



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# National Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-2030



Department of  
Children, Disability  
and Equality



**This is Easy to Read information.**





# Contents



Introduction to the Strategy

1



Vision, Values and Principles

6



Putting the Strategy together

10



The 5 Pillars

13



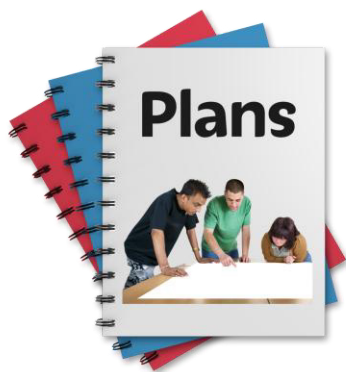
Putting the Strategy into action

22

# What is this information about?



This information is about the National Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People.



A strategy is a plan.  
This plan will run from 2025 to 2030.



The Strategy will help put the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into action.  
The Convention is known as the UNCRPD.



The UNCRPD is an agreement between countries.  
It is about the rights of disabled people to live a good life, the same as everyone else.



# The words used in this Strategy

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a dark shirt, is smiling and holding a large, blank white rectangular board in front of his chest.   | <p>We can support the rights of disabled people by using the right words to talk about disability.</p>   |
|  Two men are standing and facing each other. The man on the left is wearing a black t-shirt and has a speech bubble above him that says "Yes". The man on the right is wearing a white polo shirt and has a speech bubble above him that says "No". | <p>People across the disabled community may like to use different words.</p> <p>It is important to ask people about the words they prefer.</p> |
|  A group of six people, including men and women of various ages, are sitting around a round wooden table. They appear to be in a meeting or discussion. A speech bubble above the group says "Words".  | <p>Disabled Persons' Organisations talked to us about the words in this Strategy.</p>  |
|  A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, is looking thoughtfully at the camera with her hand resting on her chin.   | <p>The words that people prefer may change over time.</p>  |

# Important words in this Strategy



## Disabled Person

We use the words “disabled person” instead of “a person with a disability”.



## Disabled Persons’ Organisations or DPOs

This means organisations run and managed by disabled people.

DPOs are not disability organisations or charities for disabled people.



## Disability or Equality Training

This training supports us to understand that disabled people have rights.

It helps to make sure that disabled people have a say and choice in their services and supports.

# Important words in this Strategy



## Identity

Identity is who you are.

For example, your gender, sexuality, race, religion.

You may be a disabled person, or a member of the Traveller or Roma community.



## Intersectionality

This means that people can have more than one identity.

These different identities can change a person's experiences and the challenges they face.



## Universal Design

This means designing places, things, services, and ways of working to suit everyone.

It should not matter about your age, size, ability, or disability.



# Vision



The vision for the Strategy says what we want for the future:



- We want to make sure that disabled people can take part fully in Irish society.







- Disabled people should have the same chance as others to take part.



- Disabled people have a right to a life without barriers.  
Barriers are things that stop you from doing what you want to do.

# Values

|   |   |
|---|---|
|    | <p>Values are the things that we believe in.</p> <p>The values for this Strategy are:</p>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Equality</b></li> </ul> <p>Disabled people have the right to the same chances in life as everyone else in Ireland.</p>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Participation</b></li> </ul> <p>Disabled people have the right to take part in all areas of life in Ireland.</p> <p>They should help design policies and programmes, and check if they are working.</p>     |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Choice</b></li> </ul> <p>Disabled people have the right to make their own choices and decisions about their lives.</p> <p>They should get good supports and services that meet their needs at all ages.</p> |

# Principles

|   |   |
|---|---|
|    | <p>Principles guide the way we work.</p> <p>The principles for this Strategy are from the UNCRPD:</p>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disabled people are free to make their own choices.</li></ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There will be no discrimination.<br/>Discrimination is when you are treated differently or not fairly because of who you are.</li></ul> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disabled people have the same rights to be part of society as anybody else.</li></ul>   |





- Disabled people should be respected for who they are.



- Everyone should have equal access.


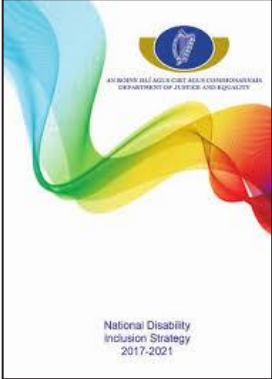




- Everyone should have equal opportunities.  
Your gender identity or expression should not change this.



- Disabled children should be respected for who they are as they grow up.

