

Our Lives. Our Rights. Our Futures.



Ayrshire Independent Living Network



This document





This is a **manifesto** from three **Disabled People's Organisations (DPO's)**:

- Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL),
- Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living (GCIL),



And

- Ayrshire Independent Living Network (AiLN).

A **manifesto** is a document that shares a groups big ideas and goals.

It says what they believe in and their plans for change.



Disabled People's Organisations (DPO's) are organisations led by disabled people for disabled people.



This manifesto is for the Scottish Parliament election in May 2026.



An election is when people can vote for someone or a group to represent and make decisions for them.



This **manifesto** includes:

- An introduction
- Our vision
- Our priorities
- A summary

About LCiL, GCIL, and AiLN



LCiL, GCIL, and AiLN are **Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)**.

This means we are led by disabled people for disabled people.



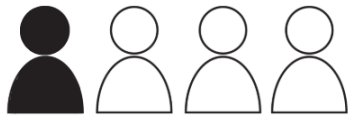
We also believe in the **Independent Living** Movement.

Independent Living means disabled people getting the support they need to live full and happy lives.

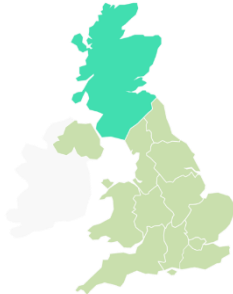
Introduction



Nothing About us, Without Us.



Disabled people make up nearly 1 in every 4 people in Scotland.



We are a big part of the country.



There are still things stopping us living the lives we want to.

Some of these things are:

- Continuous **inequality**,
- Poor government policy,
- Poor local authority practice,

And,

- Continuous **underinvestment**



Inequality means things aren't the same or fair for everyone.

Some people get more opportunities and resources.



Underinvestment means not having enough money spent over a lot of time.



These **barriers** make it harder for disabled people to do well in life.

Barriers are obstacles that stop things getting better.



These **barriers** are not accidents.

They are political choices.



This **manifesto** is a call to action to all political parties and their **candidates**.

A **candidate** is someone who you can vote for to represent you.



We have 7 priorities for the next Scottish Government.



We want the next Scottish parliament to commit to these changes.



This would show that the Scottish parliament care about disabled people being treated fairly.

The next government must include disabled people in decisions about us.



Disabled people are experts in our own lives.

This means decisions made with us are better.

Our Vision: Independent Living for All



Independent Living is not about doing things on your own.

It is about getting the right support for you.

We want disabled people to get the same respect and choices as everyone else.



We want a Scotland where:

- Disabled people are valued as equal.



- Disabled people's **human rights** are protected in law and policy.



Human rights are basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world.



- Support helps disabled people to live how they choose.

Support should help disabled people participate.



- The **lived experiences** of disabled people shape policy and public services.

Lived experience is the knowledge you gain from experiencing something yourself.



- **Inclusion** is designed from the start.

Inclusion means everyone can take part and have the same chances.



Independent Living must be the basis of decisions about disabled people.

Our calls to action – Our Priorities



These are our 7 priorities for the next Scottish Government.



There are policies and actions the Scottish Government must do to act on these priorities.

1. Human rights and participation



We want the Scottish Government to make disabled people's rights part of Scottish Law.

Disabled people must be able to influence and challenge decisions that affect us.

2. Independent Living for All



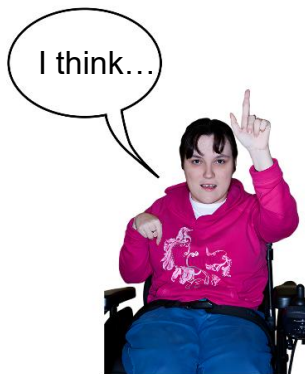
We want Independent Living to be:

- Protected by the law
- Fully funded

And

- Delivered in line with disabled people's **human rights**.

3. Lived Experience and Meaningful Involvement



We want disabled peoples **lived experience** to be seen as an important skill.

We want disabled people to be **meaningfully involved** in decision making.

Being **meaningfully involved** means being included all the way through a process.



Participation must be:

- Fully accessible

And

- Given enough resources.

4. Ending Disability Poverty



We call for an end to disability poverty.

Disabled people are not poor by accident.

Poverty is the result of policy failure.



No disabled people should be forced to choose between basic needs and independence.

5. Accessible Communities

We want accessible:



- Homes,
 - Transport,
- and
- Communities

We want disabled people to be involved in planning for climate change.

6. Fair work and Economic Participation



We want to make it easier for disabled people to move into work.

We want disabled people to have the right support they need when in work.



Disabled people hit barriers at important points in their lives that make it hard to do well.



It should be easier for disabled people to move on from school.

It should be easier to move from children's services to adult services.

7. Investing in Disabled People's Organisations



We want Disabled People's Organisations to be given enough money to do their work.

To summarise



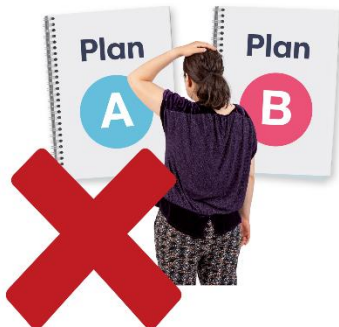
We want everyone to know what we are asking the next Scottish government to do.



Independent Living.

Human Rights.

Equality.



These things are not optional.



They are the basis of a fair and inclusive Scotland.

The next Scottish parliament must act.

More information



If you want more information about this manifesto, you can contact AiLN, GCIL or LCiL through our websites.



Ayrshire Independent
Living Network

AiLN:

<https://www.ailn.org/get-in-touch>



GCIL:

<https://gcil.org.uk/contact/>



LCiL:

<https://www.lothiancil.org.uk/contact/>

Photo credit information

Photosymbols®

Personal Licence 23058516672888

