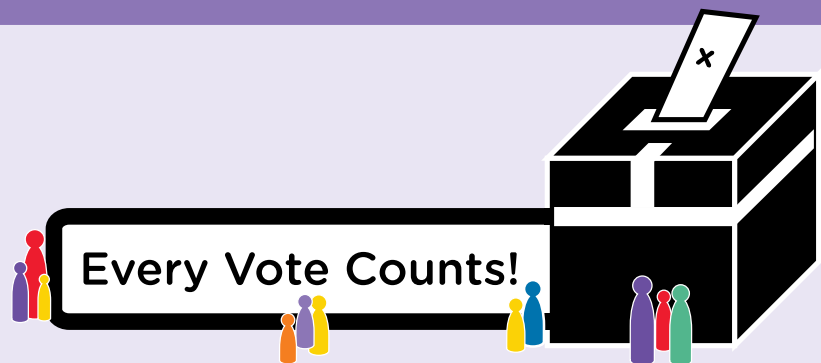
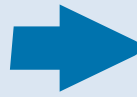




How politics affects your life



How politics affects your life



Politics affects lots of things in **your life**.



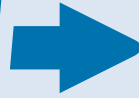
We elect **politicians** who make **decisions** about laws and rules which affect nearly every area of **your life**.



They make **decisions** about **things like** schools, transport, work and benefits.



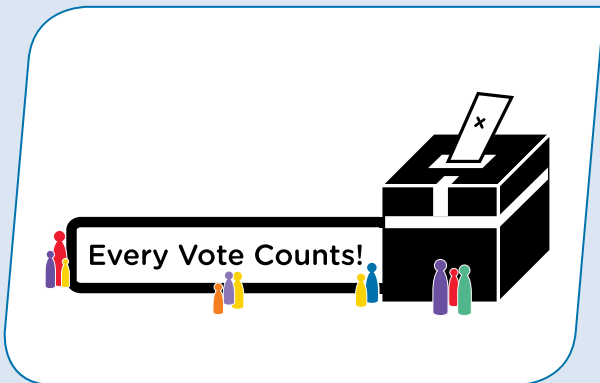
The laws politicians make tell people what they **should** or **should not** do.



Most **laws** are made by **politicians** who are elected to Parliament.



This booklet is one of three **'Every Vote Counts'** booklets.



Every Vote Counts is a campaign to make politics **easier to understand** for everyone.

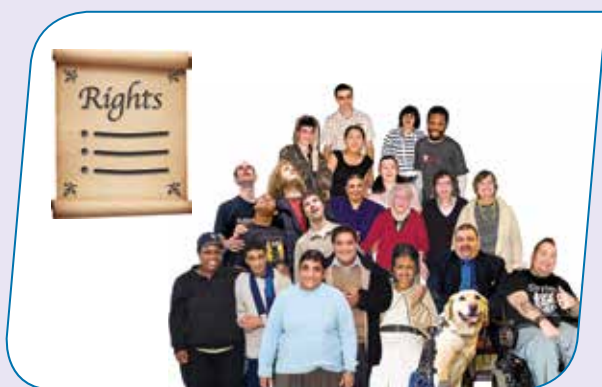


This booklet explains some of the ways that politics **affects your life**.

Your rights



Parliament makes **laws** which give all people **rights**. These are some of the rights which might be **important** to you.



There are laws which say that **disabled people** have the same rights as non-disabled people. You can **complain** if you are not treated in the **same way** as everyone else.



You have the right to be **safe**. There are laws which say you should not be **hurt** or **bullied**.



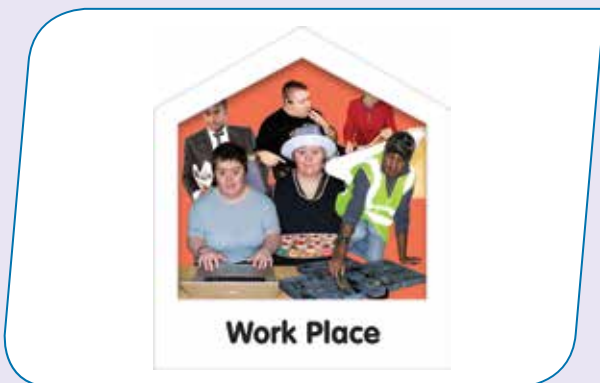
You **should not** have to leave somewhere because of a disability. The law says that **new buildings** should be accessible and **old buildings** should try to be accessible.



