

Directory of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) in Scotland



**People First
(Scotland)**



SDEF
Scottish Disability
Equality Forum



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1. About this directory

This is a short and easy to use directory, and is designed to help you to get in touch with Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) in Scotland. The information in it is 'top-line' and was taken directly from the websites of the organisations listed – as such it is up to date at the time of development (July 2014).

This directory is not an exhaustive list of DPOs in Scotland, there are many others, however, this list is a helpful starting point and the organisations listed here will be able to signpost you.

A fuller list of DPOs in Scotland can be found at www.inclusionScotland.org and www.sdsinfo.org.uk/search/

2. About DPOs and the organisations in the directory

DPOs

Working closely with disabled people will help you to understand the rights they have, the reality they face, the problems they have, what needs to change to make things better and the impact of decisions and policy on them. When you do this, you are more likely to get results that work well for disabled people and ultimately to improve their outcomes.

DPOs are organisations run by and for disabled people. This means that at least 51% on their boards are disabled people. For more information, please see 'It's our world too' (ILiS 2010).

DPOs represent disabled people and bring the direct lived experience of them, to the table.

The organisations in this directory

All of the organisations in this list are run by disabled people, for disabled people. As well as working in their own field, each of the organisations come together in the Scottish Independent Living Coalition (SILC) to talk about how they will collectively work towards the equality and human rights of disabled people in Scotland. They are ready, willing and able to work with you to help you develop policy and practice and to find solutions to make the rights disabled people have, the reality they face. Some of the organisations work locally and others work nationally. Some of the organisations work with specific impairment groups, and others work across all impairments.

If you are unsure which organisation to contact on any given issue, or your issue cuts across specific policy areas, you may like to contact SILC in the first instance. You can do this via ILiS, who are the secretariat for SILC (details below).

If you become aware of any changes to the details in this directory, please contact ILiS on contact@ilis.co.uk

3. The directory – national organisations*

Who they are: Inclusion Scotland

Inclusion Scotland (IS) is a national network of disabled people's organisations (organisations controlled by disabled people themselves), individual disabled people and social partners who share our aims. We work towards eradicating the barriers – physical, economic, cultural and attitudinal – which prevent disabled people being fully included in Scottish society. We enable meaningful communication and consultation between disabled people in Scotland and policy makers at local & national government level and with bodies such as the NHS.

what they do

- > **National and (some) local policy** on all areas affecting disabled people and their equality and human rights, including; Health & Social Care Integration, Welfare Reform, UNCRPD, Independent Living, Housing, Employment, Transport, Education, etc.
- > **Equalities and parliamentary intern schemes** for disabled people
- > Rights Now project to mitigate the impact of welfare reform on disabled people
- > UNCRPD project – working on a Scottish and UK-wide, DPO-led shadow report
- > **Engagement with and development of local DPOs** including capacity building and supporting disabled people and their organisations to contribute to policy
- > **Information provision** – including via members' and MSPs' briefings, our website, Facebook, weekly E-bulletins and newsletters and an online directory of around 400 disability and equality organisations

Contact details

Phone:

0131 281 0860

Website

www.inclusionscotland.org/index.asp

Facebook

www.facebook.com/InclusionScotland



*these organisations cover the whole of Scotland. This means they engage mostly with national organisations e.g. the Scottish Government, COSLA, the NHS, other national third sector organisations and so on, but they also have local links through their membership organisations

Who they are: Independent Living in Scotland (ILiS)

The Independent Living in Scotland project makes strategic interventions to help improve the equality and human rights of disabled people. We do this by supporting; DPOs to come together in SILC; disabled people contribute to the national Independent Living Programme alongside the Scottish Government, CoSLA and NHS Scotland; DPOs and our allies to find solutions to the barriers disabled people face; DPOs and other key players to work in coproduction. ILiS is part of a wider initiative by the Scottish Government to deliver equality and human rights for disabled people in Scotland.

what they do

- > Partners in the **National Independent Living Programme** alongside the Scottish Government, Scottish Disability Equality Forum, Inclusion Scotland, COSLA and the NHS – with a focus on the UNCRPD
- > **National policy and practise** affecting the equality and human rights of disabled people, through identifying and working towards the solutions on; funding social care in Scotland, housing, Planning, the representation of disabled people in the media and the equal participation of disabled people in Sport and many more
- > **Awareness raising on Independent Living** for disabled people across civil society
- > Advocates for **co-production working**
- > **Secretariat** of SILC

Contact details

Phone:

0141 559 5013

Email

contact@ilis.co.uk

Website

www.ilis.co.uk/home

Facebook

[IndependentLivingInScotland](https://www.facebook.com/IndependentLivingInScotland)

Twitter

[@ilisproject](https://twitter.com/ilisproject)



Who they are: People First (Scotland)

People First is a membership organisation run by and for people with learning disabilities in Scotland. **We want to change 3 things:**

- the way people with learning disabilities see themselves
- the way the world sees and thinks about people with learning disabilities and
- the law and policy as it affects people with learning disabilities

what they do

- > Local and national work to influence policy and practice, including: work on the Keys to Life strategy; forensic and criminal justice services; support for parents with learning disabilities; hate crime and Self Directed Support
- > Collective advocacy and Development of and support for local member led groups
- > International links
- > Training

Contact details

Phone:
0131 478 7707

Website
www.peoplefirstscotland.org



Who they are: The British Deaf Association (BDA)

BDA is a member-led organisation. We focus on achieving equality for Deaf people through community empowerment, membership and campaigning.

what they do

- > Policy and campaigns
- > Advocacy, development and empowerment
- > Children, young people and families
- > Deaf heritage
- > International work

