

# UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD)

THE CRPD IS THE BILL OF RIGHTS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE.

**What is it all about?** The full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all disabled people.



The CRPD requires the state to NOT do certain things. For example, states are not to interfere with a disabled person's right to education and therefore a disabled person cannot be excluded from the general education system on the basis of his or her disability.



The CRPD requires the state to DO certain things. For example, it requires reasonable accommodations to be made to meet the individual's right to education.

## THE UN GIVES GUIDANCE ON CRPD RIGHTS

There is a UN CRPD Committee made up of 18 independent experts. They publish guidance on some the CRPD rights called General Comments. For example:

- [General Comment 5 on the right to independent living](#)
- [General Comment 4 on the right to inclusive education.](#)

These General Comments apply across the world so they are quite broad. **But**, they are also important for understanding how the rights should apply in Scotland. You can see the full list of General Comments [here](#).

## WHO HAS RIGHTS UNDER THE CRPD?

The CRPD takes a **social model of disability**. This is the understanding that disability is something that is created by society. Disabled people face barriers that stop them from taking part in society in the same way as non-disabled people - someone might have a physical or mental impairment, but they are disabled by barriers in society.



The CRPD includes all 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”.

## HOW DOES THE UN HOLD GOVERNMENTS TO ACCOUNT ON RESPECTING THESE RIGHTS?

The UN's CRPD Committee scrutinises the UK's implementing of this treaty. Civil society organisations can provide shadow reports to the Committee to inform these reviews. Then the Committee makes recommendations. Find out more about the CRPD review of the UK [here](#).

The Committee has accused the UK of “grave and systemic violations” of disabled people's rights. You can read more about this [here](#).



## WHAT RIGHTS ARE IN THE CRPD?

The CRPD starts with some big principles such as respect for dignity and difference, non-discrimination, and participation. Then it sets out a number of rights and duties – some of these are found in other human rights treaties such as ICESCR. Others are unique to CRPD.



Find a full list of CRPD rights [here](#).  
Watch a short film about the CRPD [here](#).

## ARE THESE THE ONLY RIGHTS THAT DISABLED PEOPLE HAVE?

Disabled people have all of the rights found across human rights treaties. In fact, many of the CRPD articles closely mirror those found in other treaties such as the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

Governments can't pick and choose which human rights to respect - all of our human rights are interrelated, interconnected and indivisible

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## WHAT ABOUT THE CRPD IN SCOTLAND?

Many disabled people, in Scotland, every day, face violations of their human rights. The Scottish Government has committed to incorporating CRPD into Scots law. A new Human Rights Bill will be introduced by 2024. It is as yet not clear what will be in the Bill.

The Consortium, Disabled People's Organisations and many across civil society are advocating for disabled people's rights to be as strong as possible in the Bill.

There is huge civil society support for the Scottish Human Rights Bill.

Find out more about the Bill [here](#).

Watch a short film by Inclusion Scotland about the Bill [here](#).

