

**Disabled People must be listened
to when the Government and
local councils make decisions
that affect their lives**



How to read this document



This document has been written using plain language and pictures.



But there are still some words that are difficult to understand.

BIG words

These words are in **bold**. You can find out what they mean in the "Difficult words" section on **page 17**.



International Document on the Rights of Disabled People



International agreement on the rights of disabled people



An **International Document** on the Rights of Disabled People says what countries have to do to make sure that Disabled people have the same rights as everybody else.



In 2009 the UK Government agreed that the Document was important.



The Government agreed that Disabled people's rights are important.



This means that the Government and Local Councils in the UK should listen to what the Document says.



They must do this every time they make a decision that affects the lives of Disabled people.



The Document says that:

- People should be free to make their own choices.



- No one will be **discriminated** against.



- Disabled people have the same rights to be included in society as anybody else.



- Disabled people are respected for who they are.



- Everyone should have equal opportunities.



- Everyone should have equal access.



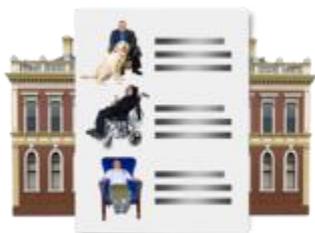
- Men and women should have equal opportunities.



- Disabled children should be respected for who they are as they grow up.



The Document also says that the Government and Local Councils have to involve Disabled people in the decisions they make about things that will affect their lives.



This includes decisions about schools, public transport, shopping centres, housing and health and social care.



International agreement
on the rights of disabled
people



This is all said in **Article 4 (3)** of the **International Document**

Although this is said in the Document, it is only advice.

The UK Government and Local Councils do not have to do what it says.



Sometimes the Government and Local Councils do not listen.



They just make a decision and change things that affect people without listening properly.



The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010



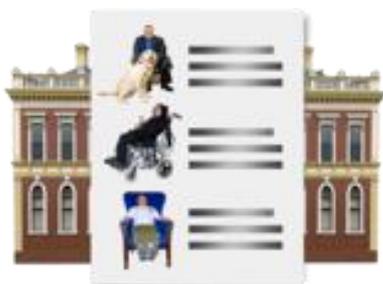
Although the **International Document** is not law, in the UK we have the **Equality Act** which says the same things.



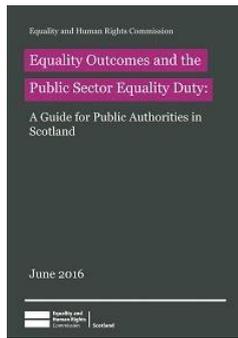
Using the Act helps to make the Government and Local Councils listen.



The **Equality Act** is a UK law.



It tells the Government and Local Councils that they have to think about Disabled people when they make new laws, write new policies or make important decisions that will affect them.



The Equality Act introduced the **Public Sector Equality Duty**.



The **Public Sector Equality Duty** is another piece of UK law.



It makes sure the Government and Local Councils give Disabled people the chance to be involved in decision making.



It also makes sure the Government and Local Councils allow all the groups involved in making the decision to talk to each other.



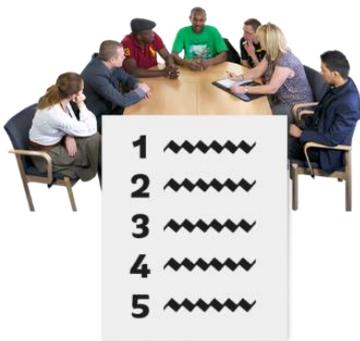
The Government and Local Councils should do an **Impact Assessment** when they are making these decisions.



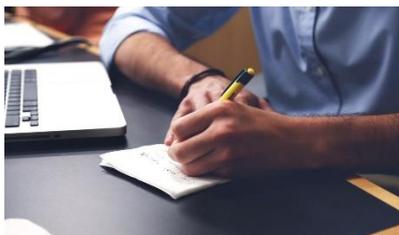
What the Government and Local Councils have to do



When the Government or Local Council want to change the law or make an important decision, they have to think about whether they need to ask Disabled people about these changes.



They have to write down how they decided whether or not to involve people and keep it safe.



If they decide to involve Disabled people, they have to write down what they did to make that happen.



The Government and Local Councils have to do this, but there is no way to say if they are doing it 'right'.



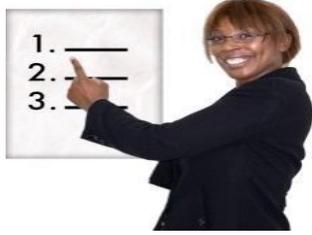
It is up to the Government and Local Councils to decide if they need to talk to different groups, what about, and for how long.



But you can ask them what they have done.



The Government and Local Councils must always try to involve Disabled people if the decision will affect them.



They have to be able to give you a good reason for their decisions.



What can I do when it all goes wrong and Disabled people are not involved in decision making?



If you know the Government or your Local Council are making changes to the law or are making important decisions, you can ask them about the **consultations** they'll be doing.



You can ask the Government or your Local Council for information on why they did not involve Disabled people.



You can use the law to challenge the Government or your Local Council.



It is important to challenge them as soon as possible after the decision has been made.



If you think the Government or your Local Council haven't consulted with Disabled people fairly, you can ask for a **Judicial Review** to happen.



This is a legal challenge. You will need to talk to a solicitor.



The court will look at whether the decision was made in a fair way.



If the court agrees with you,



they can tell the Council that their decision has not been made properly,



and that they have to go and consult with Disabled people and make the decision again.

Difficult Words

Article – The **International Document** is split into different parts. These parts are all numbered 1 – 50. These parts are called Articles.

Consultation – talking to a group of people about an issue that affects their lives. This will normally be a meeting where what is said is recorded.

Discrimination – When someone is treated unfairly because they are Disabled.

Equality Act – A piece of law in the UK which stops Disabled people being discriminated against.

International Document - A document written by the **United Nations** to protect the human rights of Disabled people.

Impact Assessment – Looks at how well the Government or Local Council does the work it's supposed to do.

Judicial Review – This is where the paperwork the Government or Local Councils have prepared about the decisions they have made and how they've made them, will be looked at by the courts.

Public Sector Equality Act – This is a piece of law which means that the Government and all Local Councils have to think about how their decisions affect Disabled people.

United Nations – The United Nations is an organisation of different countries from all over the world. It helps different countries work together.



More information

You can find more information about the **International Document** here:

International Document (CRPD) webpage -

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/>

International Document (CRPD) Committee webpage -

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx>

UK Equality and Human Rights Commission webpage -

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-human-rights-work/monitoring-and-promoting-un-treaties/un-convention-rights-persons-disabilities>

UK Government Report on CRPD compliance -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/un-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-initial-report-on-how-the-uk-is-implementing-it>

Disability Rights UK webpage -

<http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2016/july/opportunity-disabled-people-help-hold-government-account-its-record-disabled-people%E2%80%99s>