

GENDER MATTERS IN DISABILITY

Easy Read Version



Rights

Women's issues are sometimes forgotten about by disabled people's organisations.

Disability issues are sometimes forgotten about by women's organisations.



How do disabled women get their issues raised?

Engender and Inclusion Scotland have been working with other partners to raise the issues that matter to disabled women.



We asked disabled women in Scotland about the issues that matter to them.

And we asked disabled women what they think should be done.

What research tells us



Research tells us that disabled women experience many problems in their lives. Here are some of them.



People have wrong ideas about what disabled people are like and what they can do.

Disabled women find it hard to get work



and often don't have enough money to live on



Disabled women find it hard to get their rights to contraception or sex education



and to be parents



Disabled women do not get their rights to justice



Disabled women are twice as likely to experience violence than women who are not disabled.



We asked disabled women about the problems they were having. We wanted to see if they were having the same problems as the research said.

Disabled women were having these same problems.

They were also having other problems. Some of the main ones were:



Being judged and ignored.

Lacking confidence and always struggling to be heard or respected



Not getting support or the choice to be parents and being scared that their children will be taken away.



At every event we held we heard from women who told us that they wanted support to be parents.

Instead they were being watched.



Disabled women live in fear of having their children taken into care.



Disabled women told us that they had been criticised for becoming pregnant.

They were encouraged to have abortions.



Disabled women told us about cuts to their benefits and services



problems getting the health and education services they needed



lack of accessible transport and feeling isolated



What do disabled women want?

The women we spoke to told us that they wanted people to see disabled women as women



They wanted to be allowed to make choices about reproduction, free from judgement

They want better support with parenting



They wanted more opportunities to meet up with other disabled women



They wanted services that understand and meet the needs of disabled women

and to be able to access the right support when they need it.



What do women's organisations and disabled people's organisations think would help them to support women?

They said that women's organisations and disabled people's organisations should work together more.



Our organisations should share what they know.
Our organisations should find out what services there are for disabled women and what services are missing.

More local services would help.



There should be greater awareness of discrimination and more research into disabled women's experience

What do disabled women want from service providers?



Practical support like taxis



Truly accessible events



Better communication like Easy Read, large print, videos



Greater awareness of needs of disabled women

Disabled women making decisions.



Better sex education

What should happen next?



We should know more about disabled women's experience

Women's organisations and disabled people's organisations should have the opportunity to work together.



Disabled women should have opportunities to get together



Disabled women should know what services exist for them.



Communicate

Events and communications should be accessible



Disabled women should be in decision-making positions



Please contact us if you have any questions or comments.

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**People First
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