



Disability programmes and policies:
How does Northern Ireland measure up?



Who we are



We are the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.



We work to make sure that everyone in Northern Ireland is treated fairly.

What this report is about



Northern Ireland is part of the **United Nations**.



The **United Nations** is a group of countries that work together to make the world a better place.



The **United Nations** think that people with disabilities should be treated better.



They have made an agreement about how to make things better for people with disabilities.



This agreement is called the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

What this report is about

Northern Ireland is part of this agreement because it wants to make things better for people with disabilities.



This report looks at what needs to change in Northern Ireland to make the agreement work.

What we did before writing this report



We talked to people with disabilities in Northern Ireland about

- the agreement
- how they are treated.



We found that there were 3 main things in the agreement that Northern Ireland needs to do better. These are



1. Changing the way people think about disability.



2. Making sure people with disabilities get a say in important decisions.



3. Finding out more about people with disabilities in Northern Ireland.

You can find out more about these 3 things and what people said on the next pages.

1. Changing the way people think about disability

What the agreement says

Countries must work to



- change the way people think about disability



- stop people thinking bad things about people with disabilities.

1. Changing the way people think about disability

What people with disabilities said



For the agreement to work there needs to be



- more teaching about disability in schools and other places



- more chances for people with disabilities to do things with people without disabilities



- more information about disability



- good support from the government.

2. Having a say about important decisions

What the agreement says



People with disabilities should have the same chance to have a say about things that are happening in the country.

2. Having a say about important decisions

What people with disabilities said



People with disabilities are only asked about things to do with disability.



They should be asked about other things as well like things that are happening where they live.



There should be more help for people to go to meetings and have a say.



Some people with disabilities find this hard because of things like

- transport costs
- having to get support.



There should be more information and support to help people speak up.

3. Information

What the agreement says

The government should know more about people with disabilities in their country.



This will help them make decisions about what needs to change to make things fairer.



The government should make different types of information for people who need it, like



- easy read information



- information on CD.



3. Information



What people with disabilities said

They said that getting information from the government was important to them.



But they said it was hard to get information from the government because



- the staff did not always give them as much time as they needed
- the staff were not always helpful.



They said that it was also hard to get information from government websites because of things like



- the colour of the writing
- the type of writing
- no search boxes to help people find things.

What next



The government in Northern Ireland needs to work closely with people with disabilities to



1. Change the way people think about disability.



2. Make sure people with disabilities get a say about important decisions.

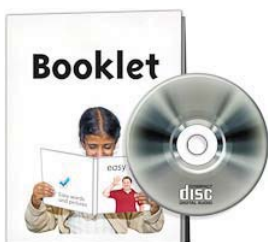


3. Find out more about people with disabilities.



The government needs to keep checking how the new agreement is working for people.

They need to get more information from people to do this.



The government needs to make it easier for everyone to understand the information they get.

Equality Commission

FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



CRPD

Independent Mechanism
for Northern Ireland

Promote | Protect | Monitor



NORTHERN
IRELAND
HUMAN
RIGHTS
COMMISSION

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission have been jointly designated, Under Article 33(2) of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), as the Independent Mechanism for Northern Ireland, to **“promote, protect and monitor implementation”** of the UNCRPD.

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