



Comisiwn  
Cydraddoldeb a  
Hawliau Dynol

Equality and  
Human Rights  
Commission

Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair  
Equality and Social Justice Committee

Thursday 17 August 2023

Dear Jenny,

**Subject: UKIM Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Today the UK Independent Mechanism (UKIM)<sup>1</sup> – a group made up of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC), the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) - published [a report assessing the rights of disabled people across the UK](#). This report was submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Committee) in July, as part of the review of its inquiry into the UK, taking place this month.

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Bydd y Comisiwn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg.

The Commission welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English.

**Ff/T:** 029 2044 7710

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The UN's inquiry, published in 2016, found 'grave and systemic' violations of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and made 11 recommendations for improvement. Specifically, the Committee examined the impacts of welfare reforms since 2010 on the rights of disabled people to independent living; work and employment; and standard of living and social protection.

By ratifying the CRPD, the UK is bound by international law to respect, protect and fulfil the rights it contains. Responsibility for implementing UN human rights treaties lies with both the UK-wide and devolved institutions.

UKIM's report assesses progress against the 11 inquiry recommendations and analyses government action and context related to disability rights since 2016. UKIM's assessments show that, despite some progress in certain areas, there has been limited or no progress against many recommendations. One area highlighted is the lack of progress to embed cumulative impact assessments into budgetary decision making.

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The UKIM report highlights some progress made the Welsh Government's approach to co-production with disabled people in forming the Disability Rights Taskforce.

The forthcoming review will provide an opportunity to work to improve the lives of disabled people across the UK. We would be happy to discuss these issues, and our report, with you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

**Rev Ruth Coombs**

**Head of Wales**

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