

Time to Act

It's time to Act on the Mental Health Bill

Why are we campaigning

Did you know that according to the Mental Health Act, autism and learning disabilities are considered mental disorders?

This means you can be sectioned just for being autistic or having a learning disability. This is a huge human rights scandal, especially considering the abuse and restrictive practices that too many go on to face in inpatient settings.

Last year the Government published its draft Mental Health Bill proposing to change this. The Bill was a huge step forward in the campaign to stop the scandal of autistic people being wrongly detained and stuck in mental health hospitals. But progress has stalled, and we are running out of time to turn the Bill into law before the next general election.

The bill proposed vital changes to the Mental Health Act, including:

- changing the definition of "mental disorder" in the Mental Health Act meaning autistic people and people with a learning disability who do not have an accompanying mental health condition can't be detained under section 3
- introducing a duty for councils to provide enough of the right community services to prevent autistic people and people with a learning disability from reaching crisis point
- making Care and Treatment Review actions enforceable, helping autistic people and people with a learning disability get discharged from hospitals sooner.

We must tell the Government that it is Time to Act.

How can campaigners get involved?

Together with Mencap we have written an open letter to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, urging the Government to take action and stop the crisis of autistic people and people with a learning disability from being inappropriately detained in mental health hospitals. We will hand the letter in to number 10 Downing Street at the end of October.

We are inviting campaigners to support the campaign by adding their signature to the open letter and sharing it with friends, family and on their social media accounts. As well as this, we invite campaigners to share our social media posts about the campaign and create their own.

Links



Link to the open letter:

<https://act.autism.org.uk/page/133716/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=MHAtk>

National Autistic Society Campaigns twitter: <https://twitter.com/NAScampaigns>

Website page: <https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/campaign/mental-health/time-to-act>

Suggested social copy

Did you know that autism is still defined as a 'mental disorder' under the #MentalHealthAct? This means autistic people can be detained in mental health hospitals just because they're autistic. It's #TimeToAct. Sign the open letter: <https://act.autism.org.uk/page/133716/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=MHAtk>

Mental health hospitals aren't the right place for most autistic people, but under the Mental Health Act, autistic people can be sectioned even if they don't have a mental health condition. Reform can't wait – sign the open letter

<https://act.autism.org.uk/page/133716/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=MHAtk>

#TimeToAct

I've just signed this open letter asking Govt not to shelve vital mental health reforms that would help end the scandal of inappropriate detention of autistic people in mental health hospitals. It's #TimeToAct. Help me put pressure on the Govt

<https://act.autism.org.uk/page/133716/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=MHAtk>