

Belarus



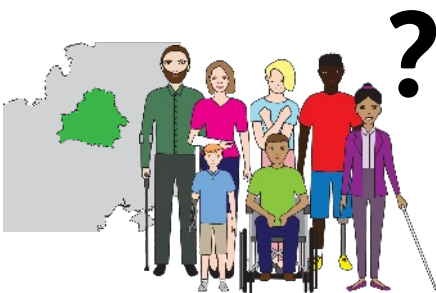
EasyRead version



The **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights** is part of the United Nations. They make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and has their rights respected.



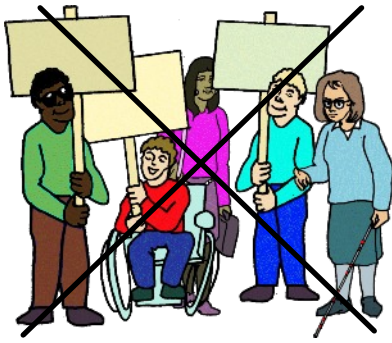
The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights asked an independent person to write this report.



This report is about what happened to people with disabilities in Belarus during COVID-19 up until February 2021.



Life is already hard for many people with disabilities in the world.

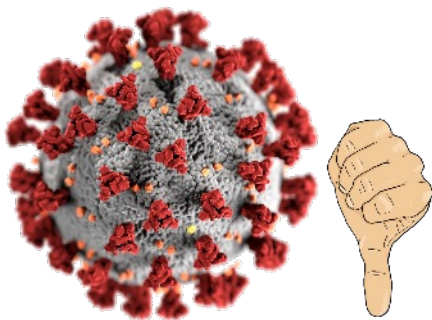


In Belarus:

- the human rights of people with disabilities don't get respected much



- the needs of people with disabilities are not really thought about



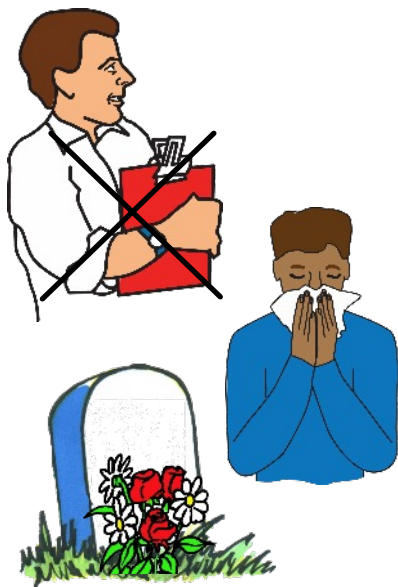
- COVID-19 has made this much worse.

What helped people with disabilities during the COVID-19 emergency?



People with disabilities could keep using their old documents to keep getting support and services.

What happened to people with disabilities during the COVID-19 emergency?



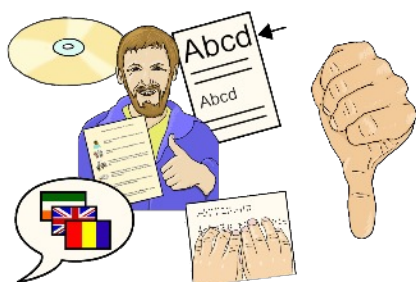
How many people with disabilities had COVID-19

Belarus has not checked how many people with disabilities:

- got sick from COVID-19
- died from COVID-19.

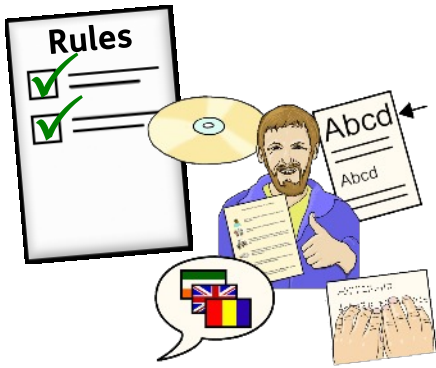


We are worried that the government does not want to check.



Accessible ways to talk to people with disabilities

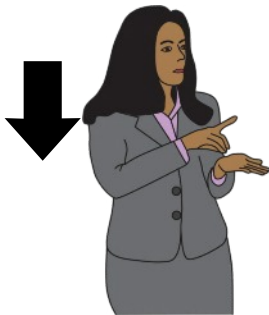
The government has not done a good job with accessible information during the COVID-19 emergency.



