Date of the report
July 2015

Why we did this research
We wanted to find out more about how people with learning disabilities are treated in different parts of the world.

Other people's attitudes can make it harder for people with learning disabilities to

- feel included
- have a good life
We asked learning disability experts from around the world to tell us about people with learning disabilities in their countries.

We also looked at the reports that these countries sent to the United Nations (UN).

These reports were about the treatment of people with disabilities in their country and what the country is doing to:

- include people with learning disabilities
- stop discrimination
- raise awareness
In January and March 2015 we did an online survey

The survey was in English and 4 other languages

667 people filled in the survey

- experts / researchers
- parent advocates
- people with learning disabilities
These people were from 88 different countries

Here is a map of the world showing where the 667 people who filled in our survey came from
Summary

Our research has shown us

• how people with learning disabilities are treated in different parts of the world

• what countries are doing to raise awareness

In some countries things are getting better for people with learning disabilities

They have more rights and are included more

They can go to inclusive schools
There is more awareness of disability hate crime

Other countries still do not believe it is possible to include people with learning disabilities in society

They believe there should be special places for them to live, like hospitals

If the children go to school at all, it is to a special school

These countries have no special law about disability hate crime
In a few countries, they have closed all the places, like hospitals, where people with learning disabilities used to live.

In many countries there are still 1000s of people with learning disabilities living in these places.

Some countries do not have care and support for people with learning disabilities.

When their parents die, people with learning disabilities have to manage on their own.

We looked at what was being done in countries to raise awareness about learning disabilities.
We looked at the work being done by

• schools and colleges

• the local community

• the government

Our research shows us that people with learning disabilities from the richer parts of the world like Europe and the USA have a better chance in life

Richer countries are doing more to raise awareness and fight discrimination

There is more learning disability awareness and more inclusion
In many poorer parts of the world very little is being done to raise awareness.

In these countries, people with learning disabilities have no rights and are often treated badly.

Many people said Special Olympics had helped raise awareness in their country.
Recommendations

People with learning disabilities need to be seen and their voices must be heard

We should continue to support inclusive education

We should continue to close down the residential institutions

All countries should have a law against disability hate crime

There needs to be more learning disability awareness

We need to find out what helps change things for the better by having a way of measuring results