

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

The government's first report

Important

This booklet is about 33 articles or parts of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People** and what we are doing in this country.

Green writing

In this Easy Read booklet we explain what some words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold green** writing. We then write what the words mean in a blue box.

These words and what they mean are also in a Words List at the back of the booklet.

If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal green** writing. If you see words in **normal green** writing, you can look up what they mean by looking for the blue box earlier in the booklet, or by looking at the Words List.

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What this booklet is about

This is the government's first report to say how the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People** is being put into use in this country.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People or the Convention

This is a list of rights that disabled people have. All the countries that support the Convention agree that disabled people should have these rights. In this booklet we will call this the Convention.

The government thinks that **the Convention** is very important.

There are 50 parts in **the Convention**. These parts are called Articles.

Articles 1 to 4 give basic information about **the Convention**. And Articles 34 to 50 are about how **the Convention** works.

This booklet tells you about Articles 5 to 33.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

The **Convention** says how disabled people should be treated to give them **equality**.

Equality

This means having the same rights as other people to be treated with respect, to have the chances and choices for a good life, and to be able to join in with other people. Some people may need extra help to get the same chances.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

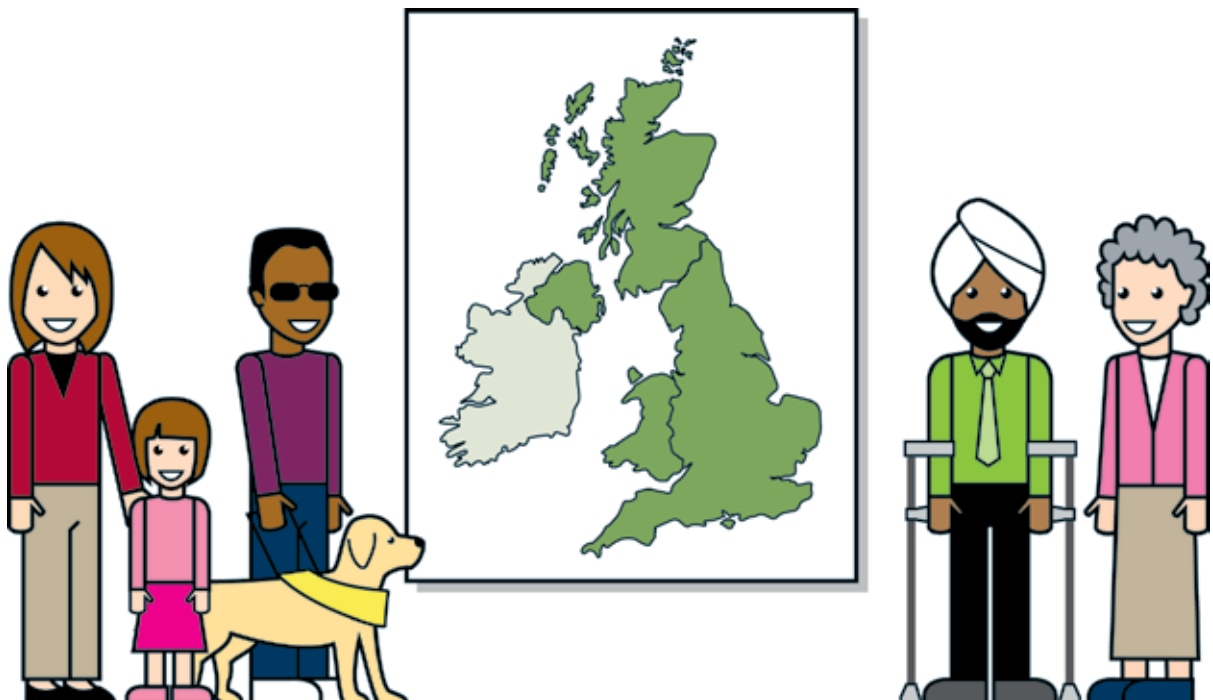
Over the last few years disabled people have been given more rights and chances to do things. But we need to do more to get full **equality** for disabled people.

When we wrote this report we talked to disabled people, disabled people's organisations and other groups who are interested in helping disabled people get **equality**.

The government wants everyone to work together so that this country follows what **the Convention** says.

Around 1 out of every 5 people is disabled in the United Kingdom. There are 4 countries in the United Kingdom. They are England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

When we talk about disabled people in this country we mean the United Kingdom.

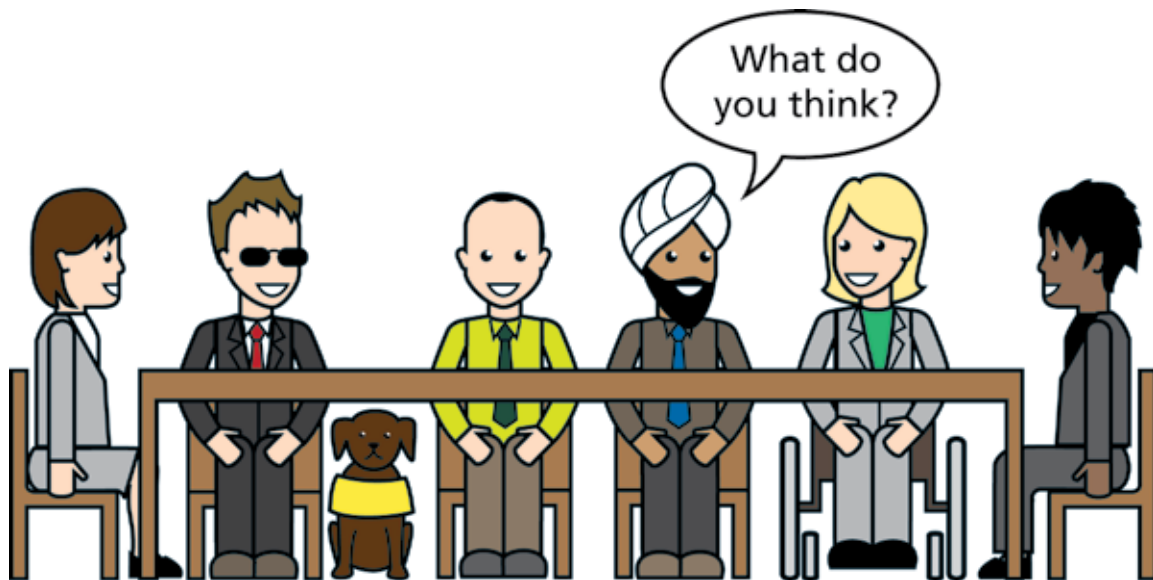


The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

Disabled people must be **involved** in making decisions that affect them. This means that what disabled people think can be taken into account when the government is making changes.

Involved

Being involved is not the same as being asked. Being involved means disabled people playing a bigger part in planning, not just being asked about work done by other people.