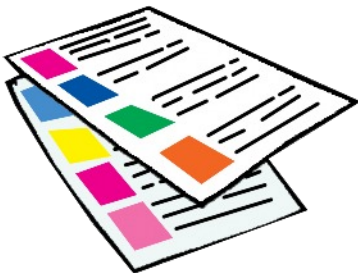
There are only a few rules about accessible information. Most news agencies and other groups did not follow them.



A small number of deaf people got information they needed.



There are not many people who can use sign language in Belarus.



Some OPD's (organisations of persons with disabilities) made accessible information like Easy Reads.



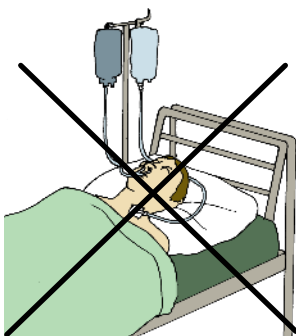
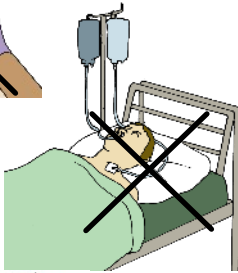
Health care

The Government has not done a good job with helping people with disabilities during the COVID-19 emergency.

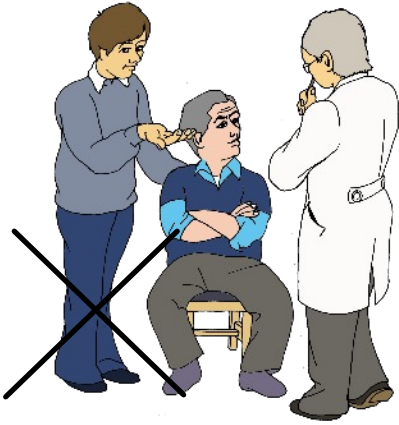


Lots of people with disabilities:

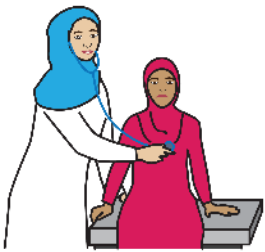
- could not access buildings like hospitals and doctors surgeries
- could not get tested for COVID-19
- could not get treatment for COVID-19
- were treated like their life was not as important as other peoples.



People with psychosocial disabilities did not have access to proper COVID-19 treatment.



Some people with disabilities did not try to get treatment for COVID-19 because they could not bring support people with them.



During the COVID-19 emergency people with disabilities found it hard:

- to get general health care
- to get other treatments
- to use online health checks.

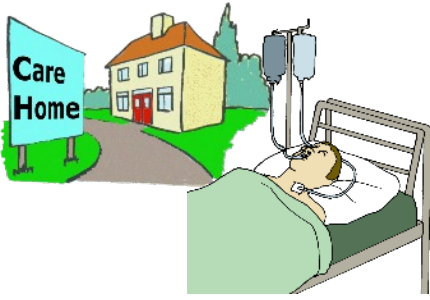


People with disabilities who live in institutions

We are not sure how many people with disabilities in institutions:

- got sick from COVID-19
- died from COVID-19.





Only some people with disabilities who live in institutions went to a hospital for treatment for COVID-19.



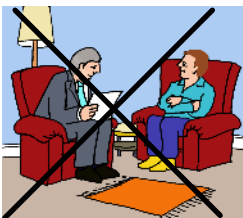
Many people in institutions got sick and some died of COVID-19. We think that institutions might have stopped getting people tested for COVID-19.

During the COVID-19 emergency people with disabilities in institutions:



- were very alone

- could not leave



- could not have visits from other people



- ate alone in their rooms



- did not have people coming to check if they were safe from abuse.

Supports in the community

Some support services:

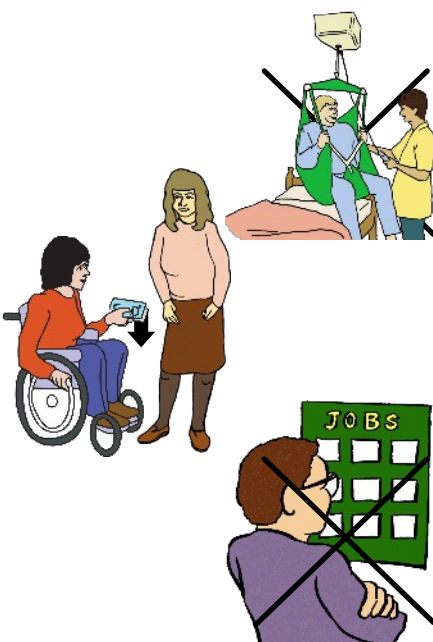


- had to be stopped during the COVID-19 emergency



- sometimes treat people with intellectual disabilities unfairly.