BDA work across Scotland and the UK

Contact details

Phone:
0141 248 5565

Website
www.bda.org.uk



Who they are: Scottish Disability Equality Forum (SDEF)

SDEF is a membership organisation which seeks to promote independent living, removing barriers to inequality for those affected by disability in Scotland.

what they do

- > SDEF are the umbrella body for Access Panels in Scotland. Panels are groups of volunteers who work together to improve physical access and wider social inclusion in their local communities. We offer support and training opportunities to help them operate efficiently, link together as a network and learn from each other's work with many organisations to influence Scottish Government policies
- > Gather the views of disabled people from across Scotland on a variety of issues, including; housing, transport, access, education, human rights and so on
- > Help make sure law makers and other decision takers are aware of the views we receive
- > Communicate through our website, newsletters, meetings, briefings, events, focus groups, emails and letters

Contact details

Phone:

01259 272 064

Website

www.sdef.org.uk/



SDEF

**Scottish Disability
Equality Forum**

Who they are: Self Directed Support Scotland (SDSS)

A national membership organisation for self-directed support organisations, which actively promotes Independent Living by supporting, working with and championing the aims of SDS disabled people's organisations.

what they do

- > A national membership organisation for self-directed support organisations
- > Develop resources, materials and training for our member organisations
- > Deliver presentations to promote SDS and the principles it stands for
- > Work with Scottish Government, local authorities, voluntary sector organisations, NHS health boards, universities and colleges to raise awareness of SDS and independent living
- > Research best practice, identify example of good practice in SDS and report back to member organisations and others

Contact details

Phone:
0131 516 4195

Website
www.sdsscotland.org.uk

Email
info@sdsscotland.org.uk

*SDSS works mainly on Self Directed Support, but also works nationally on broader independent living policy issues related to SDS.



Who they are: Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living (GCIL)

GCIL is run by disabled people for disabled people. We believe that barriers disable people, not impairments. We work to enable disabled people to assert more control over their lives as equal citizens.

what they do

- > Self Directed Support
- > Disability Equality Training
- > Housing
- > Employment
- > Some local and national policy work

Contact details

Phone:
0141 550 4455

Website
www.gcil.org.uk



Who they are: **Voices of Experience (VoX)**

VOX is Scotland's national service user-led mental health organisation. We represent our members' views at the national level to ensure that mental health service design and delivery reflects the needs of individuals with a lived experience of mental illness. We also promote the interests of individuals with a lived experience of mental ill health and support the development of a more constructive and enlightened understanding of mental health issues throughout society as a whole.

what they do

- > Collective advocacy to inform and improve mental health policy, service design and delivery
- > Diversity work on human rights
- > Helping to share good practice
- > Capacity building
- > Improving services through representation
- > Measuring outcomes
- > Undertaking research

Contact details

Phone:
0141 572 1663

Website
www.voxscotland.org.uk

Email
info@voxscotland.org.uk



Who they are: Glasgow Disability Alliance (GDA)

GDA is a membership-led organisation of disabled people and groups in Glasgow. Our mandated mission is to act as the collective, representative voice of disabled people and their groups, promoting equality, rights and social justice. With over 2000 Members, GDA is, by far, the biggest groundswell of disabled members in Scotland, if not the UK.

GDA exists to support and empower disabled people to build skills, knowledge and confidence including understanding and achieving equality, citizenship and human rights. GDA supports disabled people to fulfil potential and have their voices heard, using programmes of individual and collective learning and capacity building. The goal is for disabled people to achieve independent living i.e. to participate fully in their communities & society with the support they require and with choices equal to others.

GDA also acts as a broker between public agencies, Government and disabled people by contributing the voices of disabled people to policy and decision makers as well as those designing and delivering services.

what they do

GDA programmes and activities include:

- > Wide scale community engagement of disabled people using community developments approaches
- > Programmes of learning, development and capacity building for disabled people of all ages and stages:
 - Individually using a range of methods including one to one support and coaching to build skills, knowledge & confidence, develop connections & build social capital, increase resilience and fulfil potential
 - Collectively supporting disabled people to identify strengths, barriers, priorities and develop voices e.g. GDA Drivers for Change Network.
- > Raising Awareness and tackling inequality through collective voices and representation: GDA aims to influence policy development and service reform and believes that for policy and practice to truly change and improve, professionals must be informed and empowered. Voices and experience of disabled people are essential, offering critical insights, analysis and solutions.
- > Providing information and signposting e.g. newsletters, e-bulletins and information about access to services
- > Coproduction with agencies: working together, working differently and being open to new ideas and ways of doing things and showing leadership and innovation such as 'My Choices' project.
- > Specialisms/specialist projects include:
 - Lifelong learning • Citizenship
 - Community development • Self Directed Support • Young disabled people • Older disabled people • Employability • Peer support • Capacity building, social capital and resilience
 - Local and national policy work e.g. Glasgow Independent Living Strategy, Scottish Independent Living Programme, Self Directed Support, Community Empowerment, Community Learning & Development

Contact details

Phone: 0141 556 7103

Website: www.gdaonline.co.uk

Who they are: Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL)

Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL) is a user controlled organisation which supports disabled people, people with long-term conditions and older people, to live independently in their communities.

what they do

- > Any aspect of Self-Directed Support
- > Training for disabled people
- > Training for personal assistants
- > Disability Equality Training for organisations
- > Living and work choices
- > Disability Advice and information service

Contact details

Phone:

0131 475 2350

Website

www.lothiancil.org.uk



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published by ILiS

All information correct at time of publishing - July 2014

Website www.ilis.co.uk

Email contact@ilis.co.uk

Facebook [@independentlivinginscotland](https://www.facebook.com/independentlivinginscotland)

Twitter [@ilisproject](https://twitter.com/ilisproject)