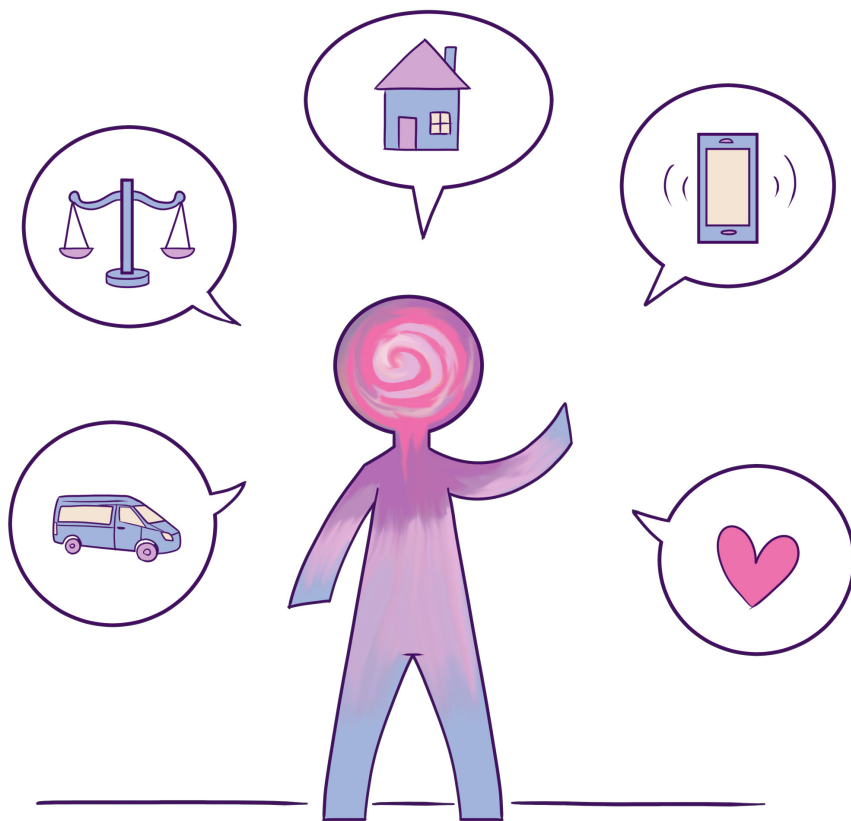


# Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill: **Relationships**



# Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity (LDAN) Bill

## Relationships



### Easy Read



Neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities should be able to have healthy relationships.



There are many things that can stop this from happening, for example **prejudice**.



**Prejudice** is when someone has a negative idea of someone or a group of people and treat them wrongly because of this.



Prejudice can isolate and exclude people.



A lack of healthy relationships can lead to loneliness and poor mental health



Only 5% of people with learning disabilities live with a partner compared to 56% of the general population.



52% of people with learning disabilities report feeling lonely compared to 5% of the general population.



Research shows neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities face high amounts of **gender-based violence**.



**Gender-based violence** means a person being hurt or treated badly because they are a woman or a girl.



Women and girls with learning disabilities are most at risk from gender-based violence with 90% having experienced sexual abuse.



Neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities do not find it easy to access Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education.



There is a big lack of **accessible information** on Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood education.



**Accessible information** describes information which is easy to understand.



Many **professionals** think neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities do not want to have romantic and sexual relationships.



A **professional** is someone who has a qualification and can make big decisions in areas such as health care, social care, education as well as other professions.



A lack of education on relationships, sexual health and parenthood puts neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities at risk.



About half of parents with learning disabilities have their children taken away from them.

## What did the Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP) think?

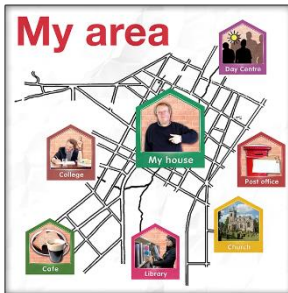


The **Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP)** is a group made up of neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities to help advise the Scottish Government on this Consultation.





LEAP said they should have equal access and support to make and maintain relationships with friends, family, and the community.



LEAP said they should have the right to choose where they live and who they live with.



LEAP said they should not be forced to move away from their family or their community.



LEAP said they should be respected for who they are and how they feel and not have their gender identity doubted.



LEAP said they should be able to express their gender and sexuality freely.



LEAP thought neurodivergent parents and parents with learning disabilities need more support.



LEAP thought people should understand their needs when they talk to them about their children and families at places like schools and hospitals.

## Where do the Scottish Government want to get to?



The Scottish Government think there should be enough support for neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities to have healthy relationships.





