

Disability Law Service

advice and legal representation for disabled people

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Introduction

In June 2009 the United Kingdom Government ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and also ratified the optional protocol in August 2009. This means that it will need to report periodically to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also means persons with disabilities can make individual complaints to the Committee. You can find out how to do so online at Web: **www.un.org/disabilities**

Guiding Principles of the Convention

- a. Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons
- b. Non-discrimination

- c. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society
- d. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity
- e. Equality of opportunity
- f. Accessibility
- g. Equality between men and women; **and**
- h. Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

Who qualifies for protection?

Article 1 states that: *'persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others'*.

Examples of Rights

- equality before the law without discrimination
- right to life, liberty and security of the person
- equal recognition before the law and legal capacity
- freedom from torture

- freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse
- right to respect physical and mental integrity
- freedom of movement and nationality
- right to live in the community
- freedom of expression and opinion
- respect for privacy
- respect for home and the family
- right to education
- right to health
- right to work
- right to an adequate standard of living
- right to participate in political and public life; **and**
- right to participate in cultural life

Useful Contacts

**United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons
with Disabilities**

Web: www.un.org/disabilities

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Web: www.equalityhumanrights.com

England

Tel: **0845 604 6610**

Textphone: **0845 604 6620**

Scotland

Tel: **0845 604 5510**

Textphone: **0845 604 5520**

Wales

Tel: **0845 604 8810**

Textphone: **0845 604 8820**

RADAR

12 City Forum

250 City Road

London EC1V 8AF

Tel: **020 7250 3222**

Textphone: **020 7250 4119**

Email: radar@radar.org.uk

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For further advice on these matters please contact:

Disability Law Service

Telephone: **020 7791 9800**

Minicom: **020 7791 9801**

Fax: **020 7791 9802**

Email: **advice@dls.org.uk**

Website: **www.dls.org.uk**

Or write to us at: 39 – 45 Cavell Street, London E1 2BP

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