

# Vote to #MakeItReal

**“ We call on candidates for Election 2020 to prioritise the Disability Strategy and #MakeItReal for everyone affected by disability ”**



**In August 2020, States members unanimously voted in favour of the proposals for the Discrimination Legislation**

In the next term we are looking for action on ensuring the legislation is drafted and enacted by 2022. We want policies progressing to remove barriers for people with disabilities taking an active part in island life. Realisation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) and extension to Guernsey is reliant on this legislation being enacted.

## Islanders with disabilities face barriers

### We want to:

- work and pay taxes
- buy from local shops
- access local services
- take part in activities
- participate in events
- be free from discrimination
- have our rights respected

### But we can't because:

For many of us, barriers stand in our way. Other people's attitudes and assumptions. Lack of support and services. Difficulties navigating the system.

Guernsey has a limited population that is ageing fast. To face the future with confidence, it's vital that every single person in our community has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

## Disability isn't just wheelchairs and white sticks

Disability can result from any condition. Think about the people in your extended family. Does anyone have difficulty communicating? Or have a mental health condition? Or autism? Or dementia? Or have lung disease? Or have had a stroke?

Think too about the things that make life harder for them. Attitude and prejudice. The way that services, buildings, transport and information systems are designed.

These are things that the States has a responsibility to change.

## Disability affects every family in Guernsey



- There are **13,000** people with a physical or mental health condition in Guernsey.
- **4,000** of these 13,000 islanders experience significant difficulties in day to day life as a result of their impairment.
- More than **2,000** islanders provide care and support for a family member or friend.

# Our island lags behind the rest of the world



**99%**

99% of people live in countries that have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**1%**

Guernsey is in the remaining 1%, alongside Kosovo.

## How you can #MakeItReal in 2020 - 2025

### The realisation of CRPD and extension of the UN Convention to Guernsey

#### **1. Make sure disability projects are prioritised.**

Overall, the Disability and Inclusion Strategy is about changing how Guernsey thinks about disability.

Within it are specific projects, such as:

**a. Introducing disability discrimination legislation** - with the States leading by example and providing support to ensure everyone understands it.

**b. Creating an Equality Body** - to promote positive attitudes and protect the rights of all groups at risk of discrimination.

**c. Extending the UN Convention** on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Guernsey.

**d. Developing an accessible Information Service** to assist disabled islanders and carers to navigate the system. Plus run government awareness campaigns.

**2. Establish true leadership.** Push for stronger leadership in all areas and committees but especially from P&R. Ask for evidence of progress? Are attitudes changing? Are more disabled people in employment?

**3. Improve services that are important to disabled islanders and carers** - Hold your colleagues to account for delivering long-term strategies like 'Supported Living and Ageing Well', Capacity legislation, Education Law and Health's Partnership of Purpose. But also look for practical changes that can improve people's day-to-day lives now.

**4. Talk to people with disabilities, their families and the people who support them.** Be informed. Take advantage of diversity training for new deputies. Think about people with disabilities in all the decisions you are making.



## About the Guernsey Disability Alliance

Our mission is equality of opportunity for islanders with disabilities and carers in Guernsey. We want to change how Guernsey thinks about disability.

### **Our strategies, which are consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, are:**

- 1. To foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and carers, by influencing policy and practical change**
- 2. To be a collective voice for change, representing the overall views of persons with disabilities, disability organisations and carers.**
- 3. To empower members to speak for themselves, whether as individuals or as groups**

Go to [www.disabilityalliance.org.gg](http://www.disabilityalliance.org.gg) to find out more.

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