# Putting the Strategy together

|   |   |
|---|---|
|    | <p>We looked at other equality policies and plans in Ireland.</p>   |
|   | <p>We reviewed the National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 to 2022.</p>   |
|  | <p>There was a consultation with disabled people. A consultation is when you ask people for their views and ideas.</p>  |
|  | <p>People shared their views in focus groups, interviews, and public meetings. They wrote to the Department, sent videos, and answered questions in a survey.</p> |



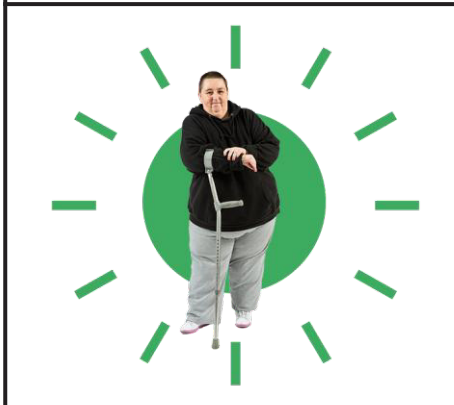
This is what disabled people told us during the consultation:



Disabled people should be able to use the same services and supports as everyone else. Mainstream services should meet the different needs of disabled people.



We need to use Universal Design. It is important to talk with disabled people when planning services and supports.



This will help to give person-centred services and supports that work well for disabled people.





The UNCRPD covers many different rights for disabled people.

This Strategy shows the steps we will take to put all rights in place.



Some rights must be in place straight away, for example, the right to vote.

Others can be put in place over time, such as, the right to take part in your community.



Government departments will work together over the next 5 years.

They will work to achieve the commitments in the Strategy.



A commitment is a promise to do something.

The commitments are organised under 5 areas, called pillars.

# Pillar 1

## Inclusive Learning and Education



### Commitment 1 – Inclusive Education

Inclusive education means that we will have places where everyone can learn together. Disabled children and young people have the right to choose a learning place that meets their needs.



### Commitment 2 – Transitions

Transition is moving from one place to another. It will be easier for disabled children and young people to move from one learning place to another. For example, from school to college to work.



### Commitment 3 – Supporting Inclusion

We will help teachers and other staff working in education to make learning places friendly. These places will support all disabled children and young people.

# Pillar 2

## Employment



### **Commitment 4 – Civil and Public Sector**

We will have more opportunities for disabled people to work in the civil and public sector.

The civil and public sector are departments and organisations paid for by and serving the public.



### **Commitment 5 – Private Sector**

We will support disabled people to get jobs and have good careers in the private sector.

The private sector is the businesses owned and run by individuals or private companies.



### **Commitment 6 – Supporting Disabled People to Work**

We will give the right supports at the right time so disabled people can get work or go back to work.



# Pillar 3

## Independent Living and Taking Part in Society



### Commitment 7 – Individualised Supports

We will give the right supports to each person at the right time.

Disability services will support people to live independently and be part of their communities.



### Commitment 8 – Taking Part in Social and Cultural Life

Disabled people will be able to take part in more social and cultural events.

We will have better access at arts, cultural, and sporting events.



### Commitment 9 – Taking Part in Public and Political Life

We will support disabled people to take part in politics and public meetings.

We will make sure they have an equal chance to be part of elections.

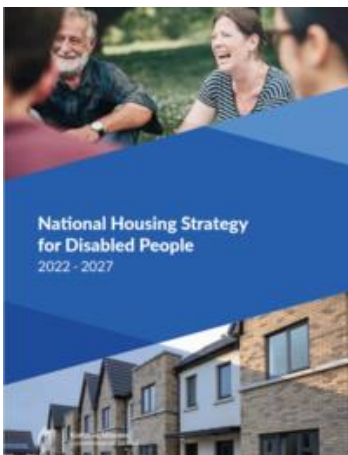
# Pillar 3

## Independent Living and Taking Part in Society



### **Commitment 10 – Disability Services and Supports**

We will have better access to supports so disabled people can live a full life in the community.



### **Commitment 11 – Housing**

We will deliver the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People.  
This Strategy runs from 2022 to 2027.



### **Commitment 12 – Local Authorities**

We will improve our services and have more accessible places.  
This will support disabled people to be part of their communities and live independent lives.

# Pillar 3

## Independent Living and Taking Part in Society



### Commitment 13 – Criminal Justice System

We will make sure that disabled people can get justice like everyone else.

The Criminal Justice System is the Gardaí, courts, and prisons.

We will stop disabled people from going into this system if they do not need to.

We will make it easier for disabled people to access services if they are in prison.

# Pillar 4

## Wellbeing and Health



### Commitment 14 – Accessible Health Services

We will have a health service that is accessible to everyone.

Disabled people will have the same chance to use health services as everyone else.



### Commitment 15 – Safeguarding

We will make sure that disabled people are treated well and with respect.

Disabled people will be supported in places that look after them well and work to stop abuse.



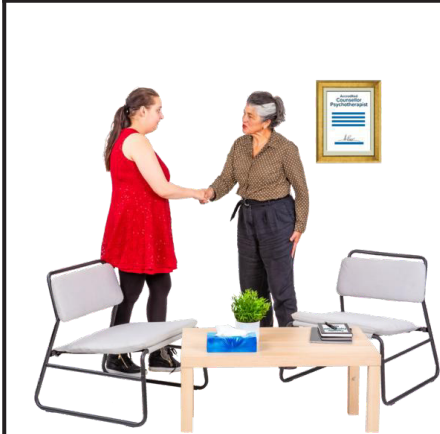
### Commitment 16 – Health Promotion and Wellbeing

We will make sure that disabled people have better health and wellbeing.