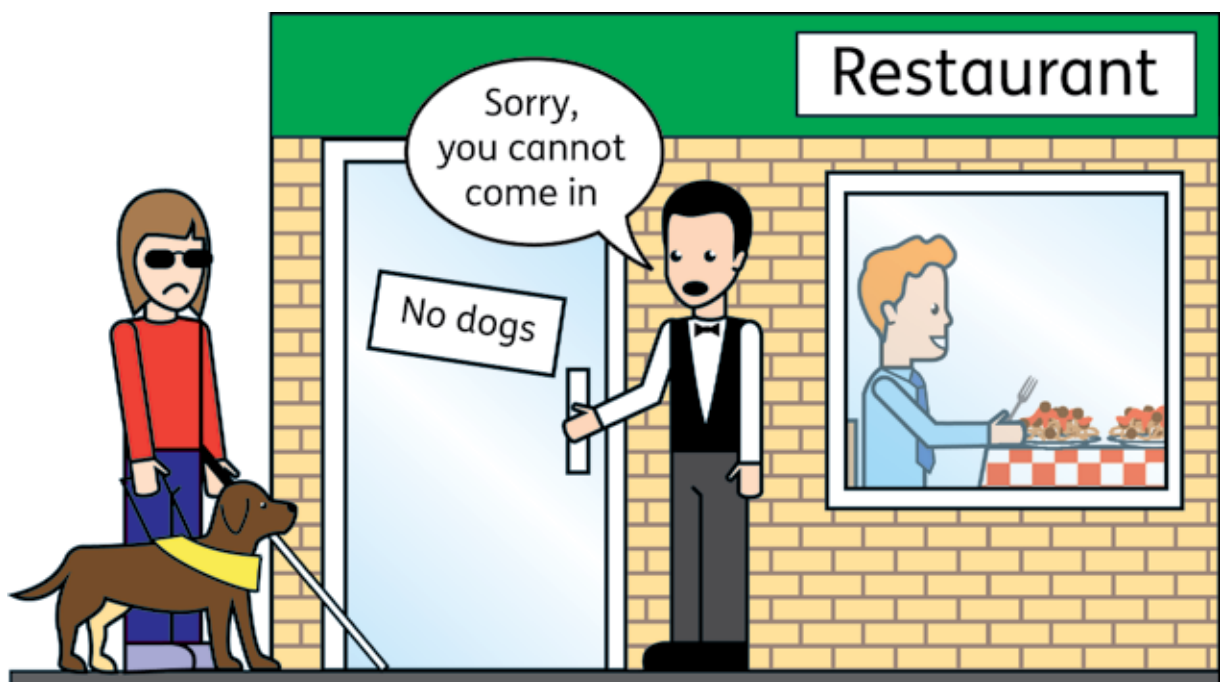
Article 5

Article 5 is about **equality** and stopping **discrimination**.

Discrimination

This is when someone is treated unfairly because of something. People are sometimes discriminated against because of their age, because of the colour of their skin, or because they are disabled.

The government has made laws that protect disabled people from **discrimination**.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

The **Equality Act** began in 2010. It aims to stop all kinds of **discrimination**. It also says that people who provide services must make **reasonable adjustments** for disabled people.

Equality Act

This is the Government's law to make sure all people are treated fairly.

Reasonable adjustment

These are changes an employer or someone providing a service has to make so that disabled people can do something, like getting into a shop to do their shopping or a council or bank sending information in the best way for them to use, like in large print or in easy to read words.



Article 6

Article 6 is about disabled women.

There are more disabled women than disabled men in this country.

The government thinks that everyone should have the same rights. But, disabled women may get many types of **discrimination**.



Article 7

Article 7 is about disabled children.

Nearly 1 out of every 20 children is disabled.

The government supports the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children**.

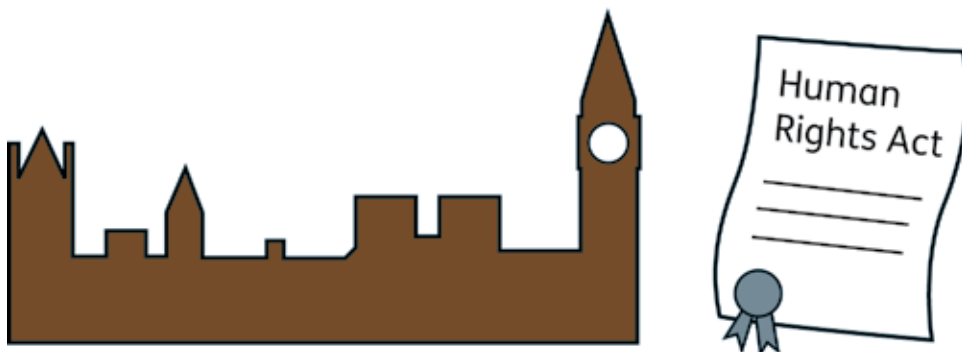
United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children

This is a list of rights children and young people have. All the countries that support this Convention agree that children and young people should have these rights.

In 1998, the government made new laws to give rights to children using the **Human Rights Act**.

Human Rights Act

This is a list of rights that everyone should get. It includes things like the right to life, the right to an education and the right to freedom of speech.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

The government listens to disabled children. The government wants children to have the best chance to have a good life.

The government wants to make sure that children get the best education, the best health care and the best services. It will also make sure they have enough money to live on.

The government gives money to poor families with disabled children. This helps pay for short holidays and to buy goods and services that they need.



Article 8

Article 8 is about making sure everyone knows about the rights of disabled people.

The government is doing better about telling people about disabled people's rights. For example, in 2009, nearly 3 out of every 4 people had heard about laws to do with **equality** for disabled people.

The government is also doing lots of things to let more people know about disabilities and to change the way people think about disabled people.



Article 9

Article 9 is about **accessibility**.

