



Easy  
Read



# DAMN BORDERS, END BARRIERS!

## The Disability and Migration Justice Conference 2025

What happened at the conference



Disability  
And  
Migration  
Network



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# Easy Read



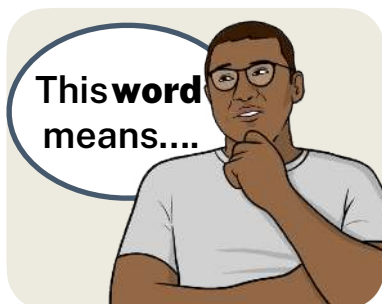
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



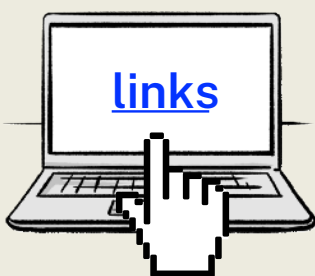
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

# What is in this booklet

About this booklet.....	4
About the conference.....	5
What we talked about.....	7
Workshops.....	12
What should happen now?.....	19



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# About this booklet



This booklet will tell you what happened at this year's Disability and Migration Justice **Conference**



A **conference** is a big meeting where people talk about a topic or issue.



The conference took place in London, on 28 June 2025.

# About the conference



The conference included disabled people, **migrants**, and their supporters.



A **migrant** is a person who moves from one country to live in another country.

The conference was about:



- Learning from each other.

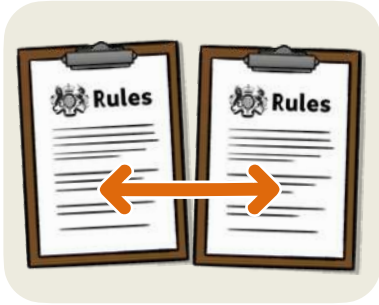


- Working together to make things better for disabled people and migrants.



Sometimes, people think of migrants and disabled people as separate groups.

But many people are both migrants and disabled.



The rules that hurt migrants and the rules that hurt disabled people are linked.



Disabled people are often blamed for not working.



Many migrants and **asylum seekers** are not given support or treated unfairly.



An **asylum seeker** is someone who asks to live in a new country because it is not safe for them to live in their own country.

# What we talked about

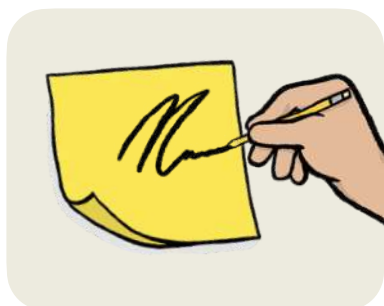
At the start of the conference, we talked about:



- The main problems that migrants and disabled people face.



- The dreams that we have for migrants and disabled people.



We wrote down these problems and dreams for everyone to see.



This helped us understand each other better.

Here are some things about migrants and asylum seekers that we learnt that other may not know about:



- It is hard for asylum seekers to get their basic needs, like housing, healthcare, healthy food, and safety.



- Asylum seekers do not get the same access to healthcare and education services as others.



- Asylum seekers do not get a lot of money to live off.



- Lots of migrants and asylum seekers become ill and are disabled because it is so hard to get their needs met.

# Rules



Then we discussed how rules about disabled people and migrants have changed since World War 2.

These rules have often grown and changed together.



In the 1930s in Germany, there were laws that said some disabled people should be killed.



This is similar to the way some people talk about **assisted dying laws** today.

**Assisted dying laws** are laws that help people with some health conditions choose to die early.



In 1999, there was a law called the **Asylum and Immigration Act**

This law stopped migrants from getting benefits and choosing where to live.



This is similar to some of the laws affecting disabled people today.

## Resistance



**Resistance** means to go against something and not agree with it.



Even though there have always been rules about disabled people and migrants, there has also always been resistance to these rules.

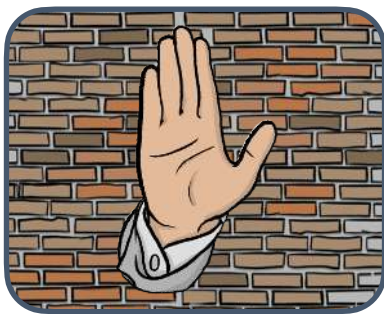


A big part of resistance for disabled people is **the Social Model of Disability**

**The Social Model of Disability** is a way of understanding disability.



It is about focusing on how to change the **barriers** disabled people face.



**Barriers** are things that stop us from doing something.



We can use ways of thinking from the Social Model of Disability to think differently about migrants, too.

# Workshops



There were 4 **workshops** at the conference.

**Workshops** are meetings where people work together to talk about ideas, fix problems and learn new things.

Each workshop included:



- **Short presentations** from different speakers.

A **presentation** is when someone talks and shows information to a group of people.



- Time for talking about the presentation and learning from others.

# 1. Institutional Violence



This workshop was about how some people are not allowed to live in their own homes, and some people face violence where they live.



People are made to stay in places like hotels, hospitals and **detention centres**

A **detention centre** is a place where migrants might have to stay before they find out if they can stay in the UK.



This workshop showed that these people are all being hurt by the same government.

This helped everyone to:



- Think about how to make things better in the future.



- Understand that they have some of the same goals as people from other groups.

## 2. Resisting the Ultimate Consequences of Borders and Barriers

Including research carried out by Healing Justice, Institute of Race Relations and in Calais



This workshop was about how we can work together to stop people dying from the barriers they face.



China Mills talked about people dying because of the way the **welfare system** works.

The **welfare system** is the way that the government supports people who need help to live.



