

Breakthrough UK, The Kevin Hyett Suite,
Abraham Moss Centre, Crescent
Road, Crumpsall, Manchester M8 5UF
Tel: 0161 234 3950
E-mail: admin@breakthrough-uk.co.uk
Website: www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk



'May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears'
Nelson Mandela

None of us see ourselves as simply disabled - there are all sorts of aspects to our identities - we are mums, dads, children, partners, workers and carers. That is why, at this defining moment in history, Breakthrough U.K., a disabled persons led organisation, has drawn together some of the key issues facing our wide and varied communities that we would like politicians of all parties to answer to for the upcoming General Election on 8th June 2017. We are not a party political animal - our values are person-centred and our mission is to promote the rights, responsibilities and respect of disabled people. All disabled people.

There are 13 million disabled people in the UK - 21% of the population. We ask all disabled people, their friends, families and allies to register to vote by 22nd May - in person or using a postal vote – and to use their vote towards creating a better society, and to hold candidates to account on that vision.


The government is ourselves - those of us that will vote, and those of us that will not. Make sure your choices reflect your commitment to creating a society you can be

proud of - ask your local candidates to share their vision on these issues.

(If any disabled people are struggling to place their vote or access their local candidates, contact us - we can help).

1. Fairness

United Nations CRPD/C/15/R.2/Rev.1

 **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** Distr.: Restricted
6 October 2016

Original: English
English, French and Spanish only

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities □

Inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland carried out by the Committee under article 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention

Report of the Committee*

E. Systematic violations of the Convention

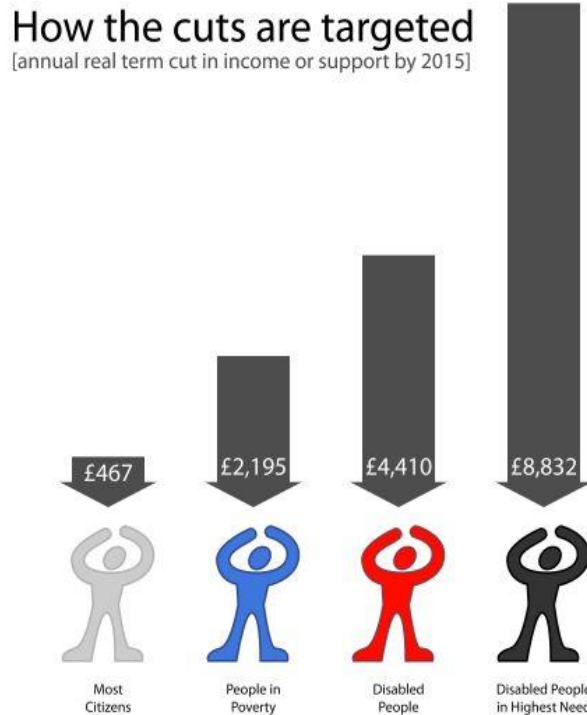
113. Consequently, the Committee considers that there is reliable evidence that the threshold of grave or systematic violations of the rights of persons with disabilities has been met in the State party.

Every citizen of Great Britain deserves to be treated fairly.

Ask your candidate what will they do now and after Brexit to ensure

- there is no reversal and no watering down of our proud tradition of human rights, and
- remain committed to fairness, dignity, respect and independence - regardless of where disabled people are from, what we believe or how we choose to live our lives?

2. Care



(Centre for Welfare Reform)

Women can bear the brunt of the crisis in social care – policies like the 'rape clause' in welfare reform are abhorrent and have no place in a civilized society.

Ask your candidate what they will do to

- ensure a minimal level of well-being and social support for disabled women and men without current means to support their basic needs,
- tackle the increasing poverty and isolation of many disabled people, and
- the wide scale 'warehousing' of disabled people forced into care homes where abuse, torture and

inhumane treatment is allowed to go unrecognised by bureaucratic cover ups?

3. Health

A promotional poster for an NHS England webinar. The poster features a black and white photograph of a smiling woman with her hair tied back, wearing a white lab coat. The text on the poster is as follows:

**Learning Disabilities:
Share and Learn Webinar**

**Stopping over-medication of
People with Learning Disabilities
(STOMPLD) 2016**

**Reducing Inappropriate Psychotropic Drugs
in People with a Learning Disability in
General Practice and Hospitals in 2016**

David Branford
Learning Disability Programme, NHS England

Ben Briggs
Learning Disability Programme, NHS England

Carl Shaw
Learning Disability Advisor, NHS England

26 May 2016

The NHS England logo is in the top right corner.

(NHS Improving Quality)

The UK's National Health Service is one of the best health care systems in the world for health outcomes and value for money, outperforming most other global systems. It is a democratic service offering universal health care to all. It addresses health inequality like no other health service. Disabled people have access to good quality medical treatment according to need, not according to their ability to pay.

Ask your candidate what will they do to reverse the eroding of our NHS, basic health care rights and dignity of all disabled people?

4. Prejudice



Attitudes towards disabled people are hardening and experience of crime remains higher for disabled people than non disabled people. Similarly, over a third of BAME people have witnessed or experienced racial abuse in the seven months following the referendum vote. Anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim sentiment and attacks have been at an all time high. All types of hate crime, harassment and hostility have increased year on year whilst criminal justice and other responses have been all too slow to recognise and respond effectively.

Ask your candidate what will they do to ensure zero tolerance towards all identity based violence and make sure that both the criminal justice system and the law are effective in providing all citizens equal protection from rising tides of prejudice?

5. Education



Inclusive education should be a bedrock of any society. Disablist, racist, homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying has become widespread in schools¹. Xenophobic, anti-Muslim and racist bullying are on the increase. Celebrating different families and tackling all kinds of bullying is crucial to making all children feel welcome, and enabling them to learn and accept others for who they are.

Ask your candidate how they will ensure the conditions for all to learn and develop are present in our educational institutions, tackling disadvantage and discrimination that prevent people reaching their full potential?

¹ For example, see this factsheet from the Anti-Bullying Alliance: <http://bit.ly/2qGrzTs>

6. Access



An inclusive society???

For disabled people, many workplaces and leisure facilities are inaccessible, there is very little choice of where to live and the public spaces through which people need to move can be full of barriers.

Ask your candidate what they will commit to doing to address these unacceptable standards of quality of life and inequality?

7. Citizenship

Children in families including
a disabled person are almost
**twice as likely
to live in poverty**



Department for Work and Pensions, 2014,
Households Below Average Income

#Worktogether

Disabled people are
4 times
more likely to be
out of work than
non-disabled people



Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Tonia Burchardt,
The education and employment of disabled young people

#Worktogether

Ask your candidate how they will ensure that every disabled citizen has equal access to the cornerstones of full citizenship - including a right to life, justice, welfare and employment regardless of wealth or background - and how disadvantage and discrimination and the widening of the gap between rich and poor will be eradicated?

8. Participation



Disabled people, women, BAME and LGBT people are significantly under represented in areas of public life - including but not limited to the media, the judiciary and parliament.

Ask your candidate how would they go about redressing this imbalance in the lifetime of their office?