



COVID-19 AND DISABILITY LAW CLEARINGHOUSE

The needs of people with disabilities in the COVID-19 epidemic have largely been invisible and unaddressed. However, they are in serious and immediate danger, and the indirect effects on their human rights could continue for years to come (see the link to statements of concern below)

Here we aim to contribute to addressing this problem by collecting and creating legal resources for the public and professionals.

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About us

Who we are:

We are a group of UTS law academics and PhD candidates who are committed to legal and human rights and social justice for people with disability.

Our vision:

Provide and facilitate law-based advocacy and research for rights, wellbeing and survival of people with disability while the effects of COVID-19 and society's responses to it are posing threats to them, which supports and amplifies the disability-led work of other organisations and individuals.

Aims:

1. To collate, review, summarise and make accessible existing resources in relation to law and disability, including through an online clearinghouse.
2. Create written factsheets addressing specific areas of legal need.
3. Systemic advocacy in specific areas
4. Law reform analysis and advocacy.
5. Harness the expertise and availability of staff and students to respond to areas of crisis and need as they arise.

If you need help now

Help directories

These sites will help you find organisations, hotlines, webchats and other places you can get more help.

National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC)

Community legal centres offer limited but free legal advice and referrals. Some help all people in one area, and some help people with a specific type of problem. This site, and other community legal centre sites, offer lots and lots of information about the law that is easy to understand.

Ph: 02 9264 9595

Email: info@naclc.org.au

Web: http://www.naclc.org.au/need_legal_help.php

Disability Advocacy Finder

Ph: 02 9264 9595

Email: disabilityadvocacy@dss.gov.au

Web: <https://disabilityadvocacyfinder.dss.gov.au/disability/ndap/contact>

Human Rights Commission: Disability Rights and Advocacy services list

<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights/disability-rights-disability-legal-services>

Get help with COVID-19 (Legal Aid Victoria Directory)

Web: <https://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/find-legal-answers/covid-19-coronavirus/get-help>

Programs and services that assist people with disability in the criminal justice system

<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights/programs-and-services-assist-people-disability-criminal-justice-system>

COVID Policing Australia Coalition

Email: contact@covidpolicing.org.au

Web: <https://covidpolicing.org.au/>

Helplines

Department of Social Services Disability and COVID helpline and links

Ph: 1800 643 787

Web page: <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/information-and-referrals-for-people-with-disability-and-their-supporters-about-coronavirus-covid-19>

Elder Abuse Unit

Ph: (08) 8342 1800

Email: elderabuseunit@unitingcommunities.org

Web page: <https://www.unitingcommunities.org/services/financial-legal-services/elder-abuse-unit/>

Domestic Violence Helpline:

Ph: 1800 737 732

Online Chat: <https://chat.1800respect.org.au/#/welcome>

Website: <https://www.1800respect.org.au/>

Online chat, SMS and mobile phone from IDEAS Victoria

Phone: 1800 029 904 0458 296 602

Website/online chat: <https://www.ideas.org.au/covid-19.html>

Some information hubs

For persons with an intellectual disability:

Intellectual Disability Rights' Service accessible information:

Website: <https://idrs.org.au/covid-19/>

For Women and Girls with a Disability:

Women with Disabilities' Australia's COVID section

<https://oursite.wwda.org.au/life-choices/coronavirus>

For NDIS Users:

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus>

Overview and general

Statements and open letters

26 March 2020, Human Rights Watch, “Protect Rights of People with Disabilities During COVID-19”

Human Rights Watch is one of the world’s top human rights abuse investigation bodies. Essentially, they ask governments to ensure all policies include provisions for people with disabilities. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/26/protect-rights-people-disabilities-during-covid-19>

27 March: Aged Care Royal Commission Statement

Calls attention to the negative effects of isolation and asks for urgent action to address them. They seek “creative” ways to deal with the loss of human contact. They also note that families, friends and visitors provide important extra assistance and care to residents and this is being lost.

<https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/news-and-media/royal-commission-statement-covid-19>

26 March, Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Against People with Disability, “Statement of Concern”

Using evidence gathered by the commission and their knowledge of international human rights the Royal Commission lists the areas where more or less urgent changes from government are needed.

<https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/statement-concern-response-covid-19-pandemic-people-disability>

8 April 2020, “Open letter to the National Cabinet from Seventy Disability Organisations to the National Cabinet”

A cooperative effort by Australian advocacy groups to provide a thorough overview of the problems facing persons with disabilities and what the government needs to do to fix them <https://dpoa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/An-Open-Letter-to-The-National-Cabinet-Final-small.pdf>

15 March 2020, The Centre for Research Excellent in Disability and Health, “An Important Message about People with Disability and the COVID-19 response”

Academics note that there is no targeted response for disabilities and urge quick improvements to the healthcare sector and disability sector to meet the problem.

<https://credh.org.au/news-events/covid-19-and-people-with-disabilities/>

26 March 2020, Human rights watch international, “Protect Rights of People with Disabilities During COVID-19”

Human Rights Watch is one of the world’s top human rights abuse investigation bodies. This is their international call for action on persons with disabilities. Some of the things they talk about are governments communicating important information in ways people with disabilities cannot access, release from institutions and actions to help those who cannot be released stay safe, preserving services for those living in the community, accessible remote education, support for caregivers when services aren’t running.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/26/protect-rights-people-disabilities-during-covid-19>

17 March 2020, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities ‘COVID-19: Who is protecting the people with disabilities?’

Contrasts the heightened financial and physical needs of persons with disabilities and states' responsibilities to them with the fact that around the world people with disabilities have been "left behind" in pandemic responses.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25725&LangID=E>

14 April, Human Rights Watch, "COVID-19 a Human Rights Checklist"

Gives 40 questions which citizens can use to assess the full range of their governments' responses to COVID-19 and how inclusive they are of marginalised groups.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/14/covid-19-human-rights-checklist>

19 March 2020 (and onwards), International Disability Alliance, "Toward a Disability-Inclusive COVID-19 Response: 10 Recommendations"

Recommendations for information, support during quarantine and public restrictions, and consultation among other things. This site also contains a number of other resources on disabilities and COVID-19 such as the importance of social welfare, and letters to and from the United Nations.

<http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/covid-19-and-disability-movement>

19 March 2020, Linda Hindman : "First Nations People are Extremely Vulnerable to the Covid-19 Pandemic"

First People's Disability Network argue that people in remote communities and indigenous people using support workers, as well as Centrelink recipients are all more vulnerable to COVID-19

<https://fpdn.org.au/first-nations-people-are-extremely-vulnerable-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

13 March 2020, Melbourne Disability Institute, "People with Disability and our Covid-19 Response"

Disability experts call for a targeted response for disability and COVID-19 (which did not exist) emphasising 3 areas: health sector, disability support sector and accessible information.

<https://disability.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/people-with-disabilities-absent-in-covid-19-response>

8 April 2020, Women Enabled International, "Statement on Rights at the Intersection of Gender and Disability During Covid-19"

A statement, open for public endorsement, focussing on issues which have a disproportionate effect on women and girls with disabilities as well as gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdgrf14DRGtDam8hkL6spXTxBkAXI5lijAcF58mMWcbAulmzg/viewform>

Reflections and opinions of persons with disabilities

1 April 2020, Claire Capel-Stanley "I feel like a sitting duck: How the Threat of Coronavirus Affects our Most Vulnerable"

A journalist has collected quotes and stories from Australians with a range of disabilities and chronic health conditions about their concerns and difficulties during the pandemic's first wave.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/01/i-feel-like-a-sitting-duck-how-the-threat-of-coronavirus-affects-our-most-vulnerable>

Shorter analyses and factsheets

6 May 2020, University of Western Australia News, “COVID-19: Autistic People and their Families Should not be Left Behind during (or after)the Covid-19 Pandemic”

An overview of the challenges facing persons with autism during covid-19 from health to education, what is and is not being done to address them, and what benefits COVID could have for the future.

<https://www.news.uwa.edu.au/2020050612059/covid-19/covid-19-autistic-people-and-their-families-should-not-be-left-behind-during-?page=2>

29 June 2020, Global News Canada, “People with Disabilities, Autism, Carry a Heavier Pandemic Burden, Advocates Say”

Canadian article discussing some of the issues causing persons with disabilities to be at higher death risk during COVID, using early US Data on the issue.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7119660/coronavirus-disability-autism-deaths/>

1 July 2020, INews “UK Coronavirus Deaths: Two in Three People who Died from COVID-19 Had a Disability ONS Statistics Show”

Using UK data comparing COVID deaths among those with higher and lower limitations on daily activity due to disability.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-deaths-uk-covid-19-ons-statistics-disability-figures-460326>

20 March 2020, Nicolas Perpetch, “The Coronavirus COVID-19 Outbreak Leaves People with Disabilities Among the Most at Risk”

ABC article covers some of the reasons why the pandemic has a disproportionate effect on persons with disabilities from inability to social distance to difficulty accessing items desperately needed.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-20/disability-sector-particularly-at-risk-of-coronavirus-impact/12068090>

18 March 2020, Danielle Adams “How Coronavirus Could Affect the Wellbeing of People with Intellectual Disabilities”

Focussing on mental health and stress, this article looks at the effect of shortages, health inequalities, lockdown, and changes in routine on people with autism and intellectual disabilities.

