



DISABLED PEOPLE in the last 100 YEARS

1913
The Mental Deficiency Act required school boards to identify children who were 'defective' and send them to live in institutions.

1914-18
The First World War created 20 million disabled men across Europe.

1920s & 30s
Many disabled war veterans fought for the Right to Work as part of the Unemployed Workers Movement.

1933
The Nazis came to power in Germany and introduced compulsory sterilisation of disabled people.

1939
The Nazi euthanasia programme murdered 240,000 disabled people.

1944
The Disabled Persons (Employment) Act required employers with 20 or more staff to ensure that 3% of employees were registered disabled.

1944
Education Act introduced selection by disability with disabled children sent to 11 types of special school depending on their impairment.

1952
The Spastics Society (now Scope) was set up to campaign for better education and other opportunities for people with cerebral palsy (cp).



1957
Bill Hargreaves, a man with cerebral palsy, started his pioneering work to support over 1,500 disabled people into their first jobs.



1970
The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Act required local authorities to improve services for disabled people.

1972
Alf Morris MP was appointed as Britain's first Minister for Disabled People.

1976
Union of Physically Impaired Against Segregation was set up, the first organisation to argue for a 'social model of disability'.

1978
British Council of Disabled People's Organisations was set up to campaign for disabled people's rights.

1981
The Education Act paved the way for the integration of children with 'special needs' during the United Nations International Year of Disabled People.

1982-95
There were 17 attempts made to introduce comprehensive and enforceable civil rights for disabled people.



1986
A Spastics Society study entitled 'An equal chance for disabled people' revealed widespread discrimination against disabled people in the workplace.

1990
The Americans with Disabilities Act becomes law. It was fully implemented within 10 years and 80% of US employers think it's a good idea.

1991
Disability Living Allowance and Disability Working Allowance were introduced to help pay for the extra costs disabled people incur.

1992
Polls Apart report found that 88% of polling stations were inaccessible to some disabled people.



1994
The Spastics Society changed its name to Scope.

1995
The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) made discrimination against disabled people illegal and was an important step forward in the campaign for full civil rights for all disabled people.

1997
Polls Apart 2 found that 92% of polling stations were inaccessible to some disabled people.

1999
Scope's Left Out campaign to make Britain more accessible to disabled people was launched.



2000
The Speak for Yourself campaign was launched - to highlight the difficulty disabled people had getting communication aids.

2000
Polls Apart 3 found 69% of polling stations remain inaccessible.

2000
The Disability Rights Commission was set up with a majority of disabled commissioners.

2001
Special Educational Needs and Disability Act extended disability discrimination legislation to schools, colleges and universities and gave disabled children many more rights in mainstream education.

2001
Scope launched the Engage Network to increase the representation of disabled people in public and political life.



2004
Nelson Mandela launched Scope's Time to Get Equal campaign, calling for an end to disability.



2005
The Disability Amendment Act introduced a duty on the public sector to promote disability equality.

2005
"This Government is committed to improving the life chances of disabled people."
Tony Blair

2006
The statue of disabled artist Alison Lapper is in Trafalgar Square.

