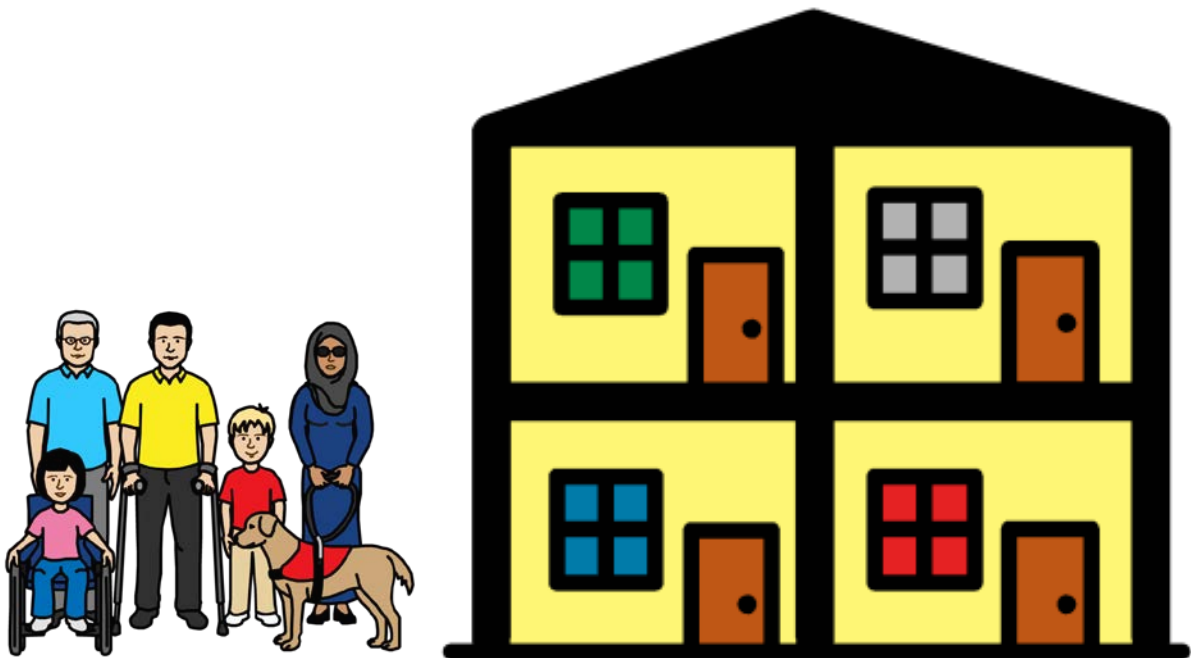


# What is happening to children and adults with disabilities in Russia



**End Institutionalization. Support Independent Living**



# About us

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

We are called Human Rights Watch.



We work to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.

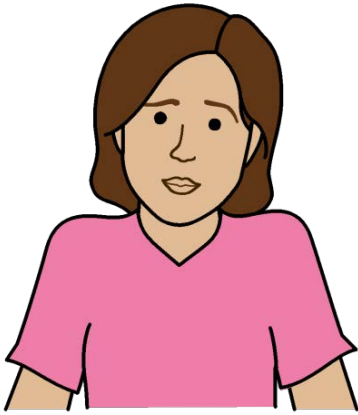
## About this report



This report is about children and adults with disabilities in Russia.



Many people with disabilities in Russia live in homes for people with disabilities all of their lives.



They have no choice about this.



In 2018 we spoke to some people in Russia to find out more.

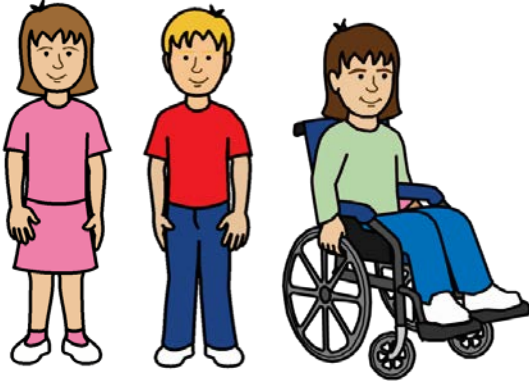
For example, we spoke to:

- Adults, young people and children with disabilities
- People who work in homes for children and adults with disabilities
- People who support the rights of people with disabilities

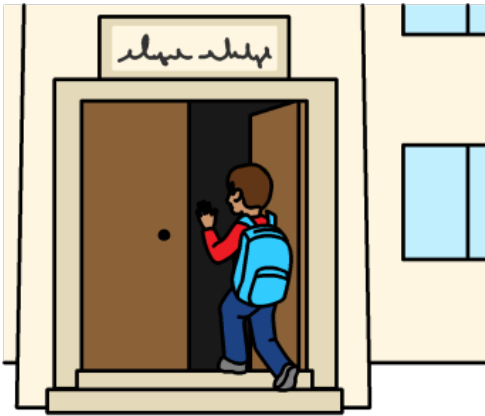


We also went to visit some homes for children and adults with disabilities.