<https://theconversation.com/how-coronavirus-could-affect-the-wellbeing-of-people-with-intellectual-disabilities-133540>

23 March 2020, Deborah Condon, “Covid-19 and Intellectual Disabilities: Particularly Vulnerable Group”

A summary of issues facing people with intellectual disabilities in COVID-19 including poor health knowledge, social isolation, mental health, an unprepared disability sector, and a biased healthcare sector.

<http://www.irishhealth.com/article.html?id=27072>

9 April 2020, Jane Coaston, “We’re Being Punished Again”: How People with Intellectual Disabilities are Experiencing the Pandemic”

Looks at the systemic flaws that have caused people with disabilities to be vulnerable to outbreaks in group homes, to being denied ventilators, and to being placed under additional stress because their needs are ignored.

<https://www.vox.com/2020/4/6/21200257/disabilities-coronavirus-group-homes-isolation-policy>

7 April 2020, ABC Radionational, “COVID-19 Is Providing Particular Challenges for Australians with A Disability”

Radio program where a representative of a disability peak body discusses a range of issues facing people with disabilities such as shortages, the support needs, avoiding infection, PPE, information, inclusive remote learning, supported employment, and biased healthcare.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/how-the-coronavirus-is-affecting-australians-with-a-disability-o/12119164>

19 March 2020, UN News, “Preventing Discrimination against People with Disabilities in COVID-19 Response”

Based on the view of a WHO officer, and the UN Special Rapporteur, both wheelchair users, this article looks at increased risk of contracting the virus, along with risks of abuse in locked down institutions, financial strains, and general risks associated with being marginalised.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1059762>

20 March 2020, the BMJ, “COVID-19 Control Measures Must be Equitable and Inclusive”

Acknowledges the need to build trust with marginalised people, including people with disabilities, and argues that can only be done through social and economic measures that take their needs into account.

<https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.m1141>

9 April 2020, SBS News, “Government’s Emergency Coronavirus Response for People with a Disability Falls Short, NDIS Providers Say”

Criticism of the inadequacy of responses to sustain the disability sector, after additional funding and a draft plan were announced.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/government-s-emergency-coronavirus-response-for-people-with-a-disability-falls-short-ndis-providers-say>

17 March 2020, SBS News, Parents of Children with Disability Fear the Worst as Coronavirus Cuts Services

Report based on an early survey about the effects of limited immunity, panic buying, service cancellation, and lack of information early in the pandemic.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/parents-of-children-with-disability-fear-the-worst-as-coronavirus-cuts-services>

In-depth research, reports and data

31 March 2020, International Disability and Development Consortium, “Repository of Resources on Disability, Inclusion and Covid-19”

A thorough collection of links with an international or UK/US focus. It includes resources for people with disability and carers, as well as news stories, and political statements.

<https://www.iddconsortium.net/blog/librairie/resources-on-disability-inclusion-and-covid-19/>

19 June 2020, UK Office for National Statistics, “Coronavirus (COVID-19) Related Deaths by Disability Status England and Wales: 2 March to 15 May 2020”

Detailed statistics, including spreadsheets, analysing the effects of disability on risk of death during COVID.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/coronaviruscovid19relateddeathsbydisabilitystatusenglandandwales/2marchto15may2020>

May 2020, United Nations, “Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19”

Covers both the effects on persons with disabilities, and the actions needed to support them
<https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Policy-Brief-A-Disability-Inclusive-Response-to-COVID-19.pdf>

2 July 2020, Oxford Law, “An Affront to Dignity, Inclusion and Equality: Coronavirus and the Impact of Law, Policy, Practice and Access to Services on People with Disabilities in the United Kingdom”

Oxford University report on the serious failings in all areas of the UK governments’ response to COVID when it comes to disabilities, with short summary videos.

Ongoing, Disability Rights International, Covid-19 Disability Rights Monitor

A collection of data from a survey of 135 countries which is currently being analysed to determine how countries managed COVID-19 and disability.
<https://covid-drm.org/>

August 2020, Every Australian Counts, “Left out and Locked Down: The Experiences of People with Disabilities and their Families During COVID-19”

This advocacy group surveyed 721 people with disabilities and families and found the top three categories of responses were feeling “forgotten”, needing “more help” and needing “things to be easier”. Issues covered include services, PPE, costs of living and NDIS.
<https://everyaustraliancounts.com.au/wp-content/uploads/left-out-locked-down-experiences-of-pwd-and-families-during-covid19.pdf>

Relevant news stories

17 March 2020, The Guardian, Australians with Disabilities Missing Out on Essential Services as Covid-19 Crisis Escalates

Report on an early survey of persons with disabilities and their parents regarding cancelling of essential services and medication, lack of information and other problems.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/17/australians-with-disabilities-missing-out-on-essential-services-as-covid-19-crisis-escalates>

9 May 2020, Sydney Morning Herald, “Australia Avoids COVID-19 ‘Missing Death’ Phenomenon, Data Shows”

An early article (which may have some contradictions in later data) suggesting that Australia does not have unaccounted for excess deaths.
<https://www.smh.com.au/national/australia-avoids-covid-19-missing-deaths-phenomenon-data-shows-20200508-p54r75.html>

6 September 2020, Boston Herald “People with Disabilities, Families, Workers Suffer as Congress Adjourns”:

Boston herald opinion piece criticising the delay in the US on multiple issues affecting persons with disabilities during the pandemic, and noting that closing of congress has exacerbated this delay.

<https://www.bostonherald.com/2020/09/06/people-with-disabilities-families-workers-suffer-as-congress-adjourns/>

18 August 2020, ABC News “Government Coronavirus Plan Did Not Include People Living with Disability, Royal Commission Told”

One of many news articles drawing attention to the fact that the government’s pandemic planning had no provision at all for persons with disabilities until after the first wave was over.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-18/disability-royal-commission-to-shed-light-coronavirus-pandemic/12568436>

Professional guidance or practical guidelines

Collaborating 4 Inclusion, “COVID-19 Planning Resource for People with Disability (Australia)”

Workbooks and planning sheets (including Easy-read) that are designed to assist persons with disabilities to prepare themselves for serious situations in COVID-19

<https://collaborating4inclusion.org/covid-19-person-centred-emergency-preparedness/>

17 July 2020 Australian Government “Management and Operational Plan for People with Disabilities”

The final version of the government’s plan for managing COVID-19 for persons with disabilities, which covers high-level goals and roles and responsibilities, and acknowledges some of the specific impacts on persons with disabilities of COVID-19

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/management-and-operational-plan-for-people-with-disability>

Laws, regulation and soft law

15 May 2020 Emrys Nekvapil, Maya Narayan and Stephanie Braker “Covid-19 and the Law of Australia: Guardianship, Administration and Vulnerable People”

Summarises the relevant legislation and cases dealing with adjustments to guardianship powers.

<https://covid19-law.com.au/11-guardianship-administration--vulnerable-people.html>

New South Wales Health, “Public Health Orders and Restrictions”

A summary of the binding public health orders in force during COVID in NSW, with links to the relevant originals.

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx#quarantine>

Discriminatory care, triaging and rationing

- Biases and structures that discriminate against people with disabilities became more obvious and exaggerated with untrained and overworked staff, and denial of advocacy and companions
- Especially concerning, are that the lives of people with disabilities are often considered of lesser value when resources become scarce. This has led to discussion and creation of guidelines for rationing resources and triaging which will exclude people with disabilities.

Open letters and statements

28 April 2020, First People's Disability Network, "Covid-19 Ethical Decision-Making for First Peoples Living with Disability"

The indigenous peak body and university experts partnered to present 6 recommendations for how to triage in ICUs in a way which does not disadvantage indigenous people with disabilities, many of which have relevance far beyond the pandemic.

<https://fpdn.org.au/covid-19-ethical-decision-making-for-first-peoples-living-with-disability/>

7 April 2020, "Statement of Concern: Human Rights, Disability and Ethical Decision-Making Law Professors, Disability and Human Rights Groups and Bioethics experts"

This Statement of Concern is made by internationally recognised independent experts in the area of human rights, bioethics and disability who have come together to emphasise key human rights principles and standards that need to underpin ethical decision-making in the context of disability and the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://dpoa.org.au/statement-of-concern-covid-19-human-rights-disability-and-ethical-decision-making/>

Reflections and opinions of persons with disabilities

15 April 2020 Joseph Shapiro National Public Radio "People With Disabilities Fear Pandemic Will Worsen Medical Biases"

Multiple highly successful persons with disabilities talk about their experiences with discriminatory healthcare and their fears that this will be even worse in the pandemic. They fear that the medical system's long history of discrimination against them will kill them. This is in written and audio form.