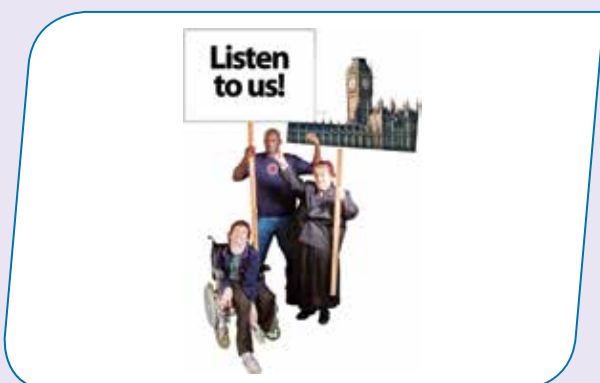
You have the right to be in a **relationship** with the person you **choose**.



For example, the Government have **changed the law** so that people of the same sex can make their **relationships** official if they want to.

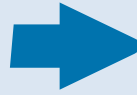
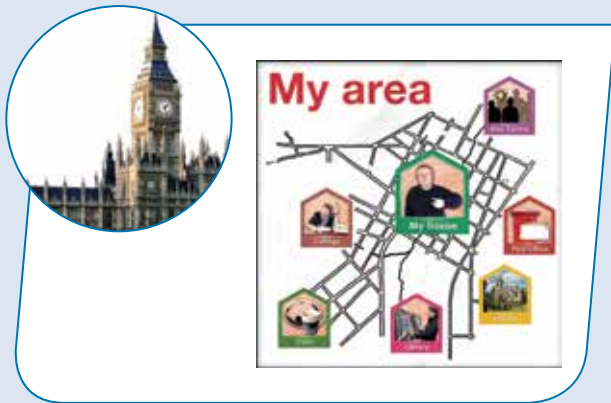


You have **rights** at work. An employer should not treat you **badly** because of your disability.



You have the right to be **listened** to. You can tell politicians about things that **matter to you**.

Where you live



Politics can affect where **you live** and what **your community** is like.



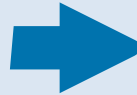
Local politicians are called '**councillors**'. They make **decisions** which affect your local community.



Councillors might decide what kind of **housing** is built in your area, like houses, flats or bungalows.



They also make decisions about how to make your area **safe**. They might choose things like how many **police** officers are in your area.



Politics can affect **what you can do** in your area. Councillors **make decisions** about places like libraries, colleges and day centres.



Councillors can **decide** how much things like council tax, council rent and parking cost. This affects how much it **costs** to live in **your area**.

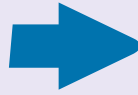


Politics can even affect how **clean** your community is. Bin collections are **decided** by local politicians.



Transport is affected by politics too. Councillors can make decisions about how **accessible** transport is.

Where you go



Politics can also affect the places you can go to.



Politicians **decide** how old you have to be before you can buy **alcohol** in a pub. They also decide how long **pubs** can stay **open**.



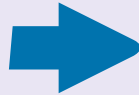
Local councils employ people who **inspect places** that sell food and drink. They **make sure** that the food you buy **is safe** to eat.



Politics affects **your shopping** too. Politicians decide how much **tax you pay** for different things.



Your local council **decides** how late **nightclubs** are able to **stay open**. They **can close** a nightclub if it is **too noisy**.



Your local **leisure centre** is affected by politics. Councillors decide how much it **costs** to go there and what **you can do**.

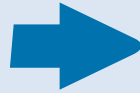


When you go on **holiday** abroad, you need a **passport** from the Government.



If you have serious **problems** on **holiday** you can go to the **consulate** or **embassy** for help. They **are run** by the Government.