## What we found out



We found that many children with disabilities in Russia live in homes for children with disabilities first.



Then they are moved to homes for adults with disabilities when they are 18 years old.



They often have no choice about this.

No one asks them if it is OK or tells them that they can say no.



Adults with disabilities often stay in the homes for the rest of their lives.



Many young people with disabilities may not understand what is happening when they move to a new home.

For example, they may get a form to sign about moving to the new home that they don't understand.



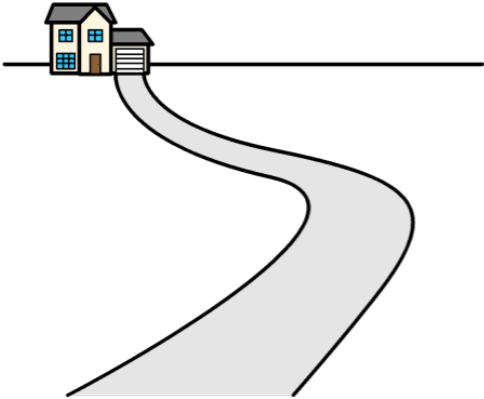
Some young people with disabilities may agree to live in a home for adults with disabilities.

But they may not know that they have other choices. For example, the choice to live on their own.

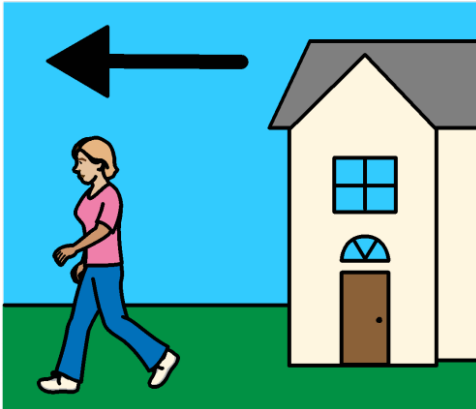
And they may need more support to live on their own.



Some staff may tell young people with disabilities that they would not cope living on their own.

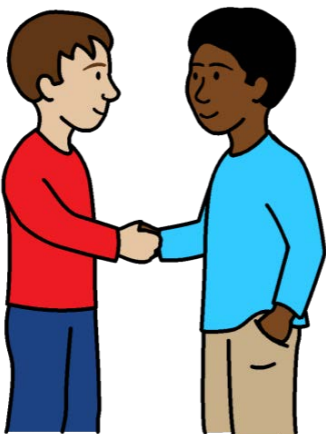


The homes that people with disabilities live in may be far away from their families and communities.



It can be hard for people with disabilities in the homes to do things like:

- Leave the home if and when they want to



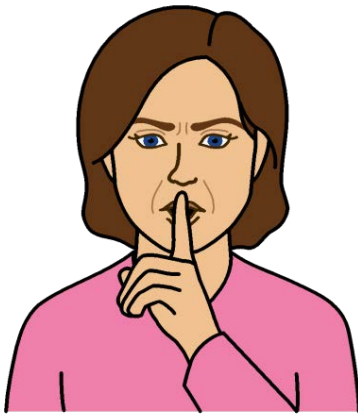
- Keep in touch with friends and family



People who run homes for young people with disabilities may want to make decisions for the young people when they turn 18.



They may ask a court if they can make decisions for the young people with disabilities.



People who run the homes may not tell young people:

- What they are asking the court for
- What rights the young person has to make their own choices

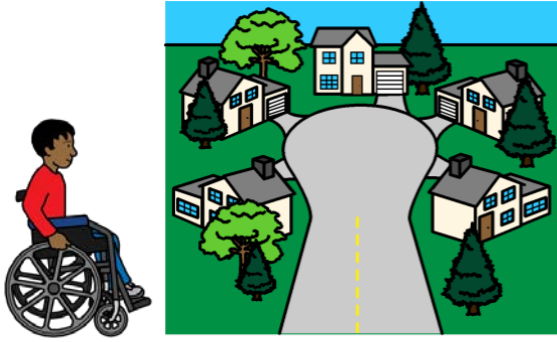


The court may want to find out if young people with disabilities can make their own choices.



But the court may find out in an unfair way.

For example, by asking young people questions they don't know about.

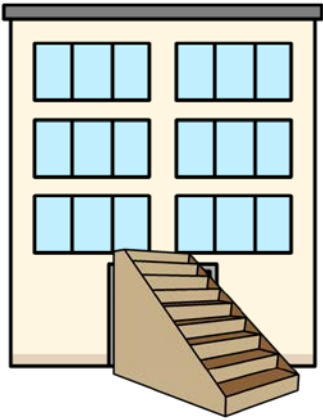


Some young people with disabilities leave the homes when they are 18 and live in the community.