<https://www.npr.org/2020/04/15/828906002/people-with-disabilities-fear-pandemic-will-worsen-medical-biases>

(Includes both audio and written version. Pictures have descriptions)

30 March 2020 Joseph Stramondo, 'COVID-19 Triage and Disability: What NOT To Do'

Bioethicist and person with dwarfism, Joseph Stramondo, identifies problematic aspects of triage criteria in the context of disability critiques of triage protocols for COVID-19.

Stramondo concludes: 'one core argument against some of the emerging COVID-19 triage protocols is that they are discriminatory against disabled people when they use criteria that deprioritize them because of a belief that their lives are of less value because they are of less quality.'

<http://www.bioethics.net/2020/03/covid-19-triage-and-disability-what-not-to-do/>

8 April 2020, ABC Radio National 'PM', 'People with Disabilities Call for Assurances of COVID-19 Care'

With some states in the USA saying that people with intellectual disabilities may not be good candidates for ventilation, people with disabilities in Australia are looking for assurances they will not be discriminated against during care. Story reported by Felicity Ogilvie and features Disability Rights Activist Craig Wallace, The Arc - legal director Shira Wakschlag, and The President of the Australian and New Zealand Intensive care society Dr Anthony Holley.
<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/sydney/programs/pm/people-with-disabilities-call-for-assurances-of-covid-care/12134668>

4 April 2020, Alice Wong, ‘I’m disabled and need a ventilator to live. Am I expendable during this pandemic?’

Alice Wong is a disabled activist and editor of *Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century* by Vintage Books (2020). She challenges the bioethicist and public policy logic of devaluing disabled lives in triage policy and practice. She concludes: ‘Disabled people are not acceptable collateral damage in this pandemic. I want to believe that the future is not just mine, but ours. When one of us falls through the cracks, we all suffer and lose something. Time and ventilators are scarce, but we have the creativity, moral courage, and collective power to shape a world that has space for all of us.’
<https://www.vox.com/first-person/2020/4/4/21204261/coronavirus-covid-19-disabled-people-disabilities-triage>

Vanamali Hermans, “We are not Disposable: Disability and the Health System During Covid-19”

An indigenous woman with disabilities talks about the trauma of hearing discourses that allow persons with disabilities to be de-prioritised in COVID-19 decision-making.
<https://pwd.org.au/we-are-not-disposable-disability-and-the-health-system-during-covid-19/>

Claudia Forsberg, “Supporting our Support Workers”

A user of disability support workers explains how difficult it is in the current system to avoid being exposed to COVID-19.
<https://pwd.org.au/supporting-our-support-workers/>

Shorter analyses and factsheets

24 April 2020, Forbes, “5 Reasons Why There’s No Wrong Time to Fight for Disability Rights”

Attacks the idea that disability rights should be deferred until the pandemic is over and encourages disabled people to fight for them as they are always forgotten in such times and shouldn’t be and disabled persons have nothing to gain by deferring
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewpulrang/2020/04/24/5-reasons-why-theres-no-wrong-time-to-fight-for-disability-rights/#5859a0923ac1>

22 April, University of Melbourne Pursuit, “Protecting People with Disability During the Pandemic”

Professor from the disability institute responds to the first draft of the government’s plan for disabilities and COVID-19, as well as summarising some of the mistakes that have occurred so far, and the problems in group homes and work environments.
<https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/protecting-people-with-disability-during-the-pandemic>

21 May 2020, New England Journal of Medicine, “The Toughest Triage- Allocating Ventilators in a Pandemic”

Short discussion of the use of triage panels and other methods of removing the clinicians caring for a patient from the decision-making process for triage.

https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2005689?query=featured_coronavirus

23 March 2020, Australian Journal of Paramedicine “Covid-19 and Legal and Ethical Implications for Your Practice”

Short overview of ethics for first responders when it comes to triaging and managing scarce resources.

<https://ajp.paramedics.org/index.php/ajp/article/view/796/940>

August 19 2020, Lisa Mitchell et al, “In Victoria, Whether You Get An ICU Bed Could Depend on the Hospital”

Article critiquing the lack of transparency and consistency in hospital triaging in Australia, and also giving insight into some of the criteria used, from obesity to pregnancy.

<https://theconversation.com/coronavirus-restrictions-in-your-state-145031>

23 June 2020, Forbes, “Doctors Issuing Unlawful ‘Do Not Resuscitate’ Orders for Disabled COVID Patients Outrageous”

Discusses reports of persons with disabilities being forced into DNRs and what this means now and in the future.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/gusalexioiu/2020/06/23/unlawful-do-not-resuscitate-orders-for-disabled-covid-patients-outrageous/#fd9413b6cf17>

9 April 2020, Charlotte Hsu, interviewing Michael Rembis (Director of University of Buffalo Centre for Disability, “Who gets a ventilator? Why people with disabilities fear medical rationing”

Michael Rembis is the Director of the University of Buffalo Centre for Disability. This is a one-page summary of key reasons why people with disabilities are afraid of both catching COVID-19, and then not receiving the care they need. Care workers in the US and here work closely with multiple people with disabilities without PPE. Studies show healthcare workers rate people with disabilities’ quality of life much lower than they do. Finally, there is a long history of abuse, neglect, eugenics, forced experimentation and sterilisation in the medical system.

<http://www.buffalo.edu/news/tipsheets/2020/011.html>

23 March 2020, Ari Ne’eman in the New York Times, “I will not Apologise for my Needs: Even in Crisis, Doctors Should not Abandon the Principle of Non-Discrimination”

Ari Ne’eman is a health policy PhD candidate at Harvard. He gives evidence from around the world of rules and laws which are already, or probably soon will be, put into place that make disability a justification for refusing lifesaving treatment. These include laws allowing doctors to take ventilators from people who use them because of their disabilities and give them to others, or Italian guidelines saying “more fragile patients” should not be intubated until last. The article frames it as a civil rights issue, saying that if disabled equality is not just about charity, then it should not just apply in good times but also in bad.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/23/opinion/coronavirus-ventilators-triage-disability.html?auth=login-google>

2 April 2020, Katie Savin and Laura Guidry-Grimes for the Hastings Centre, “Confronting Disability Discrimination During the Pandemic:

Ms Savin is a lecturer in social work at California State University, and Ms Guidry-Grimes is an associate professor of Medical Humanities and Bioethics. They discuss some of the

problems in terms of a basic conflict between maximising lives saved, and preserving our values of equity and fairness. They also note concerns of persons with disabilities about judgements regarding “quality of life” not just likelihood of survival, and concerns that those using even the fairest triage protocols will be biased against them.
<https://www.thehastingscenter.org/confronting-disability-discrimination-during-the-pandemic/>

23 March 2020, Chris Hatton, ‘COVID-19, people with learning disabilities, and NICE Guideline 159 on critical care’

Chris Hatton is a Professor of Public Health and Disability. He has written a blog post on a new rapid guideline by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in the UK. The rapid guideline is for health professionals on providing critical care to people with the COVID-19 coronavirus, including who to admit to critical care. He sets out the potential implications for people with learning disabilities.

<https://chrishatton.blogspot.com/2020/03/covid-19-people-with-learning.html>

25 March 2020, Shaun Lintern, ‘Coronavirus: U-turn on critical care advice for NHS amid fears disabled people will be denied treatment’, *The Independent*

This news story reports on the rapid guideline produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in the UK. NICE had been ‘threatened with legal action for telling doctors they should assess patients with learning disabilities, autism and other limiting conditions as scoring high for frailty’, with implications in terms of their limited access to health resources. However, ‘following complaints from families and campaigners, NICE has said it will reissue its guidance’. The story discusses the broader implications of the guideline.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-nhs-treatment-disabled-autism-nice-covid-19-a9423441.html>

8 April 2020, Shaun Lintern, ‘The truth about do not resuscitate orders’, *The Independent*

Shaun Lintern explores family and medical decisionmaking in relation to hospital resuscitation, and implications for people with disability and older people during COVID-19.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-nhs-death-do-not-resuscitate-hospitals-a9456336.html>

18 March 2020, Tony Coelho, ‘Respirators, rationing and the disabled: Coronavirus reminds us why everyone deserves health care’, *New York Daily News*

Tony Coelho, former member of Congress and disability advocate, argues for the necessity of more (rather than less) health resources being directed to people with disability during COVID-19.

<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-respirators-rations-and-the-disabled-20200318-f52fpk2gyzjb3eqrqrw7up3yy-story.html>

8 April 2020, Jackie Leach Scully, ‘Disability rights and disablism in a time of pandemic’

Jackie Leach Scully is Professor of Bioethics and Director, Disability Innovation Institute UNSW. She discusses the disablist assumptions and discriminatory norms that can underpin harmful bioethical thinking and clinical practice towards people with disability during COVID-19.

<https://disabilityinnovation.unsw.edu.au/news/disability-rights-and-disablism-time-pandemic>

14 April 2020, Margaret Adam and David Clough, 'Christian Ethics and the Dilemma of Triage During a Pandemic', *ABC Religion and Ethics*

Opinion piece written by Margaret Adam (a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Chester, and a Visiting Tutor in Contemporary Moral Issues at St. Stephen's House, Oxford) and David Clough (Professor of Theological Ethics at the University of Chester) offering a Christian religious perspective on the status of people with disability in triage policies and practice during COVID-19.