Sophia Siddiqui talked about people dying because of the government's rules about migrants.



Maria Hagen talked about people dying when they cross the border between the UK and France.

The workshop group talked about:



- How to make places better for people to live in.

This included what needs to change now and in the future.



- How borders between countries affect us and what we can do about it.



- The violence that disabled people and migrants face.



- How to see and talk about violence without making it worse.



- Why it is important to think about history and different countries when we talk about problems.

The workshop group also said that:



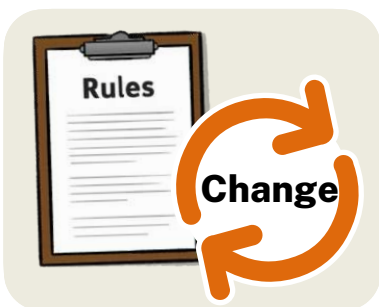
- We should notice and keep records when people die.



- It is important to fight against unfair rules.



- The rules about welfare and immigration are made to hurt and kill people.



These rules need to change.

# 3. Weaponising Work



This workshop was about how we can help people who need money for support but cannot get a job.



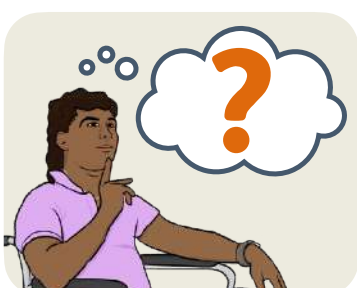
Many asylum seekers want to find paid work, but they are not usually allowed to do this.



Disabled people are often made to find paid work, even though this can be very difficult.



If the government gives less support to people who do not find paid work, more people could die.



We need to think of how to fix all these problems without making things harder for one group.

# 4. Imagining Justice

Facilitated by:  
**Migrants in Culture**



This workshop was about using art to imagine the world we would like to live in.

In the workshop, people used art to imagine things like:



- Having lots of ways of meeting people's needs and making them feel safe.



- Finding ways to make better what was done to people in the past.

# What should happen now?

When we have meetings, we need time and money for:



- **Interpreters**

**Interpreters** are people who can change what someone is saying into a language you understand.

This could either be a spoken language or sign language.



- **Transport and places for people to stay, like hotels.**



- **Places to have the public meetings.**



It would be cheaper to have meetings by video call.

If we have meetings by video call, we still need to



- Pay for different interpreters.



- Make sure that people have a way to use the internet.

In the future, we need to talk more about:



- Work that supports disabled people and migrants around the world.



- How to work together to campaign for our different needs.



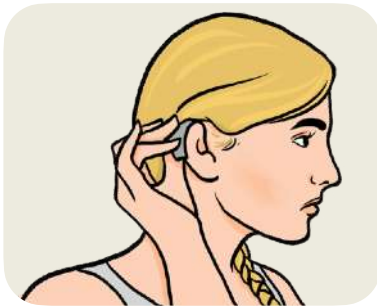
- Planning **protests** with bigger groups who support disabled people or migrants.

**Protests** are when groups of people get together to show that they want something to change.

# Interpreters



Different people use different spoken languages and sign languages.



Many sign language interpreters from other countries are deaf.



So we will need extra interpreters to help deaf and hearing people understand each other.



We must make sure we have enough money to pay for this.

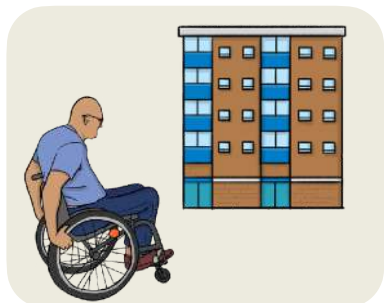


Everyone must speak slowly and clearly.

# Travel and places to stay



When we plan meetings in the future, we should make sure that we book transport and **accessible accommodation** early on.



**Accessible accommodation** is places to stay that are easy for disabled people to use and travel to.

# Meetings in the future



We need to find better ways to meet and speak with each other.



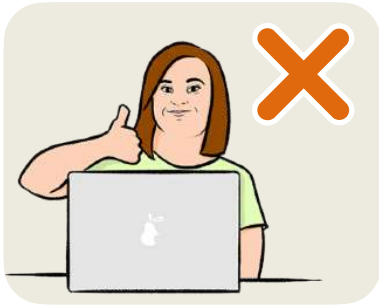
Some people find it is easier to have meetings in person.



But not everyone can do this.



Some people find it easier to have meetings online.



But not everyone has a way to use the internet.



Some people find it easier to have meetings that are in person and online at the same time.



But this can make it harder to meet people.



It is not safe for some people to have photos taken.

# Looking ahead

Going forward, we will carry on:



- Learning from each other.



- Supporting each other.



- Taking part in resistance.



Because everyone deserves to have their needs met and be respected.

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# Resources

On this page is a list of names for organisations that can offer advice and support.

## **Disability and Migration Network (DAMN)**

*disability-migration.org.uk*  
*email: info@disability-migration.org.uk*

## **RAPAR**

*rapar.co.uk*

## **Healing Justice Ldn**

*healingjusticeldn.org*

## **Institute of Race Relations**

*irr.org.uk*

## **Migration Mobilities Bristol**

*migration.bristol.ac.uk*

## **National Survivor User Network**

*nsun.org.uk*

## **Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC)**

*dpac.uk.net*  
*email: mail@DPAC.uk.net*

## **Disability Rights UK**

*disabilityrightsuk.org*

## **Inclusion London**

*inclusionlondon.org.uk*

## **Migrants Organise**

*migrantsorganise.org*

## **Migrants' Rights Network**

*migrantsrights.org.uk*