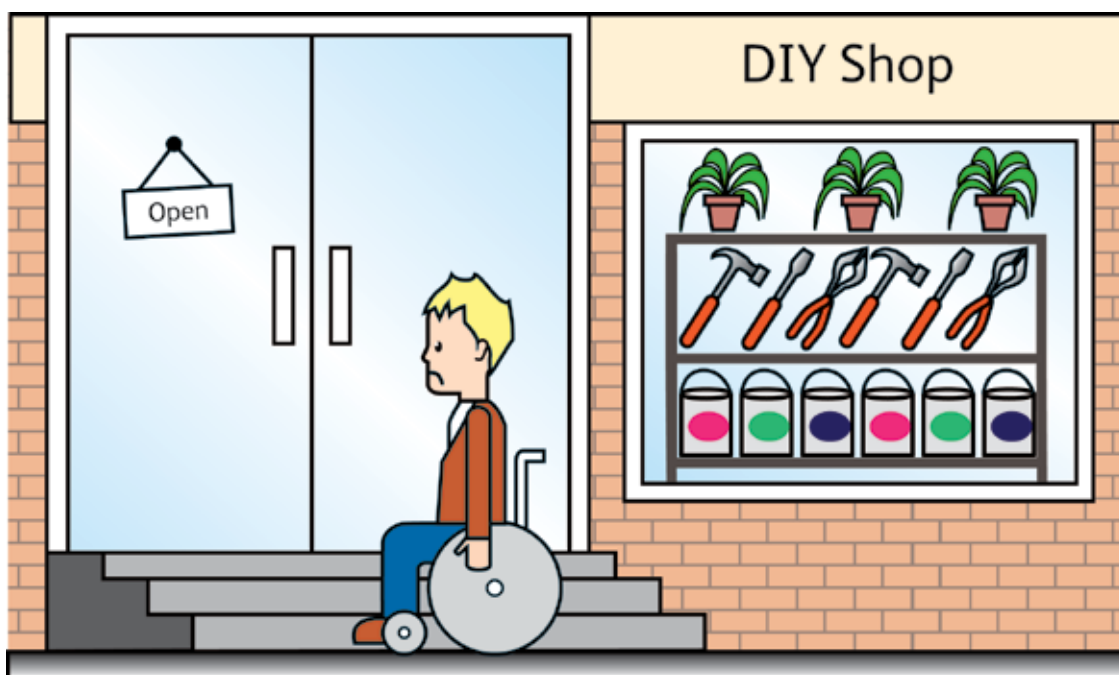
Accessibility or Accessible

This means making sure everyone can use something. For example

- a building may need a ramp up to its doors and a lift for people who use a wheelchair.
- making a booklet in easy to read words and pictures.

It is important to make sure disabled people can use information, services and buildings. The government has made the **Equality Act** to make sure this happens.

There is still a lot that needs to be done. In 2010 nearly 1 out of every 3 disabled people said they found it hard to get goods and services because of their disability.



Article 10

Article 10 is about the right to life.

Disabled people have the same right to life as everyone else.

Article 11

Article 11 is about emergencies.

The government is making sure that disabled people know what to do in an emergency.

The government is making sure that disabled people get information in ways they can easily use.

The government is making sure that disabled people are not **discriminated** against in an emergency.



Article 12

Article 12 is about making sure disabled people get **equality** from the law.

In this country everyone is allowed to make their own decisions.

The government wants as many people as possible to make their own decisions.

If a person cannot make decisions on their own they can ask for help to make the decision. For example, they can ask at the hospital for help about the kind of treatment they get.

Sometimes, a person cannot make decisions on their own even when they get help. When this happens a court can choose someone to make the decisions for the disabled person.



Article 13

Article 13 is about using the justice system.

Justice system

The justice system is the system people use when something happens to them that is wrong. These are things like being **discriminated** against at work or being a victim of hate crime.

The government will make sure that disabled people are treated the same way as everyone else when they use the **justice system**.

Organisations like the police, the prison service and the court service all get training on how to deal with disabled people.



Article 14

Article 14 is about freedom and keeping people safe.

Anyone who is in this country has human rights which the government must protect. These rights include the right to freedom and the right to be safe.

No one can lose their freedom because they are disabled.

But, a disabled person may be put in a hospital to keep them safe or to stop them hurting themselves or hurting other people.

If a court says a disabled person is guilty of breaking the law they can be sent to prison.

There are lots of rules to make sure that disabled people are treated properly.

Article 15

Article 15 is about not being tortured or treated badly.

The **Human Rights Act** says that no one should be tortured or treated badly.

The government will make sure that the **Human Rights Act** is followed.

Article 16

Article 16 is about not being taken advantage of, or not being a victim of violence.

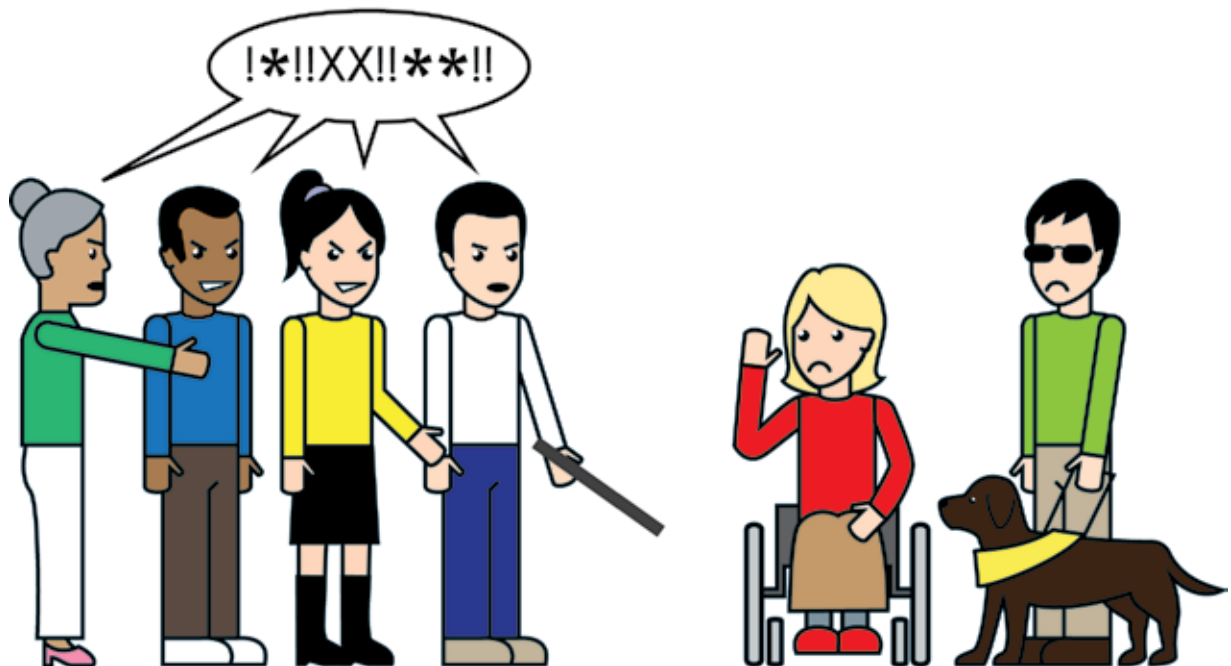
We have laws to make sure people are not taken advantage of, and do not suffer violence.

There are extra laws to protect disabled people who get health care and social care, like homes for older disabled people.

There are extra laws for disabled people about **hate crime**.

