



Photo: My Life My Choice

In 2013 the **Confidential Inquiry into premature deaths of people with learning disabilities (CIPOLD)** was published by researchers at the University of Bristol.

This led to the establishing of a non-mandatory review process for learning from the lives and deaths of learning disabled people. The first Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LEDER) report was published in **December 2017** and there have been seven further reports since, less than one a year.

None of these reviews, reports and words spoken in the Houses of Parliament has led to any meaningful change or improvement in life expectancy.

Learn more in Prof Sara Ryan’s latest book **Critical health and learning disabilities: An exploration of erasure and social murder**.

Access a free accessible summary here: <https://mydafflife.com/2025/08/08/social-murder/>

Find out more about the work of the Learning Disabilities and Autism Research Group at Manchester Metropolitan University here: <https://learningmet.mmu.ac.uk/>

This work is linked with a project called ‘Reigniting Debate’ which was interested in why there has been so little change for people with learning disabilities on important things like having a job, a place to call home, fair access to health and social care services.

Reigniting Debate was made up of a team of researchers from Bristol, Sheffield and Manchester Metropolitan University working together with self-advocacy organisations, Sunderland People First and My Life My Choice and a group of and for parents/ carers, Bringing Us Together.

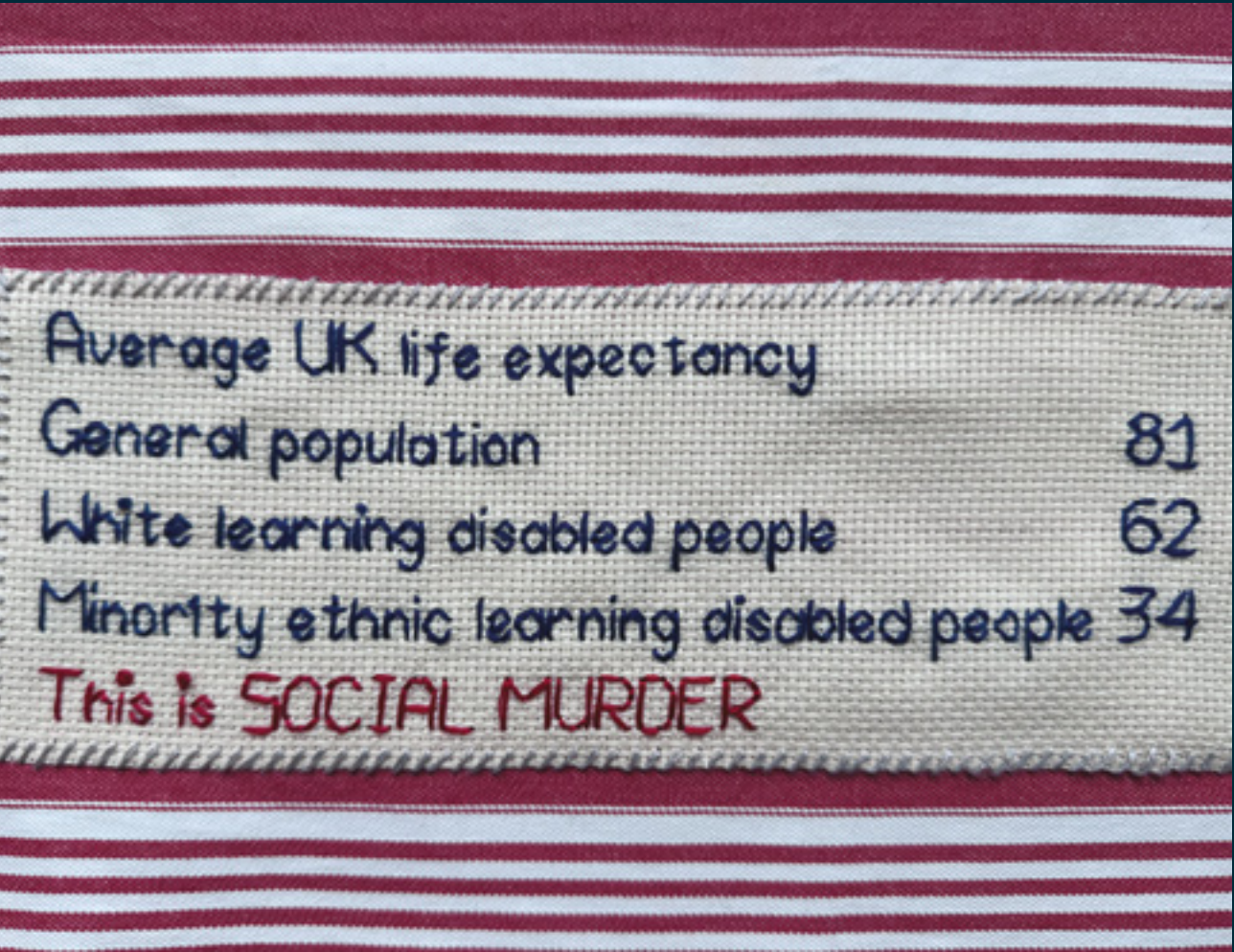
You can find out more about that project including easy-read documents at: <https://reignitingdebate.blogs.bristol.ac.uk/>

The front-page image was stitched by Dr George Julian, a crowdfunded journalist, researcher and craftivist.

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Social Murder: Premature deaths of learning disabled people

A timeline review of half a century of words and no meaningful progress



“How long does it take to effect change? Some 45 years ago, the Ely Hospital Inquiry took place ... recommendations were made ... We are talking about some 45 years here, and it seems to me that things are going at such a slow pace that we will be asking the same question again in 45 years time”

Ann Clwyd MP, 3 May 2016

Ann Clwyd was speaking over 10 years ago. She was right. This document offers a timeline recording over 50 years of members raising concerns in the Houses of Parliament about the premature deaths of learning disabled people.

In the last 20 years alone there have been many reports including 2006 Disability Rights Commission **Equal Treatment: Closing the Gap**, 2007 Mencap **Death by Indifference**, 2008 Joint Committee on Human Rights **A Life Like Any Other? Human Rights of Adults with Learning Disabilities** and Sir Jonathan Michael **Healthcare for All: Report of the Independent Inquiry into Access to Healthcare for People with Learning Disabilities**.

WARNING: Some of the language used in the timeline is not considered acceptable today but is what was said at the time

