

It's time to make disabled people's rights real in Scotland!

Joint Statement calling for the full and direct incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (CRPD) into Scots law.

As organisations and individuals working for equality and human rights for disabled people across all of Scotland's communities, we call on the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament to deliver the full and direct incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (CRPD) into Scots law during the 2021-26 parliamentary term.

We are united in our desire to work with decision makers to make progress. We welcome the work of the National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership, steps to incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Scottish Government's commitment in the 2020/21 Programme for Government to consider CRPD incorporation.

We know that the rights disabled people currently have do not equate to rights in practice. The recent accumulative impacts of Brexit and COVID-19 have brought decades of injustice, exclusion and invisibility into sharp focus.

Full and direct incorporation of the CRPD into Scots law will help ensure that disabled people can enjoy their human rights and that they are enforceable. It will mean disabled people's rights and lived experience steer policy and practice, and that all Scots law and the decisions of courts must be made compatible. It will formalise and strengthen

Scotland's existing commitment to the principles of the CRPD and accelerate and guide the delivery of the work of public bodies towards real equality, both with and for, disabled people.

The recent report¹ by the ALLIANCE and Inclusion Scotland sets out the case for full and direct incorporation and demonstrates its viability. In short, it will avoid the slow and fragmented approach of indirect or partial incorporation, which would further entrench injustices and not deliver the wholesale change that is needed. Only full and direct incorporation of the CRPD — which was written with disabled people specifically to ensure that their rights are equally respected, protected and fulfilled — will create lasting change.

Delay is not an option. The time for action is now.

¹ <https://inclusionScotland.org/incorporation-of-united-nations-convention-on-the-rights-of-people-with-disabilities-crpD-into-scots-law/>; <https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/news/making-rights-real-for-disabled-people-in-scotland/>