



What is the Social Model of Disability?

As stated in our [Vision, Aims and Values](#) WECIL adopts the social model of disability as opposed to the medical model.

The medical model is seen as the traditional view in which Disabled people's impairments are seen as their problem; something which is "wrong" with them and needs to be cured.

The social model of disability is different in that it states that everyone is equal and that disability is imposed on people with impairments by a society which creates barriers to equality. These barriers prevent Disabled people participating in society and restrict their opportunities. These barriers go beyond physical barriers i.e. access to buildings and includes barriers to education, work and full societal participation. So it is society which creates barriers and not Disabled people themselves who have a "problem".

The social model looks beyond a person's impairment at all the relevant factors that affect a Disabled person's ability to be a full and equal participant in society.

The social model empowers Disabled people to challenge society to remove these barriers.