

# Disabled Mothers' Rights Campaign

co-ordinated by WinVisible (women with visible & invisible disabilities)



Our campaign brings disabled mothers together to:

- Defend our rights to have a family and keep our children.
- Stop **cruelty and discrimination** from council social services & the family courts taking our children from us.
- Press **councils to provide support to keep families together**.

The **Care Act** says we should get support with caring for our children. The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** says we have the right to establish a family and be supported.

**Our campaign is for non-mothers too.** Despite wanting to have a family, many disabled women do not go ahead with pregnancy for fear of having our babies taken us.

**The discrimination we are up against.** Research shows:

- Up to **70% of parents with learning disabilities** have our children removed.
- Mothers with invisible or **unrecognised conditions** such as autism, Ehlers-Danlos or ME also suffer disproportionate removal of our children, who may also have the same condition.
- Disabled mothers and disabled expectant mothers are disproportionately investigated by social services. Social services say that children **MAY** suffer “**future harm**” because they will become carers for their mothers. They use this as a reason to take children into care!
- Those of us who are also **mothers of colour and immigrant mothers** are targeted. Disability and ill-health is greater among mothers of colour due to health inequality and discrimination in healthcare.
- **Disabled children** are over-represented in the care system, and are five times more likely to be in a residential home than non-disabled children.

## Get involved, meet other disabled mums. There's lots to do!



**Have your say** on what we want as disabled mothers in different situations, with various needs.

**Share your experiences**, struggles and victories.

Together, we're **speaking out** to change policy and practice.

**We say: Being a disabled mum is not 'harm' to children!**



A daughter says: "My mum is disabled and some people think negatively because of her wheelchair -- that makes me sad. But I feel good because people around here look up to my mum, I'm really proud of her because she makes lots of things happen."

A mum says: "I am a disabled person, wheelchair user and mother of two children. My disability never stops me from being a great mother . . . I've been able to bring up my two beautiful children, I even pushed my children's pram with one hand. The experts are us!"



We are part of Support Not Separation. Come to the **monthly picket of the Central Family Court**, held on the first Wednesday of every month, 12.30pm-1.30pm, 42-49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6NP. Plus Twitter storm and campaigning online.

  
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More info: [winvisibleblog.wordpress.com/disabled-mothers-rights-campaign/](http://winvisibleblog.wordpress.com/disabled-mothers-rights-campaign/)

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