Nothing about us without us!

What happened last time the UK was reviewed by the Committee on the Rights of Disabled People?
Concluding observations 2017

The last time the UK government was reviewed by the Committee on the Rights of Disabled People was in 2017.

The UK includes the Scottish government and public bodies in Scotland like Health Boards, education providers and councils.

The Committee wrote a report called “Concluding observations” which included their findings and recommendations on what the UK should do to better protect disabled people’s human rights.

You can read the 2017 concluding observations report for the UK on the United Nations website.

There is also a BSL version of the concluding observations produced by the EHRC.

The Committee made over 80 recommendations.

Here is a selection of the things the Committee told the UK and Scottish governments to do in 2017:

1. **Incorporation** - Incorporate the CRPD into domestic law to ensure that people can take legal action if their rights have been breached.

2. **Emergencies** - Work with disabled people and their organisations to plan how to deal with disasters and emergencies and to ensure information and warning systems are accessible.
3. **Independent living** - Recognise and enforce the right of disabled people to live independently, be included in the community, and choose where they live and who they live with. Make sure local authorities and governments have enough money to be able to provide the resources people need to live independently.

4. **Work** - Remove barriers so that disabled people can access decent work, reasonable adjustments and equal pay, focusing especially on disabled women, people with mental health conditions, learning disabilities and visual impairments.

5. **Social security** - Make sure that social security policies protect the income of disabled people and their families, allowing for the extra costs that come with disability.

6. **Decision-making** - Abolish all forms of substituted decision-making and adopt supported decision-making regimes for mental health and mental capacity laws.

7. **Health** – Remove barriers to accessing health care and services, especially for people with learning disabilities and mental health conditions.
8. **Attitudes towards disabled people** – Take action to stop negative or discriminatory stereotypes or prejudice against disabled people in public and the media.

9. **Access to justice** – Make sure disabled people have equal rights to justice by providing the right legal advice and support.

10. **Freedom of expression and opinion** – Make sure there are laws which give deaf and hard of hearing people the right to high-quality sign language interpretation and other forms of alternative communication in all areas of life.

**Responsibility:** Some of these issues will be the responsibility of the UK government, the Scottish government or both, depending on who has powers to make changes in different areas.
Follow-up to the Concluding observations

The Committee requested that the UK government provide updates on its progress in implementing some of its recommendations.

The UK government published 2 follow-up reports which included statements from the Scottish government:

UK Follow-Up Report – 2018
UK Follow-Up Report – 2019

The UK Independent Mechanism (which includes the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission) published a progress report 12 months after the UK’s review - Progress on disability rights in the United Kingdom 2018.

Scottish Civil Society organisations also published an update report in 2019 - Alternative Report from civil society - Scottish government (devolved issues) – October 2019
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