Hate crime

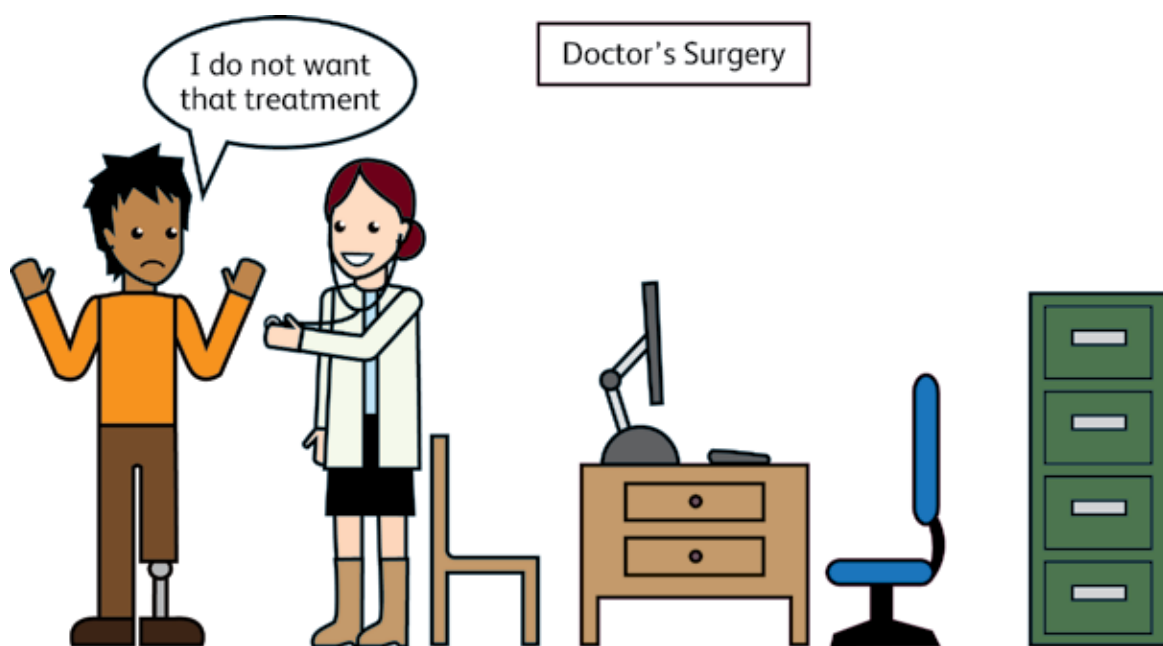
This is when someone does something against the law to another person because of hate or because they are different.



Article 17

Article 17 is about people having the right to refuse treatment.

Disabled people have the right to choose if they want to have medical or other treatment, unless they cannot make their own decisions. In these cases rules are in place to protect that person.



Article 18

Article 18 is about moving in and out of the country and people's nationality.

Disabled people have the same right to British nationality as non-disabled people.

British disabled people can leave or enter the country at any time.

Disabled people who are not British can ask to enter the country or stay in the country in the same ways as non-disabled people.

Everyone in the country must tell the government if they have a baby.



Article 19

Article 19 is about living independently and being included in their local area.

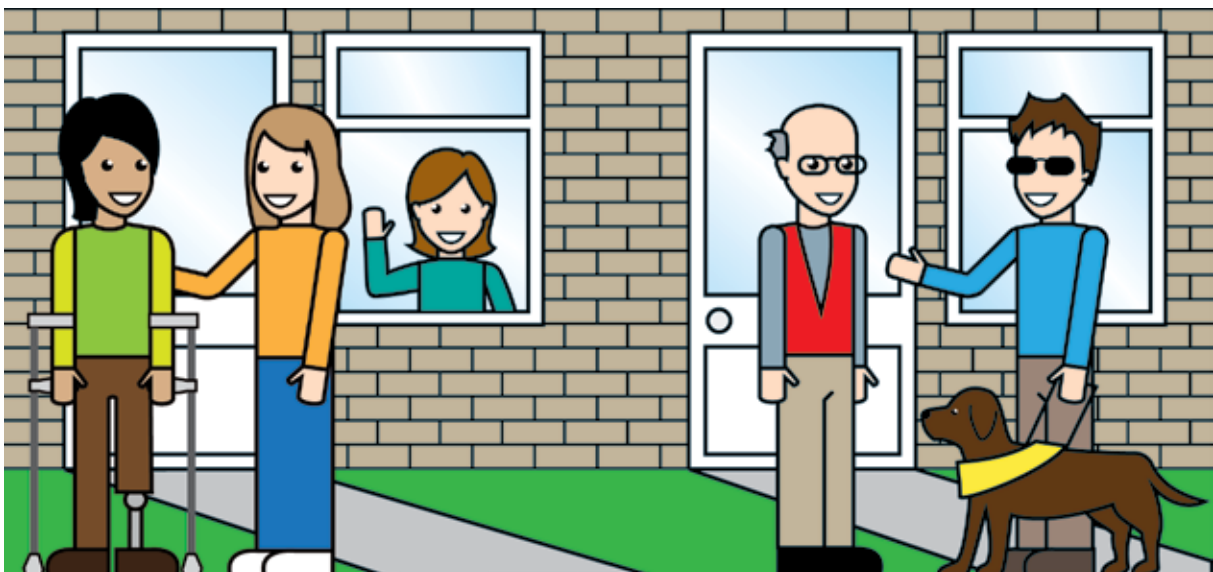
Disabled people say that **independent living** means all disabled people should have the same choice, control and freedom as everyone else, at home, at work and in the area where they live.

But, in 2010, nearly one out of every 4 disabled people thought that often they did not have choice and control over their lives.

Independent living

Independent living means:

- Disabled people having choice and control over the support and equipment they need.
- Disabled people being treated as an equal for housing, education, jobs and transport.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

The government is working to give disabled people more choice and control over their lives. For example the **Right to Control** and the **Supporting People** programmes.

Right to Control

This is about disabled people making their own decisions about their support instead of other people making decisions for them.

Supporting People

This service gives help with housing to people wherever they live. This means they can stay in their own home.



Article 20

Article 20 is about disabled people getting around.

A lot of work is being done to make it easier for disabled people to use things like footpaths, parks, buildings and transport.

The government is supporting local councils and other organisations to run training courses for disabled people on how to use public transport. These courses give disabled people the skills and confidence to use public transport by themselves.

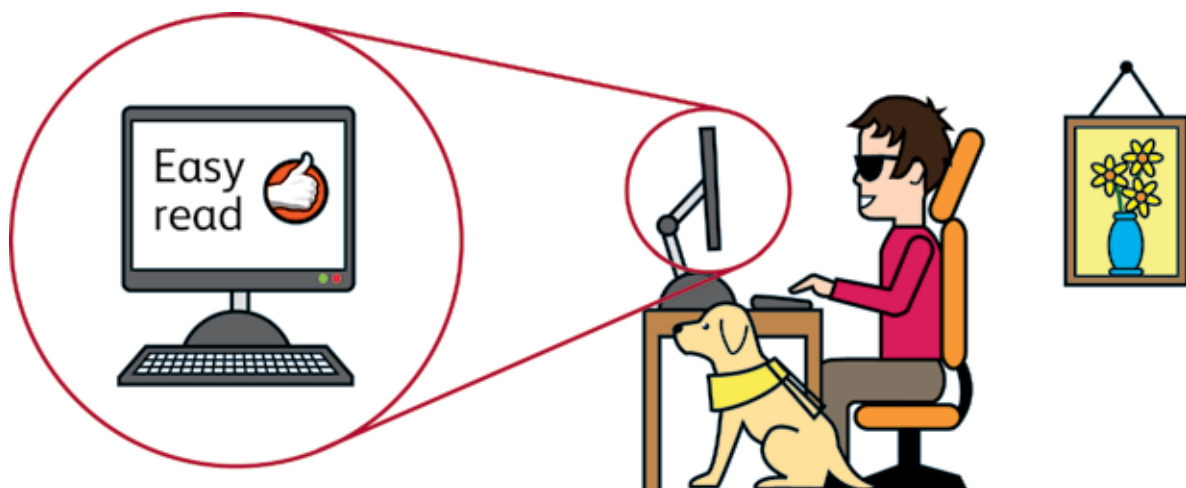


Article 21

Article 21 is about giving disabled people the chance to say what they think and to get the information they need to get **involved** in their local area.

