**Restore the Rights of Disabled People**

Scrap the Coronavirus Act Provisions

We the undersigned call on the Government to restore and protect the rights of disabled people, in particular those who rely on social care and education support, by removing the powers from the Coronavirus Act 2020 which diminish these rights. These powers were opposed by disabled people and allies, when they were introduced, have caused confusion and harm when operated and led to reductions in care, support and education for disabled adults and children.

The evidence is clear as to the lethal and disproportionate impact this pandemic has had on disabled people. ONS figures show that disabled people have made up two thirds of all Coronavirus deaths and people with health conditions have been the hardest hit. Seven in ten people with a learning disability reported having their social care cut during the pandemic. With the potential of a second wave, it is imperative that the rights of disabled people are protected, not diminished.

The Coronavirus Act contains provisions allowing local authorities to reduce vital social care duties, weakens support and education for disabled children, and enables the removal of basic legal safeguards relating to mental health.

At a time when people need care, support and education the most, the powers for central and local government to reduce their legal responsibilities to disabled people are wholly unacceptable.

Our lives must be valued equally. Removing our rights causes us disadvantage and discrimination, and puts our mental and physical health and our lives at risk.

As the Coronavirus Act approaches its six-month review, now is the time to recognise the devastating impact the exercise of these powers has had and to restore the legal rights of disabled people.