<https://www.abc.net.au/religion/christian-ethics-and-the-dilemma-of-triage-during-a-pandemic/12146944>

19 March 2020, Bioethics.Net, "Toolkit: Bioethics for COVID-19"

Bioethics.net and the American Journal of Bioethics have assembled a bioethics toolkit for people dealing with COVID-19. They have a collection of important blogs from around the internet and a catalogue of original blogposts by bioethicists on pandemics. Other compendium resources include ethical guidelines and resources on triage and responding to crisis.

<http://www.bioethics.net/2020/03/bioethics-toolkit-resources-for-covid-19/>

27 March 2020, Richard Armitage and Laura Nellums, 'The COVID-19 Response Must be Disability-Inclusive', *The Lancet*

Richard Armitage and Laura Nellums argue that: 'People with disability, including physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory disabilities, are less likely to access health services, and more likely to experience greater health needs, worse outcomes, and discriminatory laws and stigma. COVID-19 threatens to exacerbate these disparities, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries, where 80% of PLWD reside, and capacity to respond to COVID-19 is limited. Preparedness and response planning must be inclusive of and accessible to PLWD.' In particular, they identify three key barriers that should be addressed: public health messaging, disability service provision and healthcare.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(20\)30076-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(20)30076-1/fulltext)

23 March 2020, Pam Katz, 'Disability Discrimination Complaint Filed Over COVID-19 Treatment Rationing Plan in Washington State', *The Arc*

Media release outlining a complaint filed by Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL), Disability Rights Washington (DRW), and The Arc of the United States (The Arc). The complaint has been filed with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (OCR). The complaint details 'grave concerns that the plans being put in place discriminate against people with disabilities in violation of federal disability rights laws'.

<https://thearc.org/disability-discrimination-complaint-filed-over-covid-19-treatment-rationing-plan-in-washington-state/>

20 March 2020, Zackary D Berger, Nicholas G Evans, Alexandra L Phelan, and Ross D Silverman, 'Covid-19: control measures must be equitable and inclusive', *BMJ*

The public health and bioethics authors argue that '[f]ailure to respect the needs of vulnerable groups will seriously undermine response efforts' and thus propose 'A commitment to inclusion means responding to covid-19 in a way that is sensitive to our most vulnerable communities, including homeless people, those without adequate insurance or employment, communities of colour, indigenous communities, immigrant communities, people with disabilities, and certain frontline healthcare workers and emergency responders.'

<https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.m1141>

8 April 2020, Maani Truu, 'Calls for Australia's Disability Carers to get the Same Coronavirus Protections as Aged Care Workers', *SBS News*

Disability advocates call for urgent action to ensure greater protections for disability carers, including provision of PPE and recognising carers as essential workers. These calls come in the aftermath of COVID-19 death of a disability support worker in Victoria, Australia. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/calls-for-australia-s-disability-carers-to-get-the-same-coronavirus-protections-as-aged-care-workers>

1 April 2020, Glenn Cohen, Andrew Crespo and Douglas White, ‘Potential Legal Liability for Withdrawing or Withholding Ventilators During COVID-19: Assessing the Risks and Identifying Needed Reforms’, *JAMA Network*

The authors consider triage guidelines and practices ‘assess the legal risks that physicians, other health care workers, and hospital systems confront in such scenarios and recommend that states explicitly and immediately adopt legal protections for health care workers, modeled on provisions in place in Maryland’. The authors consider civil and criminal liability, and the possibility of legal reform to immunize all health care clinicians and health care entities from civil and criminal liability.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2764239>

9 April 2020, Frances Ryan, ‘It is not coronavirus that risks infecting society – our prejudices do, too’, *The Guardian* (UK)

Opinion piece by Frances Ryan, a Guardian columnist and author of *Crippled: Austerity and the Demonisation of Disabled People*. Frances Ryan argues that triage guidelines ‘must not discriminate against disabled people.’ This is particularly in light of the NICE Guidelines on triage, and a British Medical Association document which ‘suggests that in cases where ventilators are scarce, those facing poor prognosis could have the life-saving equipment taken away from them – even if their condition is improving – with younger and healthier patients given priority instead’.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/09/nice-guidelines-coronavirus-pandemic-disabled>

7 May 2020, The Actuary, “The Comorbidity Question”

Two actuaries critique the argument that people with covid-19 “would have died anyway”, and describe it as both “false” and “callous”.

<https://www.theactuary.com/features/2020/05/07/co-morbidity-question>

June 2020, the Lancet, “Considerations for Ventilator Triage During a Pandemic”

One-page lancet article recommending a combination of severity and prognosis in deciding who receives “palliative” care only, and separating those triaging from those who know the patients.

<https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2213-2600%2820%2930192-2>

2 June 2020, Medscape, “If We All Get COVID Anyway, Should We Just Get it Over With?”

A summary of the medical reasons against herd immunity and related strategies.

https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/931474#vp_1

30 March 2020, the BMJ “The Views of Patients and the Public Should be Included in Policy Responses to COVID-19”

An early piece warning about how persons with disabilities and marginalised groups are vulnerable in the healthcare crisis, noting their active resistance and organisation, and arguing that they have not, but should, be included in the planning process now and in the future.

<https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2020/03/30/the-views-of-patients-and-the-public-should-be-included-in-policy-responses-to-covid-19/>

In-depth research, reports and data

06 May 2020 UNSW Newsroom, “The Forgotten Workers of Australia’s COVID-19 Era”

A full report and summary, based on a survey of disability workers in March. Workers felt severe anxiety and were exposed to hazards without PPE and training.

<https://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/social-affairs/forgotten-workers-australia%E2%80%99s-covid-19-era>

21 May 2020, New England Journal of Medicine, “Fair Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources in the Time of Covid-19”

An article giving six recommendations for how to ethically prioritise resources during the pandemic. It argues that asking for DNRs and removing ventilators from patients is justifiable.

https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMSb2005114?query=featured_coronavirus

11 April 2020 Michael Eburn “Patient’s Demands to Do Not Create a Duty to Treat”

Analysis of an English case where a woman with a psychosocial disability refused to leave the hospital for a care facility and claimed that she would be liable to self-harm and suicide if she was forced to go. The court ruled the hospital could expel her due to risk of COVID and scarce resources.

<https://emergencylaw.wordpress.com/2020/04/11/patients-demands-do-not-create-a-duty-to-treat/>

August 2020, University of Melbourne, “Disability Support Workers: the Forgotten Workforce in Covid-19”

Researchers from 3 Australian universities report on a survey of 357 support workers’ experiences during COVID-19, finding financial and psychological hardship, and lack of infection control support.

<https://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/research-groups/centre-for-health-equity/disability-and-health-unit/impact-of-covid-19-on-disability-support-workers>

29 June 2020, Our World in Data, “A pandemic primer on excess mortality statistics and their comparability across countries”

Two data analysts explain that excess mortality deals with underreported deaths and ‘collateral’ deaths and give a detailed account of how it is measured and compared.

<https://ourworldindata.org/covid-excess-mortality>

Ongoing, Euromomo, European Excess Mortality Data

Detailed European Data comparing deaths during the pandemic to the average deaths at the same time each year, providing a more reliable indicator of the deaths of isolated persons than mainstream data.

<https://www.euromomo.eu/graphs-and-maps>

27 May 2020, Yale Law Journal, “Who Gets the Ventilator? Disability Discrimination in COVID-19 Medical Rationing Protocols”

A thoroughly-researched article from a law professor covering the arguments for ventilator triage, and explaining why it violates multiple American civil rights statutes.

<https://www.yalelawjournal.org/forum/who-gets-the-ventilator>

24 March 2020, Samuel Bagenstos, ‘May Hospitals Withhold Ventilators from COVID-19 Patients with Pre-Existing Disabilities? Notes on the Law and Ethics of Disability-Based Medical Rationing’,

University of Michigan Law School Professor, Samuel Bagenstos, argues that disability-based distinctions in medical rationing guidelines and practice violate the law, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and the Affordable Care Act.

<https://ssrn.com/abstract=3559926>

Ongoing, Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law, “Allocating Scarce Resources During the COVID-19 Pandemic”

A hub site, attempting to bring together the guidance on resource rationing from Australia and around the world. It includes both discussions, and official guidelines from various organisations.

<https://aabhl.org/allocating-scarce-healthcare-resources-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

Relevant news reports

27 April 2020, ABC News, ”Adelaide Quadriplegic Turns to Ebay after PPE Suppliers Run out of Stock”

Presents government and disability advocacy perspectives on the lack of PPE for disability support workers towards the end of the first wave in Australia.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-27/quadruplegic-forced-to-turn-to-ebay-for-protective-equipment/12166496>

1 April 2020, The Guardian, “Welsh Surgery Apologises over ‘Do Not Resuscitate’ Instruction”

Tells the story of a letter, which went viral, sent by GPs to their patients with serious illnesses asking them to give permission for ambulances not to be called to save resources in COVID-19.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/31/welsh-surgery-says-sorry-after-telling-the-very-ill-not-to-call-999>

6 May 2020, The Examiner Tasmania, “Disability Sector Unable to Access Medical Stockpile, Buying PPE on Ebay: Labour”

This documents the delays and inequities in access to personal protective equipment for disability support workers, and the government’s defence.

