Nothing about us without us!
The human rights of disabled people in Scotland.
What has happened to the rights of disabled people since 2017?

Things have changed a lot since the Committee on the Rights of Disabled People last checked the UK in 2017.

The biggest thing we have been dealing with is the Covid-19 pandemic which was very bad for disabled people.

A **pandemic** is an infectious disease that has spread across the world.

Here are a few other things that have happened since 2017:
1. The Scottish Government is now in charge of some social security benefits.

The Scottish Government has set up a new benefits system for Scotland.

In 2018, the Scottish Government opened Social Security Scotland.

Social Security Scotland is the new organisation that will be in charge of giving out some benefits, including the new disability benefits.

There are 3 new disability benefits:

1. **Child Disability Payment** is the new Disability Living Allowance for Children.

People in some areas could start applying for Child Disability Payment in July 2021. Anyone can apply from autumn 2021.

Families who already get Disability Living Allowance for Children don’t need to do anything. They will be given the new benefit
2. **Adult Disability Payment** is the new Personal Independence Payment.

Some people will be able to apply for Adult Disability Payment spring 2022. Anyone can apply in summer 2022.

3. **Pension Age Disability Payment** is the new Attendance Allowance. We don’t know when people will be able to apply for this yet.

The Scottish Government said Social Security Scotland should treat people getting benefits nicely and fairly and give them support.

Social Security Scotland worked with people who get benefits to write a Charter. The Charter says all the things that Social Security Scotland will do to make sure people are treated fairly.

You can read the Easy Read Charter on Social Security Scotland website.
The Scottish Government said it wants the new benefits to be set up in a ‘safe and secure’ way.

This means that people who already get the benefits will be able to get the new one.

2. Elections for the UK and Scottish parliaments

In December 2019, there was a UK general election. The Conservative party won the election and got the most seats in the House of Commons.

In 2020, the UK government set up a group to look at what changes could be made to the Human Rights Act.
Scottish Parliament elections happened in May 2021. The Scottish National Party (SNP) won the election but they didn’t get the most seats.

In 2021, the Scottish government said they would make a new human rights law for Scotland. Learn more about this at number 4 below.

3. Brexit

The UK left the European Union in 2020.
We still don’t know exactly what impact Brexit will have on the UK.

We think there could be some impacts on disabled people:

There isn’t enough social care support staff in Scotland. Before Brexit many social care support staff came from the EU. This could mean there is even less social care support staff.

We don’t know if disabled people who move to the UK from the EU or disabled people from the UK who move to an EU country will be able to apply for benefits.

The Blue Badge parking permit can’t be used in some EU countries. This could be a problem for disabled people when they are travelling to other countries.

The EU had made new laws to make sure things like smart phones and other machines are accessible for disabled people. The UK might not make the same laws.
4. Incorporation of the Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

In 2021, the Scottish Government said it would make a new human rights law for Scotland.

The new law will incorporate the Convention on the Rights of Disabled People.

**Incorporation** is a way of putting disabled people’s rights into the law of a country.

5. Covid-19 pandemic

A pandemic is an infectious disease that has spread across the world.

The pandemic has been very bad for many disabled people.

Many disabled people lost their social care support and health care.

Disabled people have had problems with work, caring for others, getting the food they need and mental health.

Six out of 10 people who died with Covid-19 in Scotland were disabled people.

Disabled people will be recovering from the pandemic for a long time.