



Dear Hammersmith and Fulham resident,

On June 8th, U.K. voters will have a say on who governs the country over the next five years.

The 2017 General Election matters to Disabled people.

Who wins will make a huge difference to our lives.

Since 2010 Government policies have taken away essential support from hundreds of thousands of Disabled people and our families.

[All information from <https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/campaigns-and-policy/act-now/follow-submission-response-uncrpd-inquiry-report-uk-government-response/>]

- The UK is now the first state in the world to be found guilty by the United Nations of “grave and systematic violations” of Disabled people’s rights caused by the impact of the Government’s welfare reform programme.
- Disabled people are less than 20% of the population. But Disabled people, or families with a Disabled member, now make up half of all people in poverty.
- Millions of Disabled people are still routinely denied equal access to goods and services.
- There has been a 31% cut in social care budgets by Local Authorities between 2010-2015 totalling £4.6 billion. The tightening of social care eligibility criteria has removed all support from over 400,000 older and Disabled people between 2010 and 2015.

- Around £600 million & 15,000 mental health beds have been cut from mental health budgets while the numbers of those seeking treatment has more than tripled. Suicides, detentions under the Mental Health Act and unexpected mental health patient deaths have all risen and there is an alarming growth in serious psychological distress being experienced by children and young people while funding for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services has been cut.
- The Government says it spends £50bn on disability benefits. This figure actually includes spending on social care, statutory sick pay, war pensions and carers' allowance. It is misleading to directly compare this figure with what other Governments spend on disability benefits. Just this year alone Government policies have:
 - Taken essential support away from 164,000 disabled people through changes to Personal Independence Payment.
 - Cut Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) by a third for Disabled people in the Work Related Activity Group. This will mostly affect people with autism, learning disabilities and mental health support needs who are not able to find paid jobs.

If you are a disabled person, an older disabled person, or you have a disabled family member, friend, or neighbour, we ask you to consider these specific issues when voting.

For more information, please contact HAF CAC:

- Email: info@hafcac.org.uk
- Twitter: @HFcoalitionvsCu
- Telephone: 020 8960 8888 - extension 21
- Mobile/ SMS 07584 655244

This information sheet was produced by Hammersmith & Fulham Coalition against Cuts (HAF CAC).