What you do



Politics can affect **what you do**.



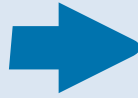
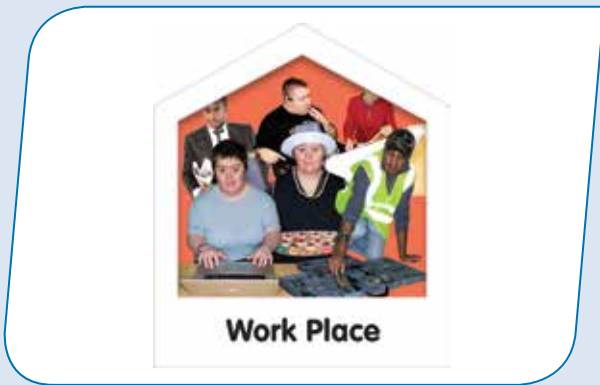
The Government can make sure that **college courses** are **accessible** to everyone. For example, it can make sure that **people get** one-to-one support or documents in braille or easy read.



Local councils can **decide** to give someone a **direct payment** if they need care and support. It means that people can **make decisions** about their own care.



Local councils make decisions about **how much money** is provided for services like day centres.



Politics affects **work** in lots of ways.



Politicians make decisions about **benefits** for people who are **not working**. They also make decisions about the kinds of **extra support** you can get **at work** if you need it.

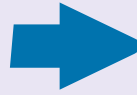


There are laws which say you should be **treated fairly** at work and **not bullied**. There are laws which say you should be paid a **minimum wage** for your work.



If you work or are a volunteer, your employer must **look after you** at work. There are laws about things like health and safety to **protect you** at work.

Health



Politics affects **your health** in lots of ways.



The Government makes lots of decisions about which **medicines** are available through the health service.



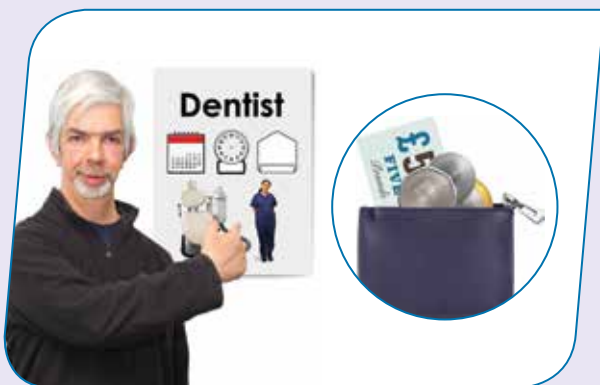
The Government also decides how many **hospitals** there are in England.



The Government **makes decisions** about the numbers of doctors, nurses, dentists and other NHS staff there are.



The Government can influence **how long** you have to wait for a **doctor's** appointment or **hospital** appointment.



The Government also decides which **treatments** are **free** through the health service.

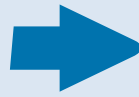


This might be an **operation** or **medication** or getting **physiotherapy**.

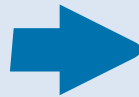


The Government decides how much a **prescription** costs and who has **to pay** for them.

Talking about politics



Politics affects lots of different things **in your life**.



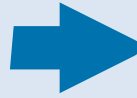
This booklet **tells you** about just a few examples of how it can make a difference to **your life**. There are lots of others.



Talking with other people can help you think about how politics affects **your life**.



You might want to talk about the different things you do each day and how they are affected by politics.



You might want to talk about things you enjoy doing in the local community. How does politics affect these things?



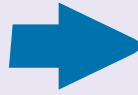
What other issues are important to you? Talking about what is happening in the news and how you feel about it may help you with this.



The accessible news magazine Easy News can help you with this. To find out more go to www.unitedresponse.org.uk/easy-news



You could also talk about the things you want to do in the future. How does politics affect these things?



If you would like to find out more about how politics affects your life, go to www.everyvotecounts.org.uk



There are three booklets in the **Every Vote Counts** series.



If you would like to read the **other booklets**, you can send an email to everyvotecounts@unitedresponse.org.uk