When the government provides information, it makes sure that the information is in a way that disabled people can easily use.

The government wants to make sure disabled people get and can use the internet to find out things, get goods and services and find work.



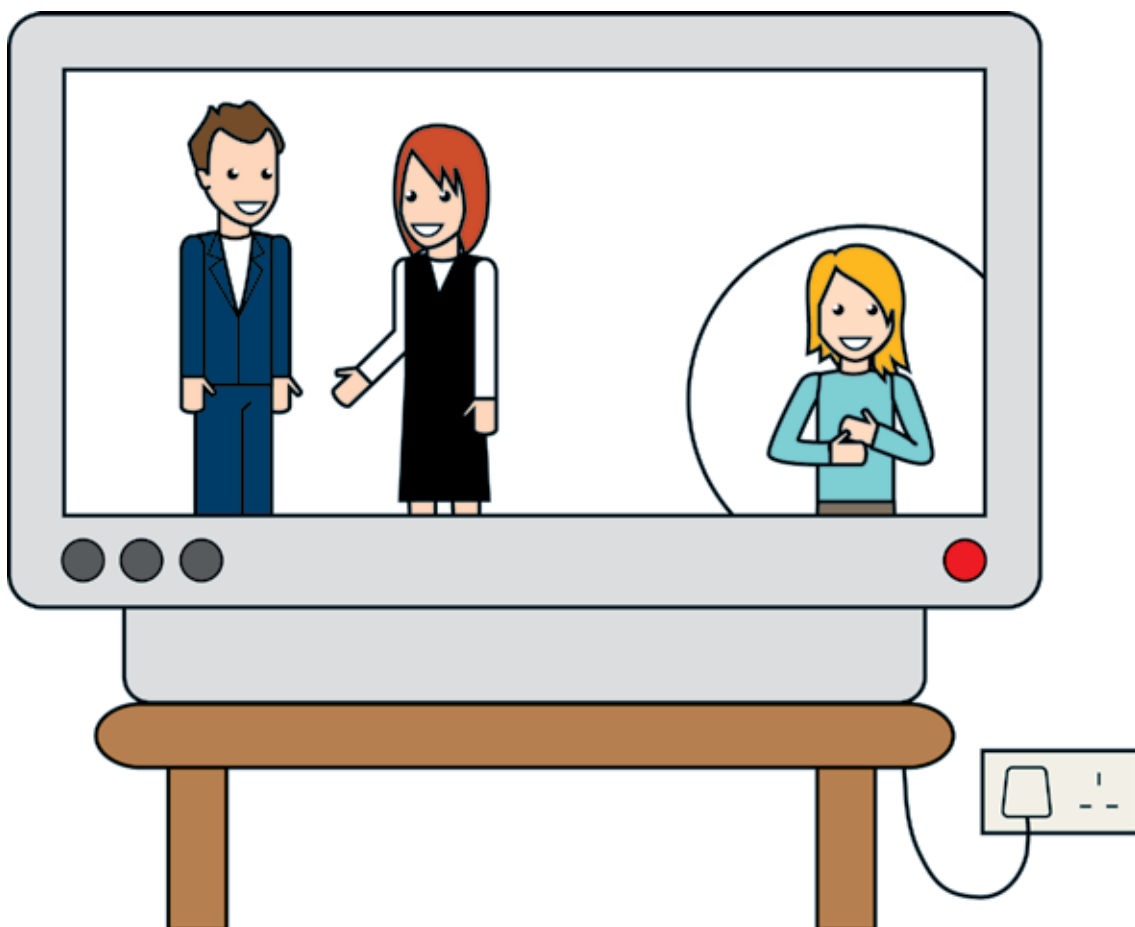
The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

British Sign Language is the first language of deaf people. It can be learned in colleges or universities. The government wants more people to learn **British Sign Language**.

British Sign Language

This is a language for deaf people. Instead of speaking, people use their hands to make signs that deaf people see as words. People who use it are sometimes called signers.

The government makes sure that television programmes can be enjoyed by disabled people, by using subtitles, signing and audio descriptions.



Article 22

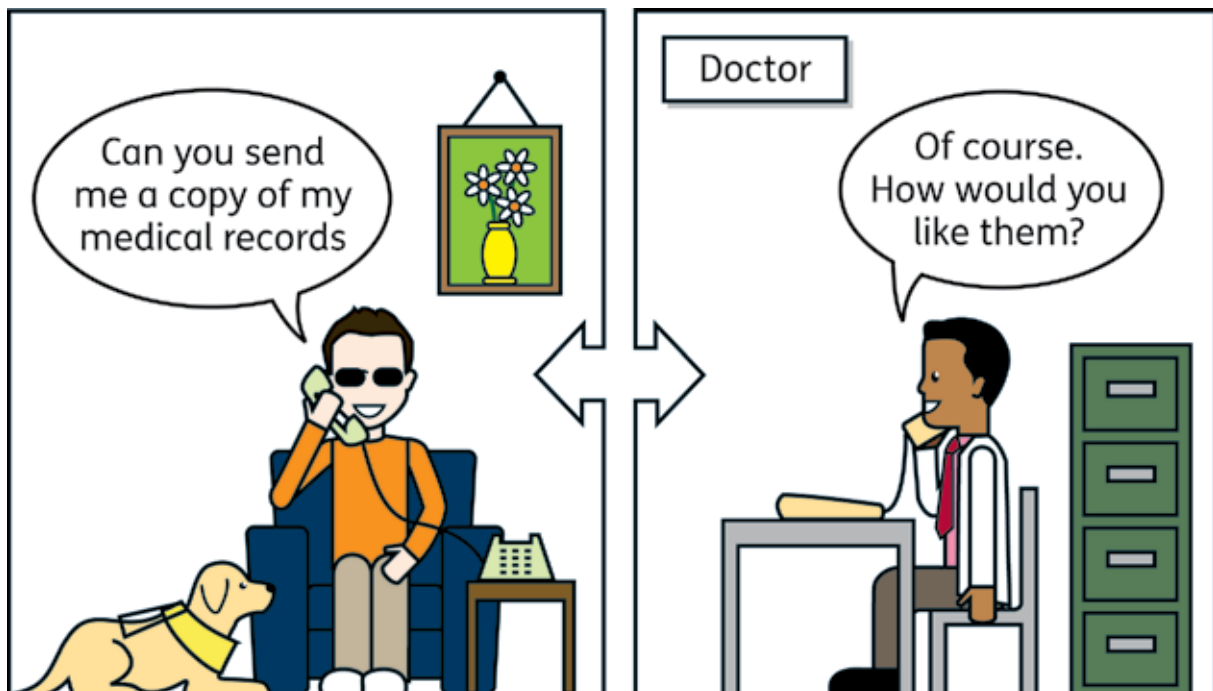
Article 22 is about respect for privacy.

