



**Easy
Read**

Supporting people with disabilities who have been victims of violence

What you can do to help



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.



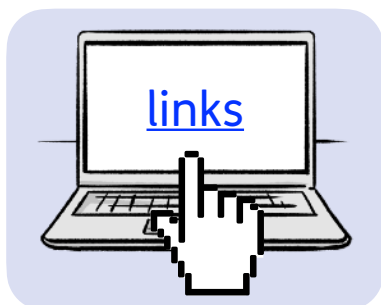
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



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.

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About this booklet



This booklet is from the **Disability Reference Group**.



It explains how **frontline workers** can support people with disabilities who have been **victims** of violence.



A **frontline worker** provides important services to the public, even during an emergency, like war. Frontline workers include doctors and teachers.



A **victim** is someone who is harmed or injured because of violence.

Understanding the problems



Anyone can be a victim of violence, including **people with disabilities**.



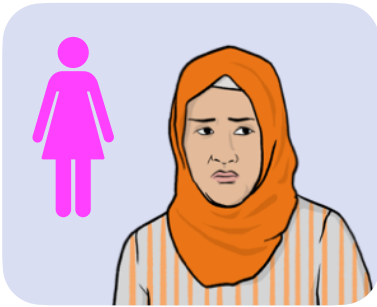
People with disabilities are people who have long-term physical, mental or sensory conditions which may make it harder for them to take part in the world around them.



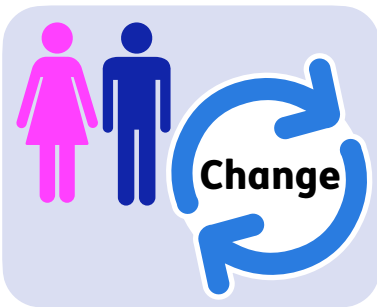
People with disabilities can also be victims of **gender-based violence (GBV)**.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is when someone is harmed because of their gender.

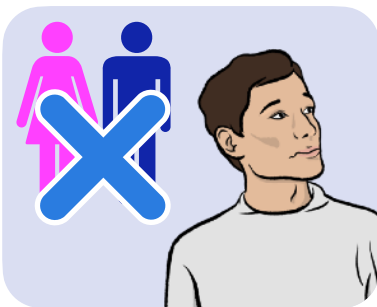
Groups of people who are most likely to be victims of GBV are:



- Women and girls.



- **Transgender** people - these are people who have changed their gender from the gender they were born with.



- **Non-binary** people - these are people who feel they do not have a gender.



Victims with disabilities often find it harder to get support than people who do not have disabilities.

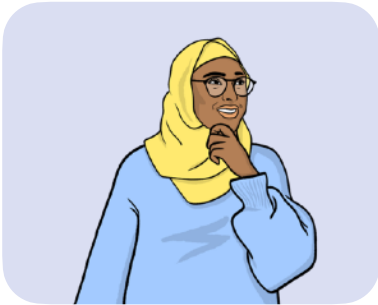


This is often because people with disabilities do not get good information about their rights.



As a frontline worker, you should be able to support people with disabilities who have been victims of violence.

What you should do



When supporting people with disabilities who have been victims of violence, you should think about 4 things:



1. Respect.



2. Safety.



3. Support.



4. **Equality** - this means treating people fairly and making sure they have the same chances in life.

You should also:



- Work with organisations led by people with disabilities (OPDs) when using this booklet.



- Make sure that any services or support you give to people with disabilities meet their needs.

Respect

You should:



- Always ask a person with a disability how they would like to be supported.



- Respect how a person with a disability wants to be supported.



- Work with OPDs to learn about respect.



- Respect that some people with disabilities need more time to make decisions and share their thoughts.

Safety

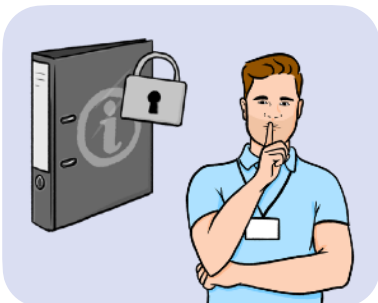
You should:



- Make sure people with disabilities feel safe.



