



**OTHERING DISABILITY**  
**From pity and blame to strategies**  
**for full participation**

# Living in the shadow of segregation

## Segregation within segregation



Some UK asylums now luxury gated communities (eg Friern), others secure units or prisons



# Worrying trends

**Compulsory psychiatric detentions: 21,897 in 1987-8; 44,093 in 2007-8; 63,622 2015-16. Black men disproportionately affected**

**Some Clinical Commissioning Groups implementing/considering refusing independent living support where residential care is cheaper**

# Also living with impact of disability rights movement



- Imagining an inclusive world. From 'homes' to the pub

- 1995 first civil rights law. 2005 – positive duties on public bodies

- Treating people differently to achieve equal outcomes.

- Inquiries into whole sectors

- Media presence

- DR UK – disabled people leading change, working for equal participation for all



# Financial crash. Austerity policies. Reduced eligibility for benefits and social care

Disability benefits should go to 'really disabled people' not 'anxiety sufferers', says Theresa May's adviser (Independent, February 26 2017)

50,000 have lost Motability cars since Personal Independence Payment came in



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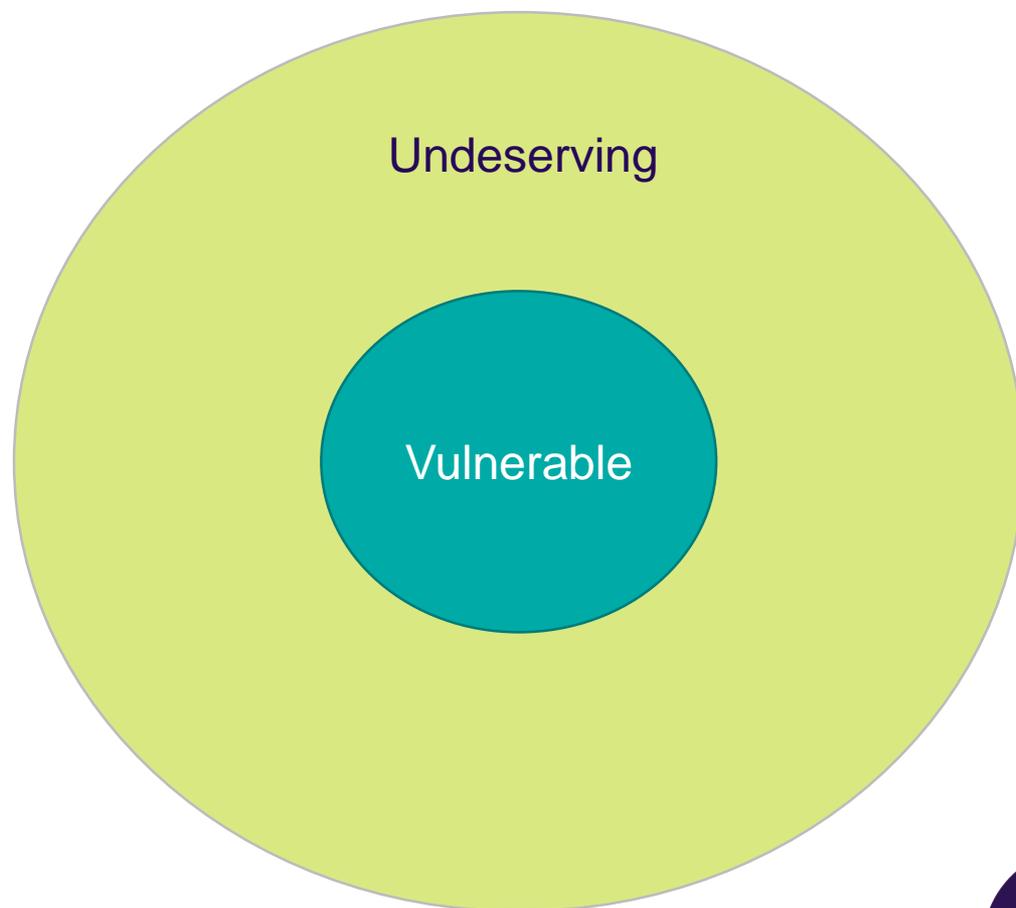
Disabled People Leading Change



