

Social security and disability

Conference notes:

1. On 4 August, the DWP was again found to be acting unlawfully.
2. Margaret Greenwood's comments that 'It is outrageous that the Tories are putting the commercial interests of private companies before the well-being of disabled people'.
3. Reports of foodbanks running out of supplies during school holidays and child poverty described as a 'national emergency'.
4. The United Nations previously found the Conservative-led government guilty of 'grave and systemic' human rights abuses of disabled people.
5. Life expectancy has ceased to increase.
6. Since 2010 thousands of disabled people have died within 6 weeks of being assessed as Fit To Work by the DWP and its private contractors.
7. The DWP is described as operating a shadow penal system without the legal protections of the criminal justice system.

Conference believes the cumulative impact of policy since 2010 can be described as Democide – government and associated corporations inflicting harm, up to and including the deprivation of the right to life.

Conference Resolves:

1. To make law the Clapson Rule – That no government department or associated contractor can remove from a person the necessities to remain alive, whether by sanction, disability assessment, eviction, or conditionality of benefits. That the minimum amount a person needs to live on that is quoted in DWP documents becomes properly assessed at a level that supports life and no person be allowed to fall beneath that amount.
2. To restore Legal Aid to people living in poverty.