

WE HAVE RIGHTS!

The work of the Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities

These are some of the ideas behind recommendations made to government by the Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities.

- We are *all* equal people of Ireland.
- Our rights must be protected by the law.
- We have a right to learn, to work and to be part of our country.
- We have a right to give as much as we are able to give.
- We have a right to choose how we live.
- We have a right to choose how we live.
- We have a right to be asked what we think.
- Our parents, and the people who care for us, have a right to be asked.

Changes in the Law

- Seeing our Abilities.
- We are all equal, and we are all different.
- Protecting our Rights.
- Promising us Education, Training, Work and a Home.
- Protecting us from being treated unfairly.

Income

- If we cannot work all the time because of our disability, we should have a Disability Pension.
- Sometimes, it costs more to have a disability. We should have extra pay when it does.
- We should not lose our pay if we can get a job sometimes.
- If someone cares for us everyday at home, that person must be paid too.

Work and Training

- We need workshops – and we need 500 extra jobs in workshops now.
- We need more opportunities to work in shops, offices and factories.
- We need training to help us to learn skills.
- We need training to help us learn about travel, money and how to live.
- People who have jobs to give should not be allowed to forget us.
- If we can work with help and support, we should get that help and support.

Access

- Sometimes we find it impossible to get into offices, shops and factories. That's not our fault – the buildings must be changed.

- People must be taught how to make sure everyone get into buildings.
- We should be welcome in parks, beaches and other places where people go.
- The roads and paths should be made safer for us.
- There should be more traffic lights for us to use.

Health

- We're not sick – but we can get sick just like anyone else, and we must be treated the same as everyone else.
- Sometimes we need extra help at home so that we can live a full life.
- We should not have to pay for things we need everyday for our health.
- Sometimes we have to wait longer than others for service – this must stop.
- We must be asked what we think and what we need.

Education

- We have a right to learn – just like everyone else.
- That means our learning doesn't stop when we are sixteen.
- We have a right to learn *with* others if we can.
- We have special things we need to learn – but these things are not being taught enough.
- Our schools need more money and more equipment.

Housing and accommodation

- We have a right to live just like everyone else – at home when we are young, in a house or a flat when we are able.
- We have a right to live by ourselves, or with our friends, if we want to.
- If we live at home, we have a right to be asked our opinions.
- Sometimes the houses we live in have to be specially built for our needs.

Transport and mobility

- It can be very hard for us to get into airports and railway stations. That has to change.
- Buses and trains and ferries have to change too, so that we can use them more easily.
- If we are travelling on a bus or train, someone travelling with us should have a bus pass too.
- People working on buses and trains, and people working in airports and stations, should understand our need better.

Technology and communications

- Sometimes we need special equipment to help us. If we do, it must be available.

- We should have a free telephone in case we ever need help.
- There are not enough people to help us if we are blind or deaf.

Political Rights

- We have a right to vote, just like everyone else.
- The voting paper must have names and photographs, to help us choose.

Women

- People with disability can be locked out. Women can be locked out. Women with a disability often find it harder than men to be treated with full respect. That has to stop.
- People must be trained to understand this. Politicians especially must understand this.

Relationships

- Our bodies are special, just like everyone else's/
- We have a right to have friends, and to fall in love, just like everyone else.

Arts and Culture

- Painting and drawing and acting helps us to learn.
- We have a right to be welcome in the theatre, or anywhere there are paintings and statues.
- People should be better trained to help us understand and make us welcome.

Media

- There should be more radio and television programmes about us.
- We should be on television more often – and on ordinary programmes too.
- People who write in newspapers should be taught to understand us better.

Sports, Leisure and Recreation

- We have a rights to be more involved in sport.
- The Special Olympics Worlds Games should be brought to Ireland.
- Sport clubs and halls which don't have room for us should not be allowed.
- There should be more books we can read in libraries.
- We have a right to a social life, just like everyone else. The social clubs we go to should get more help.