Any organisation that holds information about a person must do these things.

- They must use the information fairly.
- They must keep the information safe.
- They must make sure the information is up to date.

Everyone can ask to see the information an organisation holds about them. This includes medical records.

If a person asks to see the information held about them the information must be given to them in away they can easily use.

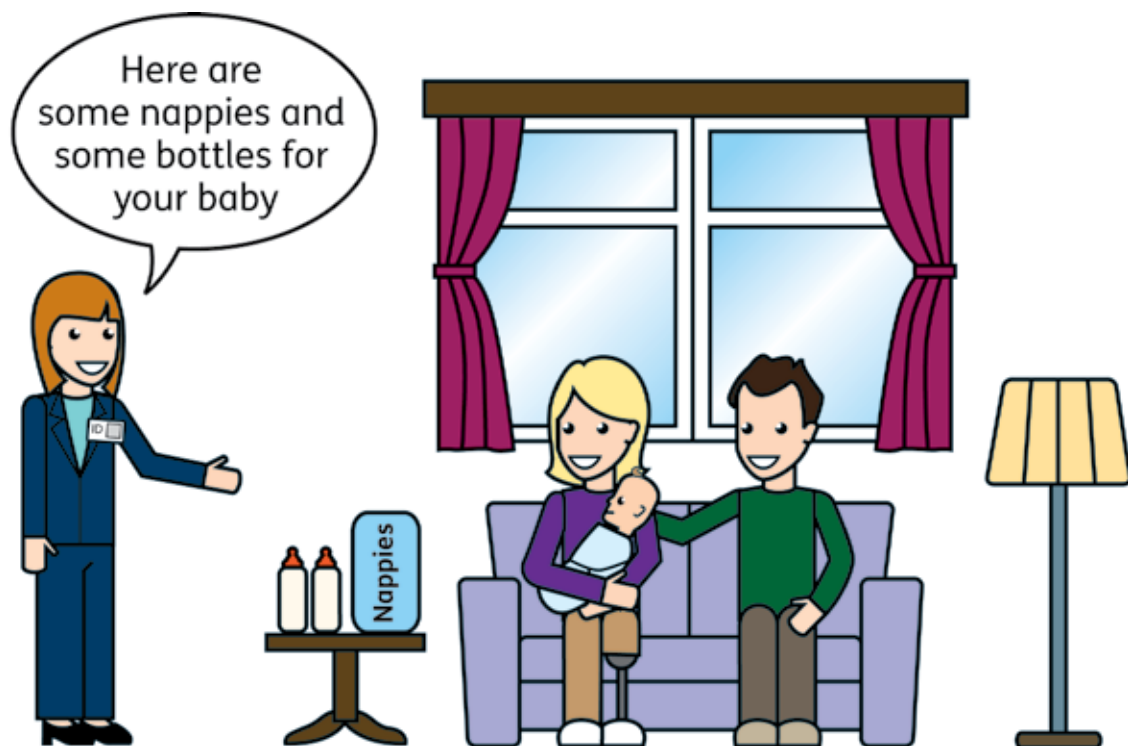


Article 23

Article 23 is about respect for home and the family.

The government wants to make sure that disabled people have the same chance for family life as everyone else.

The government gives help and support to parents and children to make sure they have the same chance for family life. This includes things like getting married, family planning, and making sure that children in care are safe.



Article 24

Article 24 is about education.

Disabled people have the same right to education as non-disabled people.

There are schools for children and young people with special educational needs. But a lot of the time these children go to the same school as non-disabled children and young people.

Teachers learn how to teach children and young people with special educational needs. This means teachers can help all children and young people they teach.

Adults over 25 who have learning difficulties or are disabled can get help and support if they want to learn new things.

Disabled people get help from the government if they want to go to university.



Article 25

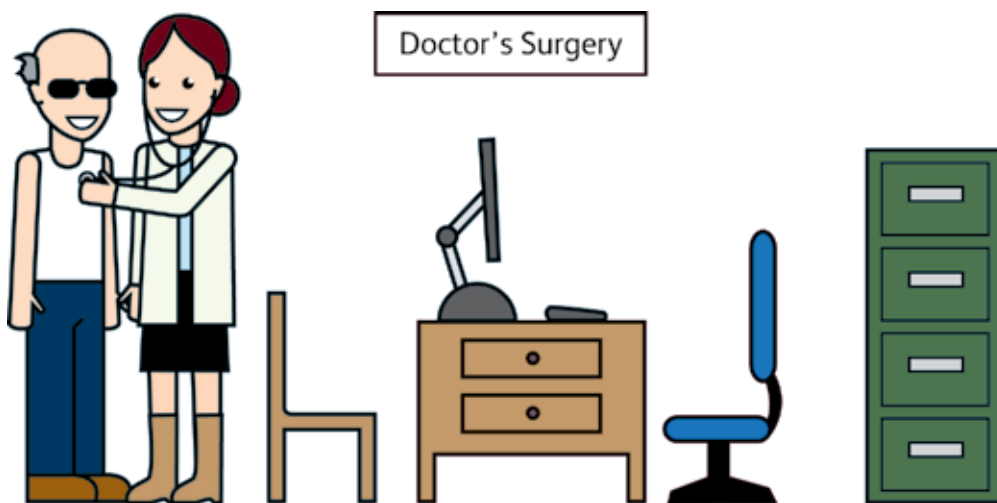
Article 25 is about health.

Disabled people have the same right to health care as non-disabled people.

Disabled people can get information about health care in a way they can easily use and understand.

Work needs to be done to make sure everyone gets the right help from the health services.

All doctors get training about disabilities. This means they can help disabled people more.

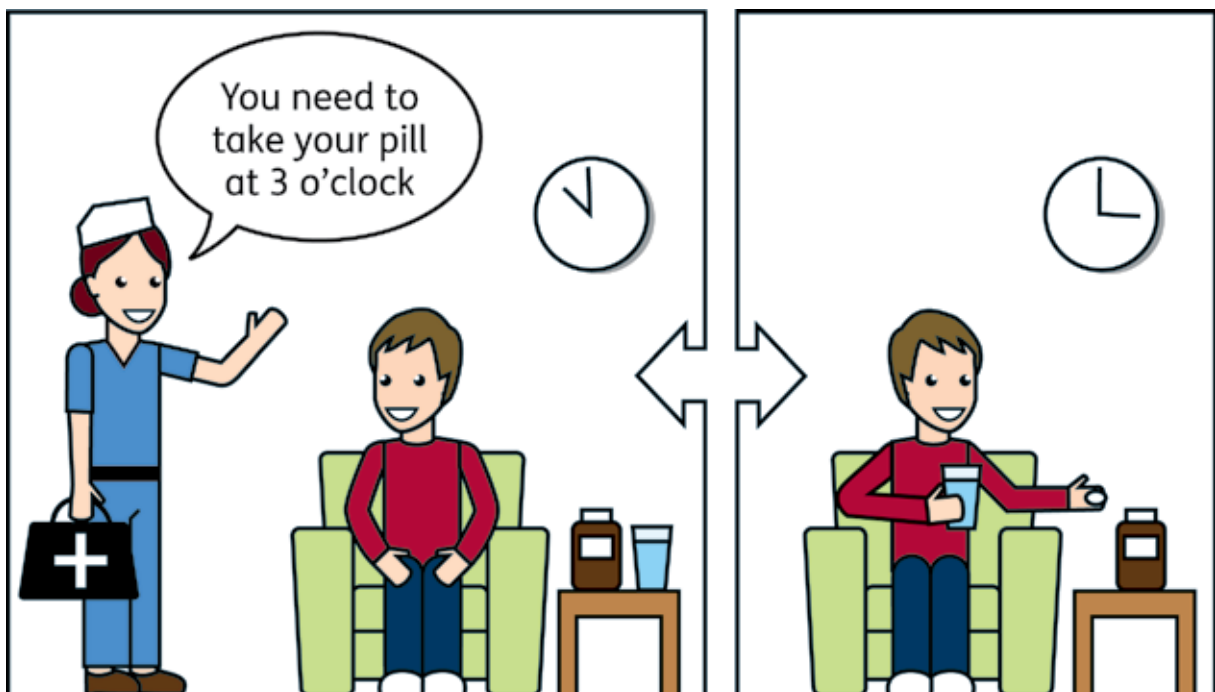


Article 26

Article 26 is about getting disabled people ready to live independently. And getting them used to living in their local area.

Disabled people can get support to help them live independent lives. This support can be things like

- Teaching people with health problems how to look after themselves and how to take their medicine at the right times.
- Teaching disabled people to use new equipment that will help them with their disability.



Article 27

Article 27 is about work.

Disabled people have the same right to work as non-disabled people. Having a job can make a disabled person's life much better.

Disabled people are protected from **discrimination** in work.

Employers must make **reasonable adjustments** for disabled people.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

The government knows that some disabled people need more support to find a job. There are programmes that can help disabled people find a job, like **Access to Work** and **Work Choice**.

Access to Work

Access to Work gives advice and support to people whose disability or health problem affects how they do their work.

Access to Work can help pay for a support worker, or the extra costs a disabled person might have in travelling to and from work. It can also help pay for things like special computers a disabled person might need to help them do their job.

Work Choice

This is support for disabled people to help them learn new skills and find out what it is like at work.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

The way **employers** think about disabled people can stop disabled people getting a job. The government is working with **employers** to change the way they think about disabled people.

Employers

These are people or companies that pay other people to do work for them.

The government wants more disabled people to go for an **apprenticeship**.

Apprenticeship

This gives people the chance to get paid while they learn a job.



Article 28

Article 28 is about disabled people's standard of living.

Around twice as many disabled people live in **poverty** than non-disabled people.

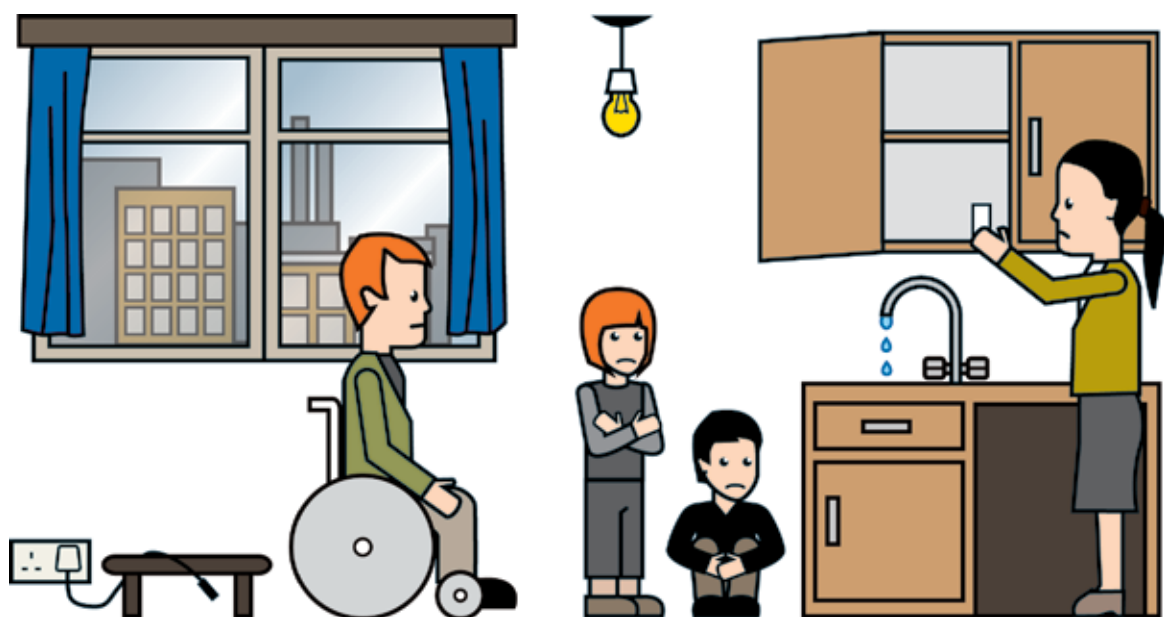
Poverty

This is when a person or family does not have enough money to pay for the things they need, or to take part in everyday life as much as other people.

The government wants to do all it can to stop people living in **poverty**. It has support that is just for disabled people and other support that is for everyone.

Disabled people can get benefits to help them pay for the things they need because of their disability.

The government wants to get rid of child **poverty** by 2020.



Article 29

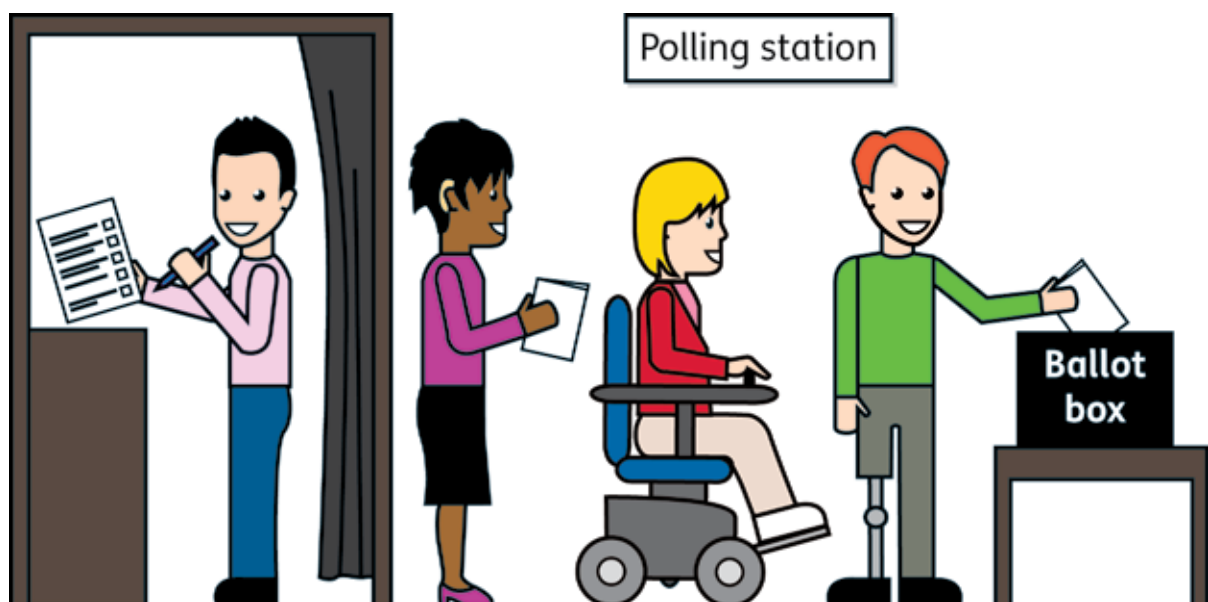
Article 29 is about disabled people taking part in political and public life.