<https://www.examiner.com.au/story/6747362/disability-sector-buying-ppe-on-ebay-labor/?cs=12>

31 July, NPR, “One Man’s COVID-19 Death Raises the Worst Fears of Many People with Disabilities”

Story of man in Texas with quadriplegia whose wife claims he was denied care on the basis of disability. The article also refers to the reactions from the disability community, civil rights groups and politicians.

<https://www.npr.org/2020/07/31/896882268/one-mans-covid-19-death-raises-the-worst-fears-of-many-people-with-disabilities>

8 September 2020, Corowa Free Press, “NDIS casualization makes pandemic “scary”

AAP report on the effects of poor pay and job insecurity in the care sector, and how that has left people with disabilities exposed to more infections during the pandemic
<https://www.corowafreepress.com.au/national/2020/09/08/1583113?slug=ndis-casualisation-makes-pandemic-scary>

24 March 2020, National Disability Services, “NDIS Commission Provides Guidance on PPE for Disability Service Providers”

Notes that while there is a possibility of getting PPE through an application to the medical stockpile, many service providers believe they cannot access it.
<https://www.nds.org.au/news/ndis-commission-provides-guidance-on-ppe-for-disability-service-providers>

1 April 2020, Sydney Morning Herald “Manifestly Inadequate: Disability Carers Plead for PPE, warn of collapse without more support”

Report on a letter from NDIS service providers complaining that they face insolvency and great risk because they are not being given the priority that aged care and other critical industries receive
<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/manifestly-inadequate-disability-carers-plead-for-ppe-warn-of-collapse-without-more-support-20200401-p54g2y.html>

4 April 2020, Shaun Lintern, ‘Coronavirus: Britain faces a care crisis that could overwhelm the NHS’, *The Independent*

Discusses risks to people living in care homes in England.
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-social-care-nhs-homes-nurses-a9444886.html>

9 April 2020, BBC News ‘Coronavirus: Autistic support group ‘told it needed DNR orders’

Discusses a letter sent to a disability service for adults with autism by a GP surgery. The letter advises that adults with autism should have a ‘Do Not Resuscitate’ plan. This plan prevents them being resuscitated if they become critically ill, including due to COVID-19.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-52217868>

27 March 2020, LTC Responses to COVID-19, ‘When the ambulances don’t turn up: implications of the COVID-19 hospital triage protocols for nursing homes in Madrid’,

Discusses implications of triage protocols used by hospitals in Madrid which mean that ambulances are not turning up to care homes to take residents with COVID-19 to hospitals.
<https://ltccovid.org/2020/03/27/when-the-ambulances-dont-turn-up-implications-of-the-covid19-hospital-triage-protocols-for-nursing-homes-in-madrid/>

Civil liberties, democracy and justice

Statements and open letters

Health Justice Australia, “Unmet Legal Need Will Worsen People’s Health During COVID-19”

A compilation of information and resources from Health Justice Australia on the direct and indirect impacts of Covid-19 on people vulnerable to disadvantage, including people living with disabilities.

<https://www.healthjustice.org.au/covid19/>

Shorter analyses and factsheets

19 April 2020, CBC “Assessing the Value of a Life: COVID-19 Triage Orders Mustn’t Work against Those with Disabilities”

Oxford law professor explains the risks of harming persons with disabilities in triaging, covers the Canadian triaging system, and gives tips as to how triaging can avoid ableism.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/opinion/opinion-disabled-covid-19-triage-orders-1.5532137>

14 June 2020, Sydney Morning Herald, Concerned Human Rights Groups Call for COVID-19 Fine Data

Explanation of why the Human Rights Commission is concerned disadvantaged persons could be unfairly punished during lockdown.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/queensland/concerned-human-rights-groups-call-for-covid-19-fine-data-20200608-p550ih.html>

12 April 2020, Jarni Blakkarly, “Concerns Police Using Coronavirus Powers to Target Marginalised Communities in Australia”

Article discusses concerns that culturally diverse and low socio-economic groups are bearing the brunt of the police actions in enforcing measures adopted in response to Covid-19, including the issuing of fines.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/concerns-police-using-coronavirus-powers-to-target-marginalised-communities-in-australia>

Ongoing, Rethink.org, NHS Guidance on Temporary Changes to the Mental Health Act due to Coronavirus.

Provides guidance for professionals and people detained under mental health laws in the UK. It explains how mental health laws have been changed with some important differences during COVID.

<https://www.rethink.org/advice-and-information/covid-19-support/nhs-guidance-on-temporary-changes-to-the-mentalealth-act-due-to-coronavirus/>

30 March 2020, Matilda Boseley, “Civil Liberties Concerns over Australian Police Powers to Issue Fines for Coronavirus Rule Breaches”

Discusses the impact of changing laws and regulations introduced in response to Covid-19 and how public messaging about changes has often not been consistent and clear.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/31/civil-liberties-concerns-over-australian-police-powers-to-issue-fines-for-coronavirus-rule-breaches>

30 March 2020, Alexander McLelland, “We Can’t Police Our Way out of Pandemic”

Article gives a Canadian perspective on difficulties arising from the enforcement of emergency legislation and protocols in the wake of COVID-19 and how education and the provision of support are more effective than criminalisation of activities.

<https://nowtoronto.com/news/coronavirus-we-cant-police-our-way-out-of-pandemic/>

5 May 2020, The Conversation “The Jury is Out: Why Shifting to Judge-Along Trials is a Flawed Approach to Criminal Justice”

Explains how trial by jury is being reduced during COVID-19 with permanent consequences, and the positives and negatives this might have for marginalised groups.

<https://theconversation.com/jury-is-out-why-shifting-to-judge-alone-trials-is-a-flawed-approach-to-criminal-justice-137397>

Problematic news reports:

31 March 2020, AAP, “Sydney man faces year in jail after repeatedly breaching coronavirus quarantine”

News report on prosecution of an individual with disabilities for violation of a COVID-19 public health order.

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/coronavirus-quarantine-sydney-man-faces-year-in-jail-for-breaching-self-isolation-rules-australia/529c4b9a-2b34-4b35-a611-5831678326cd>

Laws, regulations and soft law

21 August 2020 (ongoing) The Public Defenders NSW “COVID-19 Resources for Criminal Lawyers”

This is a hub site, including academic articles, expert reports, case law, legislation, and professional guidance on matters from sentencing, to detainee rights, to remote courtroom procedures.

<https://www.publicdefenders.nsw.gov.au/Pages/c19resources.aspx>

Detention, institutionalisation and criminal justice

- Psychiatric institutions, long-term care facilities, and prisons all have three things in common:
 - They have large number of persons with disabilities. (People with disabilities make up 50% of the prison population according to Human Rights Watch, and much of the other literature supports such large numbers.)
 - Infection control is extremely difficult. It is virtually impossible to practice social distancing, hygiene is challenging and living spaces are confined and small.
 - Those running them are responding to COVID-19 by reducing privileges and liberties and increasing restraints
 - Outsiders provide important protections against abuse and neglect.

Open letters and statements

07 April 2020, International Committee of the Red Cross, “Authorities must protect health of detainees, staff and ultimately surrounding communities”

Statement from International Red Cross that discusses how all quarantine inside and outside of prison must be proportionate and not de-facto solitary confinement, and emergency reductions in the prison population.

<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/covid-19-places-detention-must-protect-health-detainees-staff-and-ultimately-surrounding>

20 March 2020. British Society of Gerontology Statement on COVID-19

It particularly draws attention to the ageism in the discourse around COVID-19. They question the idea that age alone makes people vulnerable, and say it leads to the dangerous idea young people are immune. They encourage us to recognise the diversity of the older population. They also suggest support for people of all ages who live alone, care for sick family members, and who are vulnerable in supported living.

<https://www.britishgerontology.org/publications/bsg-statements-on-covid-19>

15 March 2020. Penal Reform International “Briefing note: Coronavirus: Healthcare and Human Rights of People in Prison”

This international non-profit discusses the issues of right to healthcare, hygiene, fair trials and prison monitoring. They also insist that all quarantine inside and outside of prison must be proportionate and not de-facto solitary confinement. They finally discuss emergency reductions in the prison population.

<https://www.penalreform.org/resource/coronavirus-healthcare-and-human-rights-of-people-in/>

21 March 2020, Australian Lawyers for Human Rights “Open Letter to Australian Governments on COVID-19 and the Criminal Justice System”

Summary of, and link to, a letter signed by hundreds of people calling for early release and better management of COVID-19 restrictions for prisoners.

