

Letter Template to MPs Demanding The UN CRPD is Incorporated into UK Law

Remember to add your name and address, and slightly personalise the template if you're able to!

Dear [Your Local MP's name – you can find your local MP and contact details on the [They Work For You website](#)]

Subject Line: UN CRPD Incorporation into UK Law

I am writing to you as your constituent to ask you to urge the Government to enshrine the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (CRPD) into UK Law. In the run-up to the next election we are asking every political party standing to make this a central feature of your manifestos and to commit to coproducing policies for disability equality with our representative Deaf and Disabled People's organisations (DDPOs).

This is an urgent task as Disabled people's rights, living standards and independent living are all under attack. Successive Governments since 2010 have pursued policies which led the UN Disability Committee to declare in 2016 that "grave and systematic" rights violations had taken place.

A new shadow report compiled as written evidence for a follow-up by the Committee describes how disabled people's living standards have deteriorated further since 2016.

Continued cuts to support for disabled people living in the community have led to us becoming segregated away from society from within their own homes. In England, more than one in four (28%) people who had asked for a social care assessment had been waiting six months or more to get one. Delayed assessments have helped to precipitate a situation in which an estimated 2.6 million people in England aged over 50 are now living with some unmet need for care. That means millions struggling to do ordinary things like going to the toilet, eating, dressing or washing because they require some help to do so.

A recent report by a disabled people-led Commission in Lewisham found that 20% of respondents didn't always have access to food and drink, could not wash (or be washed) regularly and couldn't go to the toilet when needed.

Continued cuts to support for disabled people living in the community have led to disabled people becoming segregated away from society from within their own homes.

While being included in the community is much more than social care it is the crisis in social care which dominates our lives. It is the major factor that is killing Disabled people disproportionately to the rest of the UK population. Disabled people are dying on waiting lists, either waiting to be assessed or waiting for services. These deaths are caused by ongoing cuts to state support over the last 13 years. According to Age UK 28,890 older Disabled people died in 2021/22, the latest year for which figures are available, without ever receiving the care and support they were waiting for. This equates to 79 deaths a day, 554 a week, and 2408 a month. Local authorities are planning another £2.5 billion cuts over next 2 years including social care cuts of £467 million, which will exacerbate this already dire situation.

The continued institutionalisation of disabled people is a further, serious breach of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People, as the Committee has also underlined:

Disabled children and young people all too often experience segregated education. Residential homes take the form of mini-institutions and support provided to people in their own homes is frequently of an institutional nature. Under both current mental health and mental capacity law and planned reform of it, people given mental health diagnoses and people with learning difficulties, or autism can still be subjected to involuntary detention and forced treatment. Community treatment orders are a type of institutionalisation in the community. In all the above, too, Disabled people who experience intersectional discrimination frequently fare worst of all.

The UK Government signed and ratified the CRPD in 2008 but has failed to incorporate its articles into UK law, leaving its implementation trapped on paper. If the rights enshrined in the Convention are to be realised then it needs to pass onto the statute book with properly resourced and independent monitoring.

That's why I am calling on you to support our campaign to have the UN CRPD incorporated into UK law.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name and address]