- Offer to speak to people with disabilities without their carer or support person in the room.



You should not share personal information about people with disabilities who have reported violence.

Support

You should:



- Remember that some people with disabilities need support to speak up for themselves.



- Allow people with disabilities to have a carer, support person or family member with them if they are reporting violence.



- Allow people with disabilities to decide which services they need.



- Give people with disabilities the information and time they need to make decisions.



You should also work with OPDs to make sure people with disabilities are getting the right support and services.

If someone with disabilities wants to have a person with them for support when they speak with you, the person should not:



- Tell the person with disabilities what to say.



- Answer questions or make decisions for the person with disabilities.



The support person should always respect the decisions of the person with disabilities they are supporting.

Equality

People with disabilities should be able to:



- Get the same support and information as people who do not have disabilities.



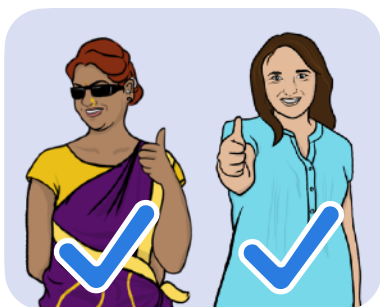
- Make their own decisions.



You can speak up about equality and support it.

What you should say

When speaking to a person with a disability who has been victim of violence, you should:



- Treat the person in the same way that they would treat a person who does not have disabilities.



- Ask the person where they would feel safe talking.

This might be a quieter place or somewhere that the person knows well.



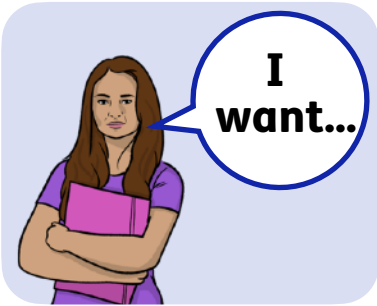
- Ask the person about what support they need to be able to speak and listen.

For example, the person might need a sign language interpreter or communication boards.

You should also:



- Ask the person if they would like a carer or support person with them.



- Allow the person to make their own decisions.



- Give the person information about all support services.



- Offer support to find and use these services, and ask what type of support would be helpful.



- Give the person information in a way that they understand.

What you should not say

When speaking to a person with a disability who has been victim of violence, you should **not**:



- Offer help without asking the person what help they would like first.



- Make decisions for the person.



- Guess facts about the person's life or their needs.

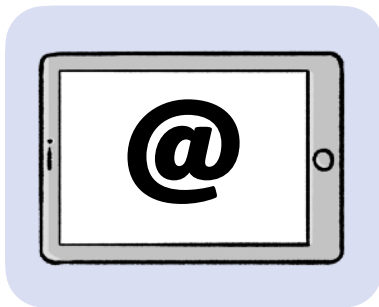


- Ask about the person's type of disability.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:
www.disabilityreferencegroup.org

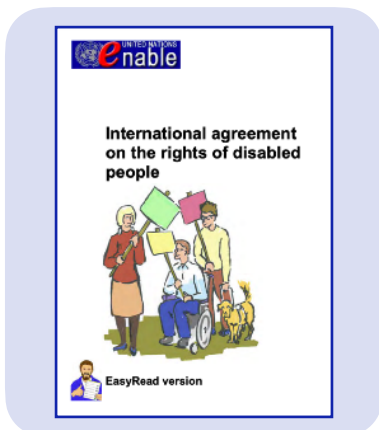


You can also contact us by email:
info@disabilityreferencegroup.org



For more information about supporting people with disabilities, you can look at:

- The Listen Include Respect website:
www.listenincluderespect.com/



- The Easy Read copy of International Agreement on the Rights of Disabled People:
www.assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7d9f62ed915d497af70837/easy-read-un-convention.pdf

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