Disabled people have the same right to vote as everyone else. They can have someone with them to help them, but who they vote for is up to the disabled person.

Disabled people must be able to get **involved** in local life by doing things like joining local councils or joining **Parliament**.

Parliament

Parliament is where politicians, who are also called MPs, meet to decide rules and laws, and make decisions for the country. It is not the same as the government, which runs the country.



Article 30

Article 30 is about taking part in **culture**, leisure activities, exercise and sport.

Culture

This means the way of life of a group of people. It includes the things people do in their spare time. It is things like painting, dancing, music and plays.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

There are government programmes to get more disabled people involved in culture and the arts. For example, the Unlimited programme which is part of the **Cultural Olympiad**. This will be part of the lead up to the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

Cultural Olympiad

This gives everyone the chance to be part of **the Games**. It is made up of a lot of events that show off the ways of life of the people in this country. For example, in paintings, plays, dance and music.

The government wants to use the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to show what disabled people can do. It also wants to get more disabled people to take part in sports and exercise.



Article 31

Article 31 is about collecting information and using that information.

The **Office for Disability Issues** collects information from many **government departments** to see how we are doing in moving towards **disability equality**.

Office for Disability Issues

This is a group of people working for the government. They help government workers learn more about disabled people, and they help to make things fairer.

Government departments

These are the different parts of the government. For example, the health department or the tax office.

Disability equality

This means disabled people being treated with respect, and with the same chances for making their lives better as other people.

Article 32

Article 32 is about international cooperation. This is when different countries work together.

The government wants more countries to sign the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People**.

The government is also working with other countries to make the lives of disabled people better in those countries.



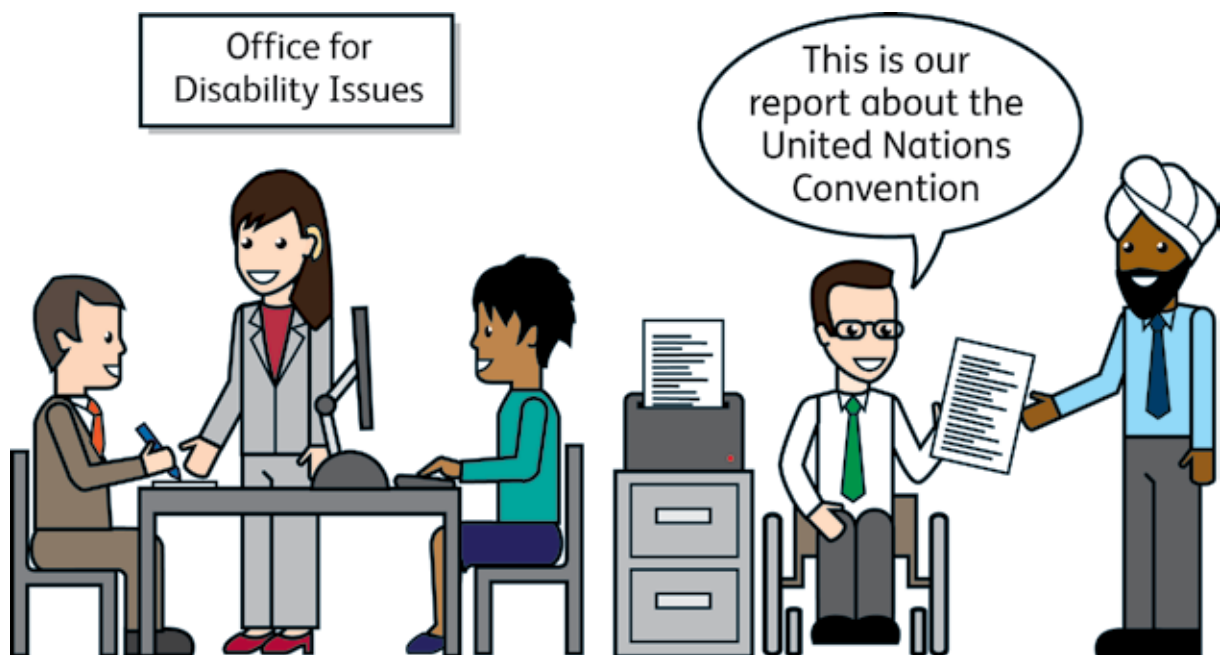
Article 33

Article 33 is about checking how **the Convention** is doing.

The **Office for Disability Issues** checks how **the Convention** is doing.

The **Office for Disability Issues** works with **government departments** to make sure the rules in **the Convention** are taken into account in their work.

Disabled people will be involved in checking how **the Convention** is doing. Disabled people have been involved in writing this report. They will be involved in all the other reports we write for the United Nations about **the Convention**.



Word list

Accessibility or Accessible

This means making sure everyone can use something.
For example

- a building may need a ramp up to its doors and a lift for people who use a wheelchair.
- making a booklet in easy to read words and pictures 13

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These are people or companies that pay other people to do work for them33

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This means having the same rights as other people to be treated with respect, to have the chances and choices for a good life, and to be able to join in with other people. Some people need extra help to get the same chances.4

Equality Act

This is the Government's law to make sure all people are treated fairly8

Government departments

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- Disabled people being treated as an equal for housing, education, jobs and transport21

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Being involved is not the same as being asked.
Being involved means disabled people playing a bigger part in planning, not just being asked about work done by other people6

Justice system

The justice system is the system people use when something happens to them that is wrong. These are things like being **discriminated** against at work or being a victim of hate crime16

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These are changes an employer or someone providing a service has to make so that disabled people can do something, like getting into a shop to do their shopping or a council or bank sending information in the best way for them to use, like in large print or in easy to read words.8

Right to Control

This is about disabled people making their own decisions about their support instead of other people making decisions for them22

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This service gives help with housing to people wherever they live. This means they can stay in their own home22

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children

This is a list of rights children and young people have. All the countries that support this Convention agree that children and young people should have these rights10

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People or the Convention

This is a list of rights that disabled people have. All the countries that support the Convention agree that disabled people should have these rights. In this booklet we will call this the Convention3

Work Choice

This is support for disabled people to help them learn new skills and find out what it is like at work32

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