The Scottish Government want parents with learning disabilities to have the support they need, so children will not be removed from their care.



The Scottish Government want neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities to have the same access to education about relationships, sexual health and parenthood as other people.



The Scottish Government want better support for women and girls with learning disabilities who experience gender-based violence.

## What happens now?



The Scottish Government wants safe and loving homes for all children.



The Scottish Government plan to offer more help to families who need it, so parents can continue to care for their children.



The Scottish Government have supported the Scottish Good Practice **Guidelines** for Supporting Parents with a Learning Disability.



Information in these **guidelines** is for health care, social work, education and other services to help support parents with learning disabilities and their families better.



**Guidelines** are to advise people on the best way to do something.



The Human Rights Act says that everyone has a right to respect for their private life and their family life.



The Government has to make sure that people with disabilities, including neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities, can marry and have relationships the same as everyone else.



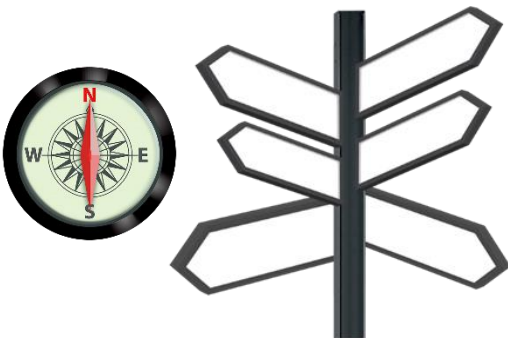
There are a lot of laws to help stop gender-based violence against women and girls.

However, none of these laws give extra protection to neurodivergent people or people with learning disabilities.

## What is the Scottish Government doing now?

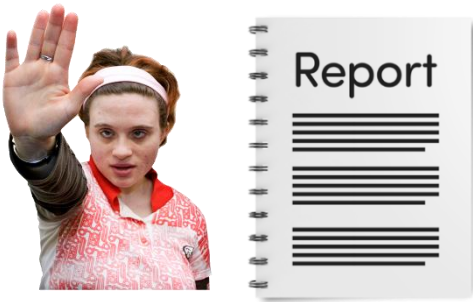


The Scottish Government has a Gender-Based Violence **Steering Group** for people with learning disabilities and they are working on an action plan.



A **steering group** is made up of people with good knowledge and experience of a subject. Members can be people with lived experience and other experts.

Together they help guide the direction of the work.



The Scottish Government funded a report on women with learning disabilities' experience of gender-based violence. The steering group will look at what this report says should happen and use this to inform a plan.



[Click here](#) to view this easy read report titled 'Unequal, Unheard, Unjust'.



The Scottish Government's new Human Rights Bill plans to make the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) part of Scottish law.



The new Human Rights Bill also plans to make the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls part of Scottish law.



This law will make it illegal to discriminate against disabled people in relationships, family life, marriage and being a parent.



There is new guidance saying that children and young people who are neurodivergent or have learning disabilities should get education that meets their needs including.

- relationships
- sexual health
- being a parent

## What can the Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity (LDAN) Bill do?



The Scottish Government could make independent advocacy a legal right for neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities.





Independent advocacy could help parents know their rights. This could be very important, if they are worried about having their child taken away from them.



The Bill could make sure there is better collection and sharing of **data** about neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities.



**Data** is information that can be measured or counted.



**Data** could show how many people with learning disabilities are parents, and how many have had their children taken away.



The Bill could make sure people get accessible information on Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education.

For example in easy read, video or audio.



Accessible information could help people who have experienced gender-based violence get information about help and justice that is easy for them to understand.



The Bill could say that both local and national government have to make a **strategy** for neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities.



A **strategy** is a big plan with actions.



Part of the **strategy** could make sure Local Authorities offer the right support for neurodivergent parents and parents with learning disabilities.



The Bill could create a new **Commission** or **Commissioner** or give more power to an existing Commission or Commissioner.



A **Commission** is an organisation that makes sure people's rights are upheld.



A **Commissioner** is one person who speaks for a certain group.



A new or existing Commission or Commissioner could look at situations where parents with learning disabilities have had their children taken away.



A new or existing Commission or Commissioner could decide if children of people with learning disabilities were taken away because of their disability.



They could see if this decision was fair or what could be done differently to help families stay together.

# What do you think?



**Questions**

1. What do you think about it?

Good

Bad

Not sure

1. Which of these proposals do you agree with? Please tell us why.



**Questions**

1. What do you think about it?

Good

Bad

Not sure

2. Which of these proposals do you not agree with? Please tell us why.



**Questions**

1. What do you think about it?

Good

Bad

Not sure

3. Is there anything else that we should consider which is relevant to this topic?