

Inclusion Scotland

Manifesto for Inclusion

SUMMARY

Policy

into

Practice

2007

Written by disabled people

NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US

We, the disabled people of Scotland, call upon all candidates standing for election in Parliamentary and Local elections to commit to realising the demands that are outlined in this document.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 1

‘All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.’

10th December 1948

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Preface

By: Dr Ann Wilson, Convenor

Inclusion Scotland was founded in 2001 as a result of a call from the grassroots of the Disabled People's Movement for a new, national, disability-led organisation that would give disabled people a voice.

The organisation is run by disabled people with policy issues set and tackled by us. We have the experience of disability, so we are best placed to speak on issues of inclusion. The underpinning ethic of our organisation is the recognition of the Social Model of Disability and the Philosophy of Independent Living.

We draw attention to the barriers that affect our everyday lives as disabled people and exclude us from the mainstream of society. We work in partnership with politicians and public and private bodies as well as policy and decision makers to find ways of eliminating these barriers.

The underpinning role of Inclusion Scotland is that of a vehicle to enable communication, consultation and meaningful engagement between disabled people and the policy and decision makers especially now that the Disability Equality Duty applies to all public bodies.

We strive to ensure that issues, which are important to disabled people, are addressed and redressed. We provide active platforms for discussion that promote the inclusion of disabled people.

All our work is guided by the principle of the Social Model of disability and we promote its merits to others. It is fundamental to our movement that we move 'away from a focus on individual impairments...and towards removing barriers, revising social norms, policies, cultures and promoting a supportive and accessible environment' where we can live independent and fulfilling lives.

We have learned a great deal over the years and look forward to continuing to build on the work that we have done. It is our intention to continue to enable the voice of disabled people to be heard by the policy and decision makers at every level of society. We strive to ensure that disabled people can make a real contribution to the improvement of everyday life for everyone in Scotland.

Human Rights

We call for:

- The right to live free from discrimination
- The right to freedom of speech
- The right to shelter and asylum
- The right to family and personal life
- The right to be well
- The right to equal treatment in all public services
- The right to education and learning in a school or college of our choice
- The right to a decent income through work or benefits
- The right to be safe on the streets and in our homes
- The right to live in the community, not in institutions
- The right to respect for our culture, religion and life choices
- The right to have a say in the decisions made about our lives
- The right to equal access to employment
- The right to equal access to information
- The promotion of the rights of disabled children and adults
- The tackling of disability discrimination, racism, sexism, homophobia, age-related and religious discrimination
- Action against prejudice and negative portrayals of mental health system users, asylum seekers and other marginalised groups
- Effective action against hate crime, including harassment and domestic violence against disabled people
- The promotion and recognition of British Sign Language and Alternative and Augmentative Communications Systems (AACCS)
- Opposition to the Mental Capacity Bill and the Mental Health Bills, which threaten the human rights of people with learning difficulties and mental health system users
- The support of the Disabled People's Rights and Freedoms Charter

Independent Living

We call for:

- **The right to live in the community with appropriate support and not in an institution**
- **A Scottish Executive Task Force to establish a right to independent living; to reform the social care budget; to review the options for creating a single, centralised source of funding for independent living**
- **Realistic support for local groups of disabled people**

Independent Living Assessment

We call for:

- **A comprehensive review of the assessment process**
- **A greater emphasis on self-assessment in the existing Community Care Assessment process**
- **An end to charging for independent living support services**
- **An end to policies that penalise disabled people with high support needs and prevents them from working**

Direct Payments

We call for:

- **The ‘Duty of Care’ retained by Social Work to be re-defined as ‘Duty to Empower’**
- **The implementation of Direct Payments to be founded on Independent Living Principles**
- **The Ordinary Resident regulation to be reviewed**
- **A mechanism to be put in place where people can take their support packages with them when they move to live elsewhere**
- **Realistic funding for user led support services**

Advocacy

We call for:

- **All planning partners to develop advocacy services for all people with a mental health disorder to meet the requirements of the Mental Health Care and Treatment (Scotland) Act 2003**
- **More secure funding to place existing and new advocacy organisations on a sounder footing**
- **The development of an advocacy training strategy**

Accessible and Affordable Housing

We call for:

- **Varied and flexible housing across to all tenures**
- **All houses in a development to have ground floors built to ‘Barrier Free’ standards**
- **The immediate implementation of information gathering by local authorities on the numbers of disabled people requiring adapted housing and the amount of such stock available**
- **Local authorities to provide equity loans to disabled people**
- **All local authorities to listen to disabled people when drawing up housing strategies**
- **An end to the removal of adaptations from housing while awaiting a disabled tenant**
- **A review of local authority housing lists**

Accessible & Affordable Transport

We call for:

- **Inclusion of stakeholders in the formulation of Transport Strategies and associated legislation at all levels**
- **Disability Equality Training for all frontline staff in the transport industry**
- **A national network of low floor buses before 2020**
- **Accessible trains and stations by 2020**
- **Proper door-to-door transport services for disabled people who need it**
- **A standardised assistance policy for all rail services throughout the United Kingdom**
- **A robust standardised assistance booking system for rail journeys**
- **Consultation with disabled people on accessible taxi legislation and a universal Taxi Card scheme**
- **The current system of integrated transport provision to be overhauled**
- **Better access to air travel for disabled people and their assistance animals**

Inclusive Education

We call for:

- **Increased resources to support mainstream educational opportunities for all disabled children and adults**
- **Balanced information to be given to children, young people and adults on choices available in education and lifelong learning**
- **Disability equality training to be included in the continuing professional development of all educators**
- **Disability equality training to be a core module in schools and every educational establishment**
- **Learning and use of British Sign Language in all schools**
- **Colleges and universities to actively produce and implement their Disability Equality Schemes and action plans under the Disability Equality Duty**
- **Further and Higher education to embrace the principles of inclusive education**

Lifelong Learning

We call for:

- **A recognition of the interdependence of learning with the other rights referred to in this Manifesto such as access to Direct Payments and equality & diversity training for all relevant staff.**
- **Lifelong learning should be funded and delivered through a mixed economy of the public and voluntary sectors to ensure quality, choice and flexible delivery e.g. open learning.**
- **Funding for lifelong learning should be provided on the basis that it is a right and not a privilege.**
- **An independent two year monitoring programme to be funded, involving providers and service users to map the location and nature of lifelong learning provision for disabled people in Scotland.**
- **Learning needs of disabled employees should be acknowledged and respected by the public, private and voluntary sectors.**

Engagement, Involvement & Participation

We call for:

- **Meaningful engagement and involvement, not token gestures.**
- **Where disabled people and their organisations are asked to be involved, we ask that this be from the start. We want to identify and define issues and priorities which wider engagement should address.**
- **Honesty about what can be influenced.**
- **Removal of barriers to participation e.g. transport, access, communication aids, clear accessible information, independent support such as capacity building by organisations led by disabled people. This will involve resources so that disabled people can participate effectively in the full range of civic life.**
- **Organisations to understand the need for internal capacity building so that their staff, structures and budget enable effective engagement with disabled people. That can best be delivered by the broad range of organisations led by disabled people in Scotland.**
- **All public authorities should adopt Communities Scotland's National Standards for Community Engagement**

Employment and Training

We call for

- **A complete overhaul of Access To Work assessment procedures in order to ensure adequate support, fairness and transparency**
- **A coherent strategy to meet the needs of disabled job seekers and employees**
- **Disabled people to receive appropriate support and encouragement from properly trained Disability Employment Advisers**
- **Disabled people to be provided with the support that is needed in order to carry out the profession or work of their choosing**
- **A living wage to be mandatory for all employees**
- **An end to the ‘revolving door’ system of training where there is no actual employment at the end of the scheme**
- **An adequate training allowance provided to unemployed, disabled people**
- **All ‘Access to Work’ staff to receive disability equality training**
- **An improved mechanism for self assessment and reassessment of Access To Work support**

Media Representation

We call for:

- **All politicians, media planners and decision makers and the regulator to work in partnership with disabled people to overcome the obvious discrimination that exists across all strands of the media in this country**

Public Procurement Contracts

We call for:

- **All public bodies to ensure that companies making tenders have, and are implementing, proper Equal Opportunities Policies before granting contracts**
- **All public bodies to take into consideration the social aspects concerning disadvantaged and excluded groups when considering tenders for Public Procurement contracts**

Access to the built environment

We call for:

- **Government, town planners and local authorities to consult with disabled people, and their organisations, when planning the layout of the built environment**
- **Heavy fines for traders and drivers who both litter the pavements with advertising boards and park their vehicles inappropriately**
- **Every local authority to employ a dedicated, suitably trained, full time access officer**

Access to the natural environment & open spaces

We call for:

- **Inclusive access for all to all public spaces**
- **Implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and Land Reform Act (Countryside Access Code) for access requirements by service providers, land managers and land owners**
- **An Access Officer in every area**
- **Improved access and signage to all public open spaces & parks**
- **Improved information on public open spaces & parks**

Access to Information

We call for:

- **Disabled people to have the right to information in appropriate formats**
- **Disability Equality Training for all service providers**

Sexuality and Sexual Health

We call for:

- **Politicians, decision makers and the NHS in Scotland to give greater consideration to the needs of the disabled population.**
- **A better system of information provision on LGBT issues for disabled people**
- **We challenge the assumption that disabled people cannot have fulfilling sex lives.**
- **We defend the right of disabled individuals to enjoy the same freedom of choice and self-expression as other Scottish citizens, whatever their sexual orientation.**
- **Free choice for disabled people with regards to their sexuality as they should not be assumed to be heterosexual.**

Treatment of Disabled People in the NHS

We call for:

- **All frontline staff and students in the National Health Service to receive Disability Equality Training delivered by disabled trainers with personal experience of using NHS services**
- **This Disability Equality Training must also be given to NHS Managers**

Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNAR)

We call for:

- **Disability equality training and understanding of the Social Model to be a core module in training of all medical staff**
- **Increased awareness, and funding, of disabled patient's independent advocacy services.**
- **A proper debate on all DNAR issues.**
- **A government enquiry into the way patient care is handled in the NHS.**
- **An independent regulatory body.**

Stem Cell Research and Genetic Screening

We call for:

- **The proposed new Authority – the Regulatory Authority for Tissues and Embryos (RATE) which will replace the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) to have representatives from the disabled people's movement among its membership.**
- **Any further consultation around the establishment of this new authority to be extended to disabled people.**

Assisted Dying

We Call For:

- **MSPs and MPs to vote against any move to alter the law as it stands at present in relation to assisted dying**
- **Increased funding and resources to support people dying in Scotland**
- **The establishment of dedicated terminal care units, within the NHS, adequately staffed with specialised nurses and associated professionals**
- **Significant increase in the numbers of district nursing staff dedicated to terminal care**

If you have enjoyed reading this summation and would like to have a copy of the Manifesto in its entirety, please do not hesitate to contact:

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