Workers who support people with disabilities:



- are hard to find
- do not get paid much
- are not allowed to work other jobs

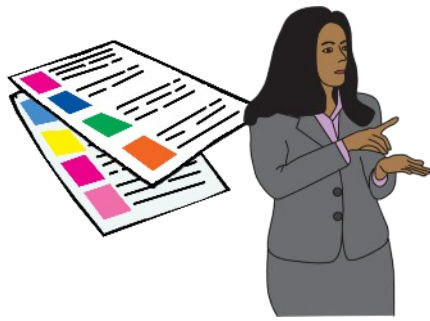


- are not provided for free
- may have stopped work because of COVID-19.

What we think should happen in Belarus

The Government should:

Plan how to keep people with disabilities safe during emergencies like COVID-19:



- give out information about how to stay healthy and safe in accessible ways like Easy Read and sign language.

Provide free COVID-19 testing for people with disabilities.

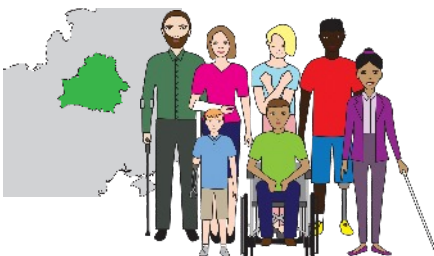


- in the community

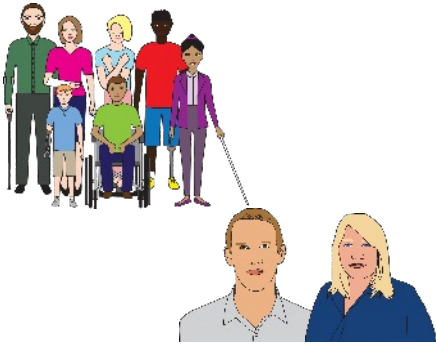


- in institutions.

Collect, keep and share information about how many people with disabilities:



- live in Belarus



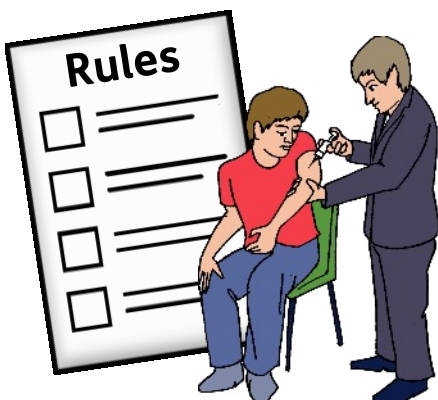
- their type of disability
- are men or women



- their age
- live in institutions.

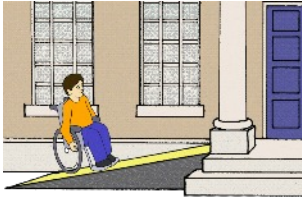


Use the information to make laws and plans that are fair for people with disabilities.



Make it a rule to help people with disabilities get the COVID-19 vaccination quickly:

- in the community
- in institutions



- make sure places to get the vaccine can be physically accessed



- give people with disabilities accessible information about the vaccination



- only give the vaccination after the person with a disability has agreed.

During emergencies like COVID-19 help people with disabilities living in institutions:



- find ways for people to be able to come and go



- have a way to talk to family and friends



- make sure information about how many people with disabilities get COVID-19 is collected, kept and shared.

Living in institutions can be unsafe and have problems. Help people with disabilities:



- move out of institutions
- live in the community with support.



Make plans to help people with disability:

- learn at school
- learn skills for jobs
- get jobs.



After COVID-19:

- make plans to help people with disabilities
- ask people with disabilities and OPDs what should be in the plans
- think about what they say to help make the plans.





Credits

This paper has been designed and produced by the EasyRead service at Inspired Services Publishing Ltd. Ref ISL105 21. April 2021.

www.inspiredservices.org.uk



Artwork includes material from the Inspired EasyRead Collection and cannot be used anywhere else without written permission from Inspired Services.

www.inspired.pics