

Scottish Disability Equality Forum

Leading Disability Equality in Scotland

Independent Living and The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

What is independent living?

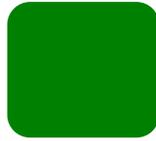
Independent living means you can have the same freedom, choice, dignity and control as other people at home, at work and in the community. It means a right to the practical help you need to take part in your community and to live an ordinary life. Independent living does not have to mean living by yourself or looking after yourself.

Independent living in Scotland

The Scottish Government wants to make sure everyone can take part in the community and live an ordinary life.

Scottish Government's headline policy for disability equality is our Shared Vision for Independent Living for all disabled people. Independent Living was identified by disabled people's organisations as the overarching priority for disability equality.

Today, SDEF is involved across a wide range of work, ensuring that the many voices of disabled people are heard and heeded on a local and national level. We work to bring real change to the lives of disabled people, to inspire and to motivate others to be inclusive and informed in their attitude towards disabled people, and to bring the message of equality to all.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (UNCRPD)

The UNCRPD or “the Convention” is an important international standard of rights and treatment of disabled people. Disabled people helped develop the Convention. The Convention was developed by the United Nations (UN). The UN is a way for many countries in the world to work together.

General principles

The principles (main beliefs) of this Convention are:

- Respect for everyone’s inherent dignity, freedom to make their own choices and independence
- Non-discrimination (treating everyone fairly)
- Full participation and inclusion in society (being included in your community)
- Respect for differences and accepting people with disabilities as part of human diversity
- Equal opportunity
- Accessibility (having access to transportation, places and information, and not being refused access because you have a disability)
- Equality between men and women (having the same opportunities whether you are a girl or a boy)
- Respect for the evolving capacity of children with disabilities and their rights to preserve their identity (being respected for your abilities and proud of who you are)