<https://alhr.org.au/open-letter-australian-governments-covid-19-criminal-justice-system/>

Shorter analyses and factsheets

21 August 2020, Helen Dickinson and Anne Kavanagh, “Let’s Heed the Warnings from Aged Care. We must Act Now to Avert A Covid-19 Crisis in Disability Care”

A plain English summary of the similarities and differences between aged care and disability care, the serious risks of outbreaks there, and the lack of government action on the issue.
<https://theconversation.com/lets-heed-the-warnings-from-aged-care-we-must-act-now-to-avert-a-covid-19-crisis-in-disability-care-144669>

16 April 2020 By Kriti Sharma, “Coronavirus is a Ticking Time Bomb for Australia’s Prisons: Prisoners with Disabilities Face Particular Hardship “, *Human Rights Watch Australia*

This highly-respected organisation has already found serious problems facing prisoners with disabilities. In a short article they summarise how problems facing them will become much worse in the current situation. Prior to COVID-19 overcrowding, bullying, lack of outside monitoring, and isolation were all serious problems. The main response to the pandemic has only been to increase isolation.

15 April 2020, Sheila Wildeman, “COVID-19 and disability institutions: Time to act is now *The Chronicle Herald*

Wildeman is an associate professor of law and Founding Fellow at an Institute for Public Policy and Governance in Canada. She insists that it is unforgivable to fail to consider the people with disabilities in institutions in the pandemic. She effectively summarises the similarities between institutions for persons with disabilities and prisons that make them both dangerous disease vectors. These include shared living spaces, vulnerable people, having your life controlled, impossibility of social distancing, and isolation.
<https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/opinion/local-perspectives/sheila-wildeman-covid-19-and-disability-institutions-time-to-act-is-now-437259/>

12 April 2020 Tess Sheldon, Karen Spector, Sheila Wildeman (two law academics and a barrister) for Ricochet, “ Viruses feed on exclusion: Psychiatric detention and the need for preventative deinstitutionalization”

With a focus on mental health patients held against their will, this article describes the risks associated with prisons, psychiatric institutions, and long term care facilities, calling them “infectious hotspots.” It argues that detention, even if it might have been helpful, does not on balance benefit mental patients under the circumstances of the pandemic. They argue that reducing the number of people in confinement is a key public health measure for everyone. They suggest mental health boards can use their broad discretionary powers to release as many people as possible, and must certainly ensure that release hearings are not postponed because of the pandemic, and that emergency accommodation be provided to those whose release is delayed because of lack of community support.
<https://ricochet.media/en/3038/viruses-feed-on-exclusion-psychiatric-detention-and-the-need-for-preventative-deinstitutionalization>

2 April 2020, Anne Connolly and John Stewart, “With no visitors or unannounced inspections, who knows what is happening in nursing homes during the coronavirus lockdown?” *The ABC*

Provides an overview of why lockdown is concerning from a mental health and a transparency perspective, as well as the government’s position, with quotes from several experts.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-02/families-fear-for-aged-care-residents-during-coronavirus-lockdown/12111256>

29 March, Natalie Spagnuolo and Michael Orsini, “COVID-19 visitation bans for people in institutions put many at risk in other ways” CBC News

Two university lecturers provide a detailed explanation of the many ways that isolation is a problem for people in group homes, as well as some other tips. They note the lack of advocacy and assistance that visitors provide, the painful memories in the disability community of long segregation, and the well-documented histories of abuse.

https://www.cbc.ca/news/opinion/opinion-covid-19-public-health-institutions-risk-1.5510546?9rVZgdHWVY17CQC9tpZmEFIXg6XfAF_ifJ-IYkrzXsZU5hZjUdmNs

13 April 2020, Benjamin Howell, Haiyan Ramirez Batlle, Cyrus Ahalt, Shire Shavit, Emily A Wang, Nickolas Zaller and Brie Williams, ‘Protecting Decarcerated Populations in the Era of COVID-19: Priorities for Emergency Discharge Planning’, *Health Affairs Blog*

Discusses the need for a ‘thoughtful process of emergency discharge planning’ as part of a broader decarceration strategy, because those who are released will continue to be exposed to heightened risk of COVID-19 in the community and the community health care capacity will be strained. This should include linking individuals to health information and services, providing help to access to community resources, avoiding congregate care and prioritising crisis support to help prevent overdose and suicide.

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20200406.581615/full/>

15 April 2020, Mindy Sotiri and Ruth McCausland, ‘Vicious cycle for prisoners who are homeless on release needs urgent action’

Discusses the challenges during COVID-19 for people who are released from prison into homelessness, emphasising the need for access to housing and other resources and supports.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentisfree/2020/apr/15/vicious-cycle-for-inmates-who-are-homeless-on-release-needs-urgent-action>

12 March 2020, ‘US: COVID-19 Threatens People Behind Bars’, *Human Rights Watch*

Human Rights Watch urges USA authorities to ‘take all necessary steps to protect people in prisons, jails, and immigration detention centers from infection by the coronavirus’ and ‘consider supervised release and other non-custodial alternatives for detained individuals who are at high risk of serious effects from COVID-19’.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/12/us-covid-19-threatens-people-behind-bars>

13 April 2020, ‘Calls for Australian prisoners to be released as COVID-19 threatens’, *ABC Radio National Breakfast*

Discusses calls for prisoners in Australia to be released, featuring Professor Stuart Kinner Head (Justice Health Unit, Melbourne University Centre for Health Equity), Debbie Kilroy (CEO, Sisters Inside), Karly Warner (CEO, Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT), Roxanne Moore (Executive Director, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (NATSILS)) and Godfrey Moase (Executive Director, United Workers Union).

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/calls-for-australian-prisoners-to-be-released/12144170>

11 April 2020, Suzy Khimm, Laura Strickler, Andrew Blankstein and Peter Georgiev, 'More than 2,200 coronavirus deaths in nursing homes, but federal government isn't tracking them', *NBC News*

Discusses high rates of COVID-19 deaths in US nursing homes, and the issue of the lack of US government formal data collection of these deaths.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/more-2-200-coronavirus-deaths-nursing-homes-federal-government-isn-n1181026>

8 April 2020, Danny Hakim, ' "It's Hit Our Front Door": Homes for the Disabled See a Surge of Covid-19', *New York Times*

Discusses the high rates of COVID-19 infections and deaths in the population of people with developmental disability in New York State, and the particular risks to those in congregate care.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/nyregion/coronavirus-disabilities-group-homes.html>

6 April 2020, Richard Garfield, 'Minister denies lack of inspections amid calls for compassionate approach to family visits', *Aged Care Insite*

Richard Garfield explores government oversight of aged care facilities in the context of 'Federal minister for aged care Richard Colbeck refuting allegations made by the ABC that no inspections of nursing homes [had] been carried out since the outbreak of COVID-19, and that there has been a lack of commitment to controlling infections.'

<https://www.agedcareinsite.com.au/2020/04/minister-denies-lack-of-inspections-amid-calls-for-compassionate-approach-to-family-visits/>

14 April 2020, 'Coronavirus: Older people being 'airbrushed' out of virus figures', *BBC News*

Reports that UK's official COVID-19 death figures are only counting people who die in hospital and not those who die in care homes or in their own houses – thus excluding older people and people with disability who are not moved to hospital when sick.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52275823>

25 March 2020, Jano Gibson, 'Some prisoners could be released to reduce coronavirus COVID-19 risk in NT', *ABC News*

Reports that some low-risk inmates in Northern Territory prisons could be released early due to COVID-19, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-25/prisoners-in-nt-could-be-released-to-avoid-coronavirus-infection/12086798>

24 March 2020, Mark Reddie, 'Bid to halt coronavirus spread could see some NSW prisoners freed', *ABC News*

Discusses proposed NSW legislation enabling early release related to COVID-19 of vulnerable prisoners (including older people and people with pre-existing medical conditions).

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-24/nsw-prisoners-could-see-early-parole-to-stem-coronavirus-growth/12084946>

25 March 2020, Marta Pascual Juanola, 'WA prisoners to remain behind bars despite coronavirus fears', *WA Today*

Explores approach of Western Australian government to management of prisons during COVID-19.

<https://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/wa-prisoners-to-remain-behind-bars-despite-coronavirus-fears-20200324-p54djs.html>

18 March 2020, Thalia Anthony, ‘Why releasing some prisoners is essential to stop the spread of coronavirus’, *The Conversation*

Noting that the ‘Australian government has been silent on prison policy in its coronavirus control measures’, Law Professor Thalia Anthony explores the risks to prisoners, the wider community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in failing to address COVID-19 in prisons. She also draws on a range of overseas examples.

<https://theconversation.com/why-releasing-some-prisoners-is-essential-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-133516>

16 August 2020 , Luke Henriques-Gomes, “Victoria Calls on Federal Help to Contain Covid-19 Outbreaks in Disability Care”

Draws attention to the fact that conflict between state and federal governments about the risks to people in residential disability care had led to the lack of a response team equivalent to aged care.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/aug/16/victoria-calls-on-federal-help-to-contain-covid-19-outbreaks-in-residential-disability-care>

In-depth research and reports

3 April 2020, CDC Weekly Mortality and Morbidity Report, “Asymptomatic and Presymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infections in Residents of a Long-Term Care Skilled Nursing Facility — King County, Washington, March 2020”

A report on residential facility outbreaks shows that almost 1/3 of those who tested positive for COVID-19 there were not symptomatic at the time, showing the great difficulty containing the virus in such environments.

