

Manifesto Briefing

1 Incorporate the UN Convention on Rights of Disabled People into Scots Law to fully promote, protect and realise our human rights.

What disabled people's lived experience tells us:

- “I think the human rights of disabled people and older people are being completely ignored.”
- “I can see clearly that, as a disabled person, I count even less and have no rights compared to before Covid-19.”
- “My greatest fear is that if I were to experience complications from the virus and require admission to hospital, as a disabled person, I would not receive the same care that I would as an able-bodied person.”

What disabled people want:

- The incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (UNCRPD) into Scots' law as soon as possible, and support to enable us to challenge in court the laws, policies and practices that breach our human rights and to get redress and change.
- Future emergency legislation and processes to deal with pandemics or other crises must not remove from disabled people fundamental rights to life, equal recognition before the law, liberty and security, health, and independent living.
- To ensure that disabled people can exercise their right to access services on the same basis as anyone else – particularly health and mental health treatments, food, and medicines.

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Disabled People concluded that austerity policies and the pursuit of welfare “reforms” in the UK amounted to a “grave and systematic violations of disabled people’s human rights” and a “human catastrophe”.

Brexit will impact on a wide range of support systems and legal protections for disabled people in Scotland – protection from discrimination, accessibility, access to medicines, reciprocal agreements for healthcare, social care and social security, social research, and access to funding for our organisations. This could directly impact on our human rights and our everyday lives

Impact of Covid-19:

Disabled people are seeing their hard fought for human rights, such as the right to Independent Living, undermined by measures to combat Covid-19, in particular as the needs of disabled people have not been fully considered in the planning or implementation of these measures.

Emergency legislation that introduced blanket changes to existing protections that went beyond addressing the specific issues that may have arisen because of the Covid-19 crisis – particularly in relation to Mental Health, Social Care and Adults with Incapacity.

Inclusion Scotland's Covid-19 survey found disabled people were struggling to get access to the food and medicine they needed for themselves or the person they care for because of inaccessible systems and processes that have been put in place without consulting disabled people.

Others spoke about their worries in relation to not being able to access medical appointments or routine health services, which have been cancelled because of the crisis. Disabled people have been put under undue pressure to sign "Do Not Resuscitate" forms and decisions on the prioritisation/de-prioritisation of treatments are being based on a disabled person's impairment or underlying health issues.

Rights and Renewal:

Human rights do not cease to apply in times of crisis. They become more important. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the support services necessary for us to fulfil our human rights and make our full contributions to society were often lacking. It is clear that they were woefully inadequate to support disabled people through this period.

Never again should disabled people be in such a poor position to deal with a catastrophe such as this. We should be supported to share in and contribute to the resources and opportunities of this country.

Visit our website www.inclusionScotland.org/manifesto2021 to show your support for our manifesto. Easy Read, large print and BSL versions of the manifesto and separate briefings on each of the manifesto's Five Asks are available on our website.

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