# Some media stoke fear that others are getting something they shouldn't



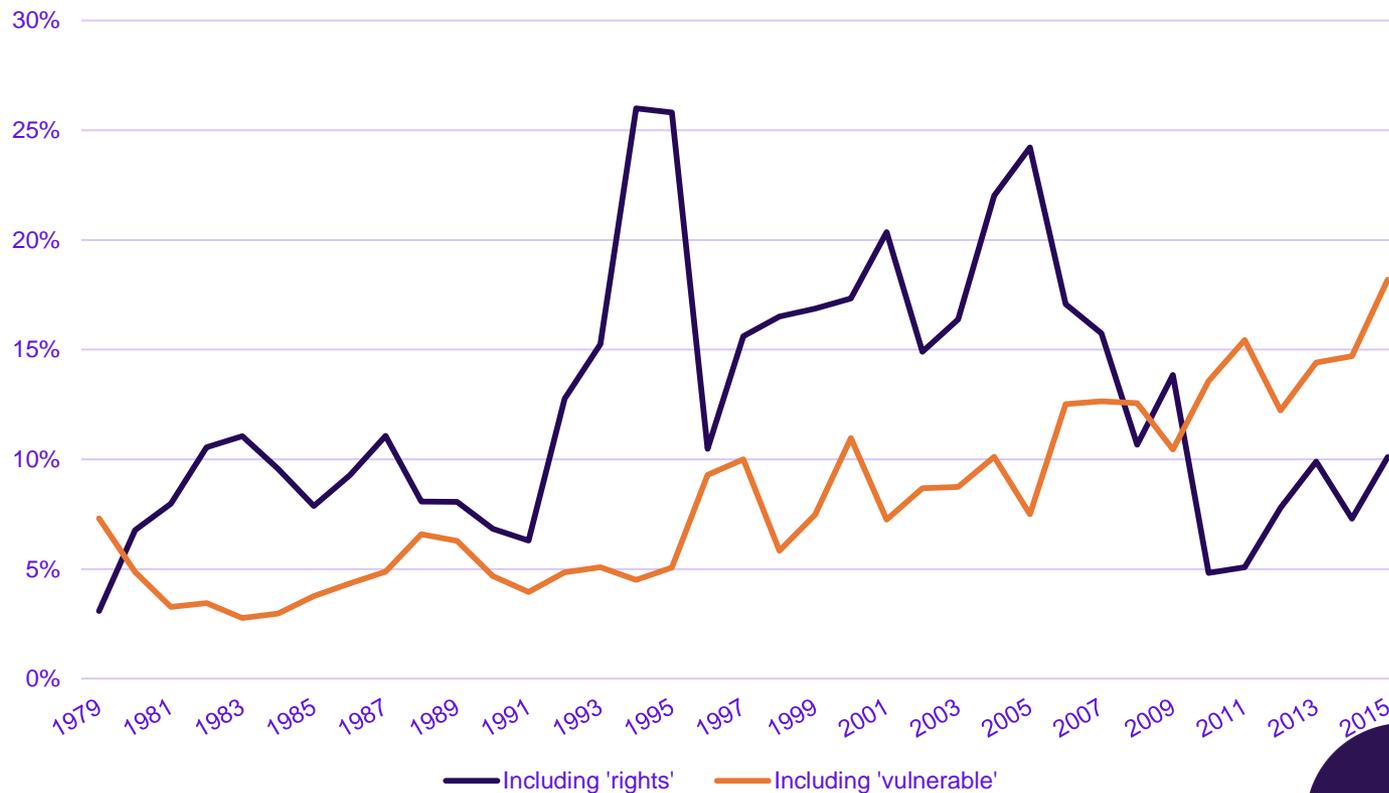
# Redefining who is 'really' disabled



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# Occurrences of the word 'disabled' close to the word 'vulnerable' & 'rights' 1979-2005

Percentage of House of Commons speeches on disability including the word 'rights' and 'vulnerable'



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# Understandably some campaigners try to expand 'vulnerable' circle for eligibility

- **Risk 1: positions disabled people as 'vulnerable'. Support means 'looking after', not enabling participation. Vulnerable or undeserving – what a choice!**
- **Risk 2: can re-inforce discriminatory views eg saying mentally ill people have 'diseases of the brain' makes people more likely to think they are incompetent, dangerous**
- **Need to replace the whole paradigm. Support is investment in independent living & equality for all disabled people**

# UN Convention: united for rights



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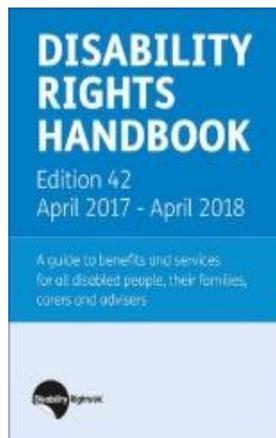


# Rights to education, work, independent living, adequate income....

**A positive vision of full participation**

**New unity amongst activists**

**Disability Rights UK – working with parliamentarians for flexible apprenticeships, employment rights; supporting new leaders; stopped 55% benefit cut to under 25s**



“We want greater powers to be seen, to vote, to be included, have the same opportunities in social life, education and employment as everyone else” (Gary Bourlet)



# Right to participate equally

**Not 'help' for poor 'vulnerable' people**

**Not disabled superheroes – implying everyone should achieve by their own efforts alone**

**Shared humanity, equal life chances, investment in our participation**

**There is no other!**

**[www.disabilityrightsuk.org](http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org)**