But many young people with disabilities find it hard to live in the community on their own.

For example:



- Buildings may be hard to enter and move around in



- People with disabilities may not get the right healthcare



- Homes for children with disabilities may not teach young people how to live on their own





People who run homes for children may still make decisions for them after they leave.

For example, decisions about money.

## What should be happening?



People with disabilities are adults when they are 18 years old.

They have the right to:

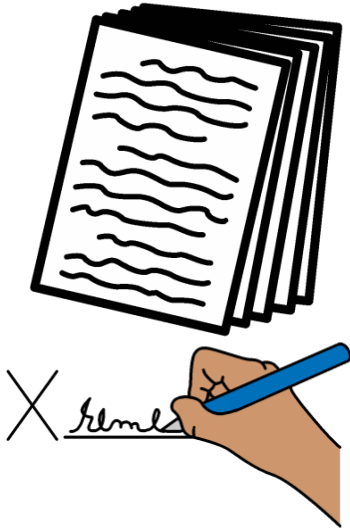
- Live in the community with support if they need it



- Make their own choices. For example, where to live and who to spend time with



They should never be forced to live in homes for people with disabilities.



Some important documents in the world talk about the rights of children and adults with disabilities.

The government in Russia has promised to do what these documents say.



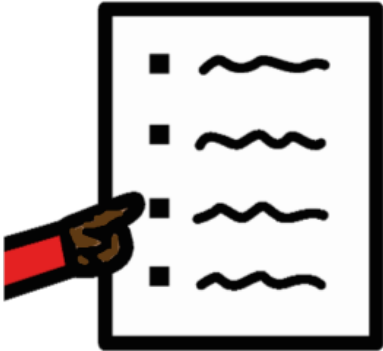
The government has done some work on this.

For example, the government has changed the law to stop people with disabilities being treated unfairly.



But the government must do more to make sure that people with disabilities can live how they want to.

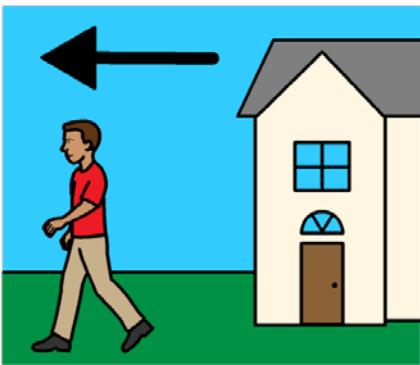
# What we want to happen next



The following things are for the government in Russia to do:



- Make sure that young people with disabilities don't have to ~~are not forced to~~ move to homes for adults with disabilities.



- Make sure that people can stop living in homes for adults with disabilities if they want to.



- Make sure that all young people with disabilities can make their own choices when they are 18.

Make sure they get support to do this if they need it.

The government in Russia should also:



- Make sure that no one makes choices for adults with disabilities or takes away their rights.

The law should say this



- Make sure that all young people with disabilities get information they can understand about their rights.

For example, information about their right to live in the community

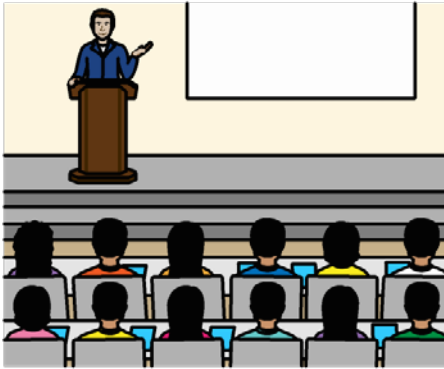


- Make sure that young people with disabilities learn the skills they need to live on their own later on.

For example, how to cook or look after money

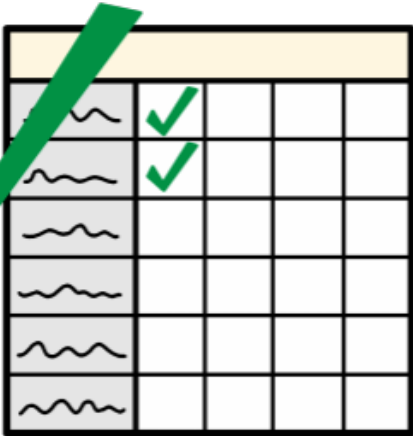


- Make sure that young people get the right support when they move out of homes for children with disabilities



The government in Russia should also:

- Make sure that staff who work in homes for people with disabilities get training about the rights of people with disabilities



- Make a plan about how to stop children and adults living in homes for people with disabilities.

Children with disabilities should only live in homes like this if they really need to.

And they should only live there for a short time



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