# Pillar 4

## Wellbeing and Health



### **Commitment 17 – Youth Mental Health**

We will make sure that disabled children and young people get the mental health support they need.



### **Commitment 18 – Supporting all Disabled Children and their families**

We will have a good quality and equal service. Disabled children and their families will be able to get the right support when they need it.



### **Commitment 19 – Oral Health**

We will make sure that disabled children and adults get better support to look after their mouth and teeth.

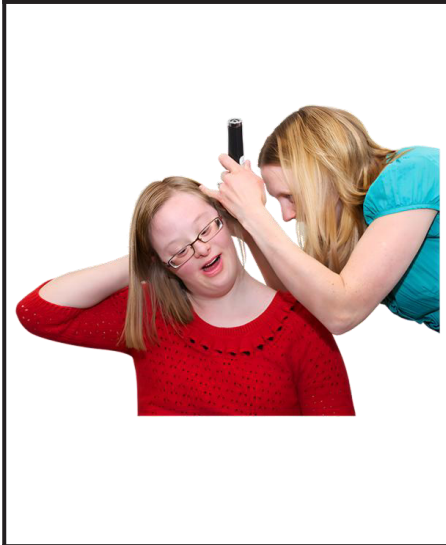
# Pillar 4

## Wellbeing and Health



### **Commitment 20 – Screening Services**

We will tell disabled people about supports to help them use the National Screening Service. For example, BreastCheck or BowelScreen.



### **Commitment 21 – Audiology Services**

Disabled children and adults who have hearing loss will get the right treatments at the right time.

# Pillar 5

## Transport and Mobility



### Commitment 22 - Seamless and Accessible Journeys in Urban and Rural Areas

We will look at the journeys that people do from the start to the end.

We will use Universal Design so everyone can use the public transport system in cities, towns, villages, and in the countryside.



### Commitment 23 – Personal Mobility

We will support people to get to and from public transport.

We will give disabled people better personal mobility choices.

# Putting the Strategy into action



We will have Plans of Action every 2 years.



These Plans will tell us the most important actions for each commitment.



The Plans will say how these actions will be worked on and who will work on them.



The Plans will tell us if there are things we need to focus on in our policies.

For example, more Irish Sign Language Interpreters will be a key focus in the first Plan.



# Building Skills



We will work together across government for better access.

We want to tell people about good ways to use Universal Design.



We will have plans for disability research in the public sector.



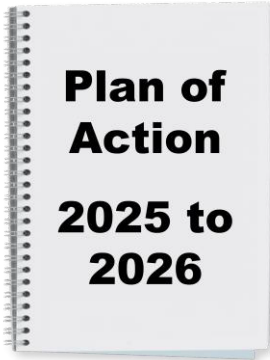

We will set up an Advisory Group on disability research and data.

We will do a National Disability Survey.



We will set up a way for disabled people to have a say and take part in consultations, policies, and plans.

# Strategic Focus Networks

|   |   |
|---|---|
|    | <p>We will bring people together to talk about important issues.</p> <p>These groups will be called Strategic Focus Networks.</p>   |
|   | <p>The Networks will put together policy ideas and think about new actions that should be taken.</p>  |
|  | <p>In the first Plan of Actions 2025-2026, the Strategic Focus Networks will work on:</p>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>More person-centred and accessible technology</b></li></ul> <p>We will think about the technology that disabled people need.</p> |



- **The cost of disability**

All Government Departments will look at ways to deal with poverty and the extra costs faced by disabled people.



- **Intersectionality**

We will look at how different identities cross over with disability.

# Working across Government Departments



We will work together so we can do better.



- We will have better and more accessible communication and information across government.







- We will plan for the workers we need to support disabled people now and in the future.  
This means making sure workers have the right learning and skills.



- Government Departments will tell us how much money they are spending on disability. We want to make sure that money is spent in the best way.



# Checking if the Strategy is working

|   |  |
|---|--|
|    | <p>We designed ways to check if the Strategy is working.</p> <p>We did this with disabled people, and the people and organisations that support them.</p>                  |
|   | <p>The Cabinet Committee on Disability will check that the actions in the Strategy are achieved.</p>   |
|  | <p>The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Disability Matters will also check if the Strategy is working.</p>  |
|  | <p>We will set up a Delivery and Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>People from Disabled Persons' Organisations and other disability organisations will be on the Committee.</p> |



**An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais  
agus Comhionannais**  
Department of Children,  
Disability and Equality

This Easy to Read information is from the Department of Children, Disability. and Equality.

ACE Communication and Experts by Experience helped to put this information together.









Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland