

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The UK Border Agency has today announced a new consultation, and the Government wants to hear the views of disabled people and of external partners with an interest in these issues, so that it is able to take these views into account in reaching a decision about whether the UK's reservation, in relation to immigration functions, should be retained.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities sets out the duties on those States which have ratified it to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. It is intended to provide a recognised international standard for securing the human rights of disabled people, and States have to report their progress under it at regular intervals.

When the UK ratified the Convention in 2009, it lodged a reservation in relation to immigration functions:

“The United Kingdom reserves the right to apply such legislation, insofar as it relates to the entry into, stay in and departure from the United Kingdom of those who do not have the right under the law of the United Kingdom to enter and remain in the United Kingdom, as it may deem necessary from time to time.”

The previous Government had concluded that such a reservation was necessary to retain the right to apply immigration rules, and to retain the right to introduce wider health screening for applicants entering or seeking to remain in the UK. It agreed to review the reservation 12 months after ratification to assess whether there was a continued need for it in practice.

For further details please go to:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/29-un-convention-disabilities/>

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