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6913e1.htm?s_cid=mm6913e1_w

Problematic news reports

1 April 2020, Nathan Jeffay, ‘World’s first psychiatric coronavirus ward opens in Israel’, *Times of Israel*

Staff at Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, Israel, have set up a specialized psychiatric coronavirus ward in order to keep people with psychiatric disabilities separate to other COVID-19 patients.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/worlds-first-psychiatric-coronavirus-ward-opens-in-israel/>

8 April 2020, ‘Coronavirus: Fifteen die at care home during pandemic’, *BBC News*

Report on COVID-19 deaths of people with disability living in a residential centre in England.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-52175891>

9 April 2020, ‘Coronavirus: Four Stanwick care home residents die with virus’, *BBC News*

Report on COVID-19 deaths of residents living in a nursing home that specialises in the care of patients with mental health illnesses and dementia in England.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-52233951>

10 April 2020, Phil Tsekouras, ‘Staff at Ontario facility for vulnerable adults walks out following COVID-19 outbreak’, *CP24*

Staff walked out of a facility that supports adults with developmental and physical disabilities in Markham, Ontario (Canada) after a confirmed outbreak of COVID-19 and lack of PPE provided to staff.

<https://www.cp24.com/mobile/staff-at-ontario-facility-for-vulnerable-adults-walks-out-following-covid-19-outbreak-1.4891554>

7 April 2020, Andrea Ball, 'Coronavirus Outbreak at Institution Sickens 75', *Disability Scoop*

Discusses COVID-19 outbreak at Denton State Supported Living Center in Texas (USA) for people with disability.

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/04/07/coronavirus-outbreak-at-institution-sickens-75/28115/>

15 April 2020, Tracey Tully, 'After Anonymous Tip, 17 Bodies Found at Nursing Home Hit by Virus', *The New York Times*

Reports on 17 dead bodies discovered by police piled in a small morgue (designed for maximum 4 people) at a nursing home in Andover, New York (USA).

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/15/nyregion/coronavirus-nj-andover-nursing-home-deaths.html?smid=tw-nytmetro&smtyp=cur>

11 April 2020, Amy Julia Harris, John Leland and Tracey Tully, 'Nearly 2,000 Dead as Coronavirus Ravages Nursing Homes in N.Y. Region', *The New York Times*

Reports on high number of COVID-19 deaths of nursing home residents across New York region (USA).

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/11/nyregion/nursing-homes-deaths-coronavirus.html>

24 March 2020, Saba Salman, 'My sister has a learning disability and I can't visit her because of coronavirus', *The Guardian*

Discusses impacts of social isolation, social distancing and lockdown on people with disability living in care homes, in the context of the author's experiences of being unable to visit her youngest sister, Raana, who has fragile x syndrome and lives in supported housing in Hampshire (England).

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/24/my-sister-learning-disability-cant-visit-coronavirus>

16 April 2020, Robert Booth, 'UK care home inspectors did not ask about Covid-19 deaths until April', *The Guardian*

Discusses lack of official counting of COVID-19 deaths in care homes, in the context of the revelation that UK care home inspectors did not ask about Covid-19 deaths until April 2020.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/apr/15/uk-care-home-inspectors-did-not-ask-about-covid-19-deaths-until-april>

26 March 2020, David Pegg and Eric Allison, "Release inmates or face jail pandemic, say prison governors," *The Guardian*

UK Prison Governors Association is calling for prisoners to be released in order to prevent UK jails being overwhelmed during COVID-19.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/25/release-prisoners-or-face-jail-pandemic-says-chief>

9 September Tara Blancato, Aged Care and Disability Workers Contracted COVID-19 the Most in Victoria's Healthcare Sector

This article shows that the majority of healthcare worker cases in Victoria's second wave were among residential care workers, including disability workers.

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/aged-care-disability-workers-contracted-covid19-the-most-in-victoria-healthcare-sector/35dcd56e-d3a0-46a5-a134-f0c8e2b69edc>

Relevant news stories

23 April 2020, Boston Globe “Coronavirus Deaths Reported at State-Run Facilities for Those with Mental Illness, Developmental Disabilities”

Early report of outbreaks in the US in disability services, facilities for people with mental illness and group homes, focussing on lack of staff and PPE.

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/23/nation/coronavirus-deaths-reported-state-run-facilities-those-with-mental-illness-developmental-disabilities/>

8 May 2020 Independent “Coronavirus: Data on Deaths in Mental Health and Learning Disability Units will Now be Published”

Notes an increase in deaths and do not resuscitate orders in residential care has been accompanied by a lack of transparency and data about why this is happening during COVID.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-uk-deaths-mental-health-learning-disability-autism-figures-latest-a9505976.html>

19 May 2020, Brisbane Times, Prisoners to be Paroled Early Under New Covid-19 Laws

Inmates in Queensland will receive a very slightly early parole to give them time to travel to remote areas before lockdown.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/politics/queensland/prisoners-to-be-paroled-early-under-new-covid-19-laws-20200519-p54ucx.html>

Everyday life and supplies

Open letters and statements

Joint statement from 14 Disability Organisations “Increase Disability Support Pension Now to Deal with Coronavirus”

Disability peaks explain to the government that costs of living of people with disabilities during COVID have been dramatically increased and therefore a supplement to the DSP is necessary.

<https://pwd.org.au/joint-statement-increase-disability-support-pension-now-to-deal-with-coronavirus/>

Reflections and opinions of persons with disabilities

Carlie Park, “Challenge Rejected! 5 Isolation Challenges of a COVID-19 High-Risker”

A woman with a disability who is at higher risk from COVID-19 discusses the unique challenges she faces in lockdowns and how she feels left out of the discussions about covid in the wider community.

<https://pwd.org.au/challenge-rejected-5-isolation-challenges-of-a-covid-19-high-risker/>

Charbel Zada, “When the Government Asked People to Wear Masks, There was No Consideration Given to Those Who Are Hard of Hearing”

A deaf man explains how the lack of thought for his community in masking decisions is the last straw in a string of decisions society has taken without thinking about the needs of him and his community.

<https://pwd.org.au/when-the-government-asked-people-to-wear-masks-there-was-no-consideration-given-to-those-who-are-hard-of-hearing/>

18 August 2020, Lachlan Bennett “No Support Worker and ‘unhelpful’ Helpline: Tammy Milne Details Covid-19 Experience to Disability Royal Commission.”

Article about one woman’s experience of being left without support during the pandemic.

<https://www.examiner.com.au/story/6885074/no-support-worker-and-unhelpful-helpline-disability-royal-commission-hears-covid-19-concerns/>

Shorter articles and factsheets

15 March 2020 Mamamia “For Us Its About Survival” The Reality for Disabled Australians During COVID-19”

A young disabled woman talks about all the challenges facing her community during COVID from panic buying to support worker shortages.

<https://www.mamamia.com.au/disability-and-coronavirus/>

In-depth research, reports and data

April 2020, European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities, “The Impact of Covid-19 On Disability Services in Europe”

This report gives an overview of the problems as disability service providers saw them at the beginning of the pandemic, including lack of PPE, lack of staffing, and lack of concern from governments.

https://www.easpd.eu/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/Publications2020/impact_of_covid-19_on_disability_services_in_europe_a_first_snapshot.pdf

People with Disability Australia, “Experiences of People with Disability During COVID-19 Survey Results”

People with Disabilities Australia surveyed members about their experiences of life during the COVID emergency

<https://pwd.org.au/experiences-of-people-with-disability-during-covid-19-survey-results/>

Relevant news stories

24 March 2020, Probono Australia, “Calls to Extend Coronavirus Supplement to DSP Recipients”

Discussion of government supports during COVID, including Jobseeker and NDIS, but with a focus on the need for more support for DSP recipients due to the added expenses caused by COVID.

<https://probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2020/03/calls-to-extend-coronavirus-supplement-to-dsp-recipients/>

12 September, ABC News ,“Hotel Quarantine Leaves Man with Disability in Severe Pain as Family Given Non-Accessible Room”

The story of Jeff Phillips who had to pay 6000 to be quarantined in a room which led to severe exacerbation in his chronic pain and is said to be representative of other persons with disability in quarantine.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-12/man-in-chronic-pain-spends-hotel-quarantine-in-non-disabled-room/12655082?fbclid=IwAR0XzE81iSYzCScd5u1qoYxuC_O8FWxkH2HBuMRtsKdjl8-53bMnFxQg12g

4 August 2020, the Globe and Mail “It’s Time to Unify the Disability Movement”

Canadian article about the extreme delay in providing any welfare assistance to persons with disabilities during the pandemic.

https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-its-time-to-unify-the-disability-movement/?utm_medium=Referrer:+Social+Network+Media&utm_campaign=Shared+Web+Article+Links

12 May 2020, the New Daily, “Australians Left off \$550 Payment List Turn to Lawyers to Get Jobseeker. But it Might Backfire”

New Daily article about Disability Pensioners considering accessing Jobseeker because they cannot survive on the pension during COVID.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2020/05/12/disabled-legal-advice-jobseeker-coronavirus/>

5 July 2020, The Guardian ,“Public Housing Residents are Being Punished for the Victorian Government’s Mistakes”

Online news article on the sudden and complete lockdown of the Flemington public housing towers, mentioning its effect on persons with support, modification, and medical needs.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jul/05/it-was-a-shock-to-see-police-surround-our-tower-blocks-but-im-happy-victoria-is-helping-us-at-last>

1 September 2020, the Age, “Vulnerable COVID-infected People Turned Away from Hotel Quarantine”

A government whistleblower tells the Age that people with disabilities and covid-19 are being left homeless or sent back into the community, or even back into residential care homes.

