

UK Disability History Month 2023

UKDHM's title for 2023 is Disability, Children, and Youth.

This year's theme is children and young people's experiences of disablement, a group whose voices remain marginalised.

UKDHM is rooted in Human Rights and the Social Model of disability, which distinguishes impairment from how society responds to it.

The Social Model proposes that there is no 'normal', instead emphasising societal barriers and disablement.

Disabled children and young people have a long history of being subjected to isolation, segregation, eugenics, discrimination, and prejudice.

The Deficit/Medical Model is still predominant in the UK, viewing disabled children and young people in terms of perceived 'deficits', often with a view to 'cure' or 'correct'.

Disabled children and their families are being let down. The lack of access, support, and inclusion is widespread across society, creating barriers to participation.

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The Special Educational Needs framework perpetuates the Deficit Model, comparing disabled children and young people to abled.

Despite the introduction of laws which support inclusive education, such as the Equality Act 2010, segregation and exclusion continue to rise.

Society must: value difference, foster allyship, challenge ableism, remove barriers, enforce law, fund inclusive education, fully implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Source: UKDHM <https://ukdhm.org>