situation cannot be allowed to continue.

To shape policies so they change our lives for the better means working together with disabled people. We call this co-production.

Only we know what we want, need and hope for. Only we have the experience of what works to remove the barriers we face – and what doesn’t.

Our vision for an inclusive Scotland is of a country where everyone has equal opportunity to give whatever they can.
In an inclusive Scotland, difference is celebrated and equality is actively promoted. Barriers to participation are removed.

Disabled people get the support they need to lead their lives to the full, as they choose, just like anyone else.

Our members, disabled people and their organisations, made suggestions that could help transform Scottish society and make it more inclusive.

There were five issues that were prioritised by disabled people.

This Manifesto for Inclusion sets out these ideas and provides some background facts and figures.
Disabled people and their organisations must be properly funded and supported to take part in a more democratic Scotland

The problem:

- Disabled people face additional barriers to taking part in community and public life, including holding elected office.

- Only 3 out of 129 Members of the last Scottish Parliament said they were disabled even though disabled people make up one in five of the Scottish population.

Our Solutions:

Government and parliament should recognise the right of disabled people to take part in political and public life. They should value what disabled people can offer.

They should value disabled people’s lived experience, and provide proper funding and support for disabled people’s organisations.
A Scottish Parliament Intern Scheme for disabled people.

All MSPs to commit to Disability Equality Training
The Problem:

- Disabled people are more likely than non-disabled people to be bullied at school or face harassment when going about our daily lives.
- The number of reported cases of disability hate crime is rising.
- Disabled women are more likely to be victims of gender-related violence.
- Half of disabled people responding to a survey by disability charity Scope reported more hostile attitudes towards them.

Our Solutions:

Negative attitudes towards disabled people must be challenged by Scottish Government immediately.

Working in and with schools so children develop positive attitudes towards disabled people.
Social Care should support disabled people’s participation in all aspects of Scottish society

The Problem:

- Restricting social care support to ‘life and limb’ cover
- Care assessments governed more by budgetary considerations than the outcomes disabled people want to achieve.
- Care charges rising far faster than the rate of inflation.

Our Solutions:

- An end to social care charges
- Set up an independent body to look closely at the role and funding of social care
- New rules to let disabled people choose where they want to live without risking the care they get and how much they have to pay for it.
A new Scottish disability benefit system that respects disabled people’s human rights and helps to meet the extra costs of disability.

The Problem:

- Over half of the £22 billion of the cuts to benefits between 2010 - 2015 fell on disabled people and their families.

- Nearly half of all Scots disabled people on the Higher Mobility part of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will lose that when they are re-assessed for Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

- Disabled people are made to go through lots of humiliating, stressful and harsh assessments for their benefits.

Our Solutions:

The new Scottish disability benefit system should be designed with the help of disabled people. This is called co-production.
Replace the expensive and inhumane assessment regime with a single and fair system.

All benefit claimants, including disabled people, to be treated with dignity and respect.
Disabled people who want to work should receive the support they need.

The Problem:

- Only 2 out of 5 of Scottish disabled people of working age are in work compared to 4 out of 5 of non-disabled people.

- In 2012/13 just 63 out of 25,691 Modern Apprenticeships went to young disabled people.

Our Solutions:

Internships and apprenticeships for young disabled people should be established in every Scottish Government Department, NHS Board and local Council.

Scottish Government should actively promote the Access to Work scheme to employers and disabled people.
When public bodies buy services they should require those delivering the services to provide better job opportunities for disabled people.

A new Scottish Employment Programme to replace the failing Work Programme.

More information on each of these 5 Asks is available as a separate briefing paper.