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/vulnerable-covid-infected-people-turned-away-from-hotel-quarantine-20200830-p55qmn.html>

Work and education

Open letters and statements

23 June 2020, International Disability Alliance and International Disability and Development Consortium, “Joint Statement on COVID-19 in Relation to the UNESCO GEM Report Launch”

Disability organisations draw attention to United Nations findings on COVID-19 and inclusive education, and the opportunities it provides to build a more inclusive future.

<https://www.iddcconsortium.net/blog/iddc-ida-joint-statement-on-covid-19-in-relation-to-the-unesco-gem-report-launch/>

21 May 2020, National Association of Disabled Staff Networks (UK), “Covid-19 Post Lockdown: Perspectives, Implications and Strategies for Disabled Staff”

This organisation discusses its insight into covid’s impact on disabled staff (and tertiary students) and gives 12 recommendations for better recognition of its impact and more consultation.

https://nadsnuk.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/nadsn-covid-post-lockdown-position-paper_version-6-for_release-3.pdf

Shorter analyses and factsheets

4 May 2020, The Conversation “5 Tips to Help Parents Navigate the Unique Needs of Children with Autism Learning from Home”

Draws attention to the fact that autism causes difficulties for students in lockdown, and looks at 5 specific areas of difficulty and how they can be somewhat ameliorated

<https://theconversation.com/5-tips-to-help-parents-navigate-the-unique-needs-of-children-with-autism-learning-from-home-135055>

7 September 2020, Monash University Lens, “Bridging the Education Divide Created by COVID-19”

Monash university education academics introduce the problems occurring for students with disabilities in lockdown and suggest how to make lockdown education more inclusive.

<https://lens.monash.edu/@education/2020/09/07/1381220?slug=tips-to-bridge-the-education-divide-created-by-covid-19>

9 September, 2020 New York Times “My Child Has a Disability. What Will Her Education Be Like this Year?”

Lengthy reflection on the issues facing children with disabilities in New York from the perspective of a parent of children with disabilities.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/09/10/magazine/special-education-covid.html>

In-depth research, reports and data

July 2020, Children and Young People with Disability Australia, Not Even Remotely Fair: Experiences of Students with Disability During COVID-19

A research report based on a survey of over 700 students about children and young people with disabilities covering the period where schools were closed, the transition back, and what we can learn overall.

<https://www.cyda.org.au/resources/details/172/not-even-remotely-fair-experiences-of-students-with-disability-during-covid-19-full-report>

8 July 2020, International Labor Organisation, Disability Inclusion in Company Responses to COVID-19

ILO report on a business survey about how COVID affected inclusion, and how responses to COVID were or were not inclusive.

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/disability-and-work/WCMS_750506/lang--en/index.htm

Relevant news reports

18 May 2020 The Guardian UK “Disabled People in UK Threatened with Sack Unless they Go Back to Work”

Due to a flawed system of certifying vulnerability to infection, persons with disabilities in the UK had to go back to work even if they were at greater risk from COVID due to their disabilities.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/may/18/disabled-people-in-uk-threatened-with-sack-unless-they-go-back-to-work-coronavirus>

18 May 2020 Israel News “Disabled Workers Four Times as Likely as Others to Be Laid Off During Virus Downturn”

The Justice Ministry in Israel published a report finding 40% of persons with disabilities had to take unpaid leave during the pandemic compared to 11% of workers without disabilities.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-disabled-workers-four-times-as-likely-as-others-to-be-laid-off-during-virus-downturn-1.8853045>

Children With Disabilities Are Falling Behind As Local Schools Proceed With Remote Learning

Washington community news site tells the story of children with disabilities who are suffering due to remote learning, and includes the views of parents and school leaders on the reasons for problems

<https://dcist.com/story/20/09/08/distance-learning-local-children-dc-disabilities-fall-behind/>

2 April 2020, SBS News, “Concerns for Employees with a Disability after Confirmed Coronavirus Case in Supported Working Facility”

This article talks about the risks of “supported” workplaces remaining open during COVID-19 even when most other “non-essential” services were closed.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/concerns-for-employees-with-a-disability-after-confirmed-coronavirus-case-in-supported-working-facility>

7 April ABC News “Parents Call for More Support to Ensure No Disabled Student is Left Behind Amid Coronavirus Pandemic”

This article looks at the way parents have had to compensate for the lack of support from the NDIS and schools during the lockdown and the challenges this poses for families and students.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-07/coronavirus-homeschooling-parents-call-for-disability-support/12124548>

Looking to the future

Reflections and opinions of persons with disabilities

Helen Pitcher, The COVID-19 Pandemic and Technology

A woman with a hearing impairment talks about the benefits and problems that COVID-19 has revealed to her as a person who uses technology to manage disability, and how new technology presents new challenges.

<https://oursite.wwda.org.au/stories/the-covid-19-pandemic-and-technology?fbclid=IwAR1hIvIBraQffhUBEUSY7VKRUVJZysAoQ6-JOPmlpSQWX8QsDQhIGrmoAew>

Ricky Buchanan, “Covid-19 Contingency Planning: Everything Actually Worked!”

The bushfires made this woman with a disability think about emergencies before COVID and the plan worked for her when COVID hit , so she encourages other people with disabilities to plan for future emergencies.

<https://oursite.wwda.org.au/stories/covid-19-contingency-planning-everything-actually-worked>

28 May, Milagros Costable, “I’m Visually Impaired. I don’t Want Things to Go Back to Normal”

A woman with vision impairment hopes that changes such as telecommuting, digital access to paper items, and better remote shopping will continue in a “new normal” that is more accessible.

<https://zora.medium.com/im-visually-impaired-i-don-t-want-things-to-go-back-to-normal-b303dd081aaa>

Shorter articles and factsheets

23 March 2020, the Guardian “UK’s Emergency Coronavirus Bill Will Put Vulnerable at Risk”

A Guardian article examining the impacts that emergency measures adopted in the UK in response to COVID-19 may have on people with disabilities and the aged.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/23/uks-emergency-coronavirus-bill-will-put-vulnerable-at-risk>

15 April 2020, Medium, “Three Reasons Advocates must Move beyond Demanding Release for ‘Non-Violent Offenders’”

Examines the strategic long-term impact of current campaigns to reduce prison populations during COVID, suggesting that more aggressive campaigns for reduced incarceration would be better in the long run.

<https://medium.com/@micahherskind/three-reasons-advocates-must-move-beyond-demanding-release-for-nonviolent-offenders-2e76629e7d03>

13 April 2020, the Guardian, “Coronavirus has Created a More Accessible Society But How long will it Last?”

Discusses the possible long-term impacts of COVID on remote accessibility, class, gender and racial inequalities, and other issues, and contrasts what has happened during COVID with what has gone before.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/13/the-coronavirus-response-has-created-a-more-accessible-society-but-how-long-will-it-last>

16 July 2020, SCOPE UK, “Prime Minister is Forgetting Disabled People and Risks Turning the Clock Back on Equality”

UK disability organisation, SCOPE, summarises the results of their survey on people with disabilities’ fears and concerns about emerging from lockdown, and how they feel forgotten and afraid.

<https://www.scope.org.uk/media/press-releases/risk-at-forgetting-disability-equality-turning-back-the-clock/>

4 June 2020, New England Journal of Medicine “COVID-19 and Health Care’s Digital Revolution”

Discusses the benefits of telemedicine, and how it can be introduced and managed.

https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2005835?query=featured_coronavirus

11 April 2020, The Lancet “Virtual Healthcare in the Era of Covid-19”

Discussing the rapid explosion in telehealth, the obstacles (such as infrastructure), and the fact that regulation should have changed sooner.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30818-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30818-7/fulltext)

29 April 2020, Forbes, “We Have Been Disabled: How the Pandemic Has Proven the Social Model of Disability”

A diversity trainer explains how COVID-19 demonstrates the social model of disability and should give increased flexibility and empathy to our society moving forward

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/drnancydoyle/2020/04/29/we-have-been-disabled-how-the-pandemic-has-proven-the-social-model-of-disability/#26fa42b52b1d>

Professional resources and guidance

August 2020, Michelle Villeneuve et al, Collaborating for Inclusion, “Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness”

Resources on general preparation for disasters for persons with disabilities, including workbooks. These are designed for use by persons with disabilities, but there are also guides for group facilitators.

<https://collaborating4inclusion.org/pcep/>