



COVID, race and disability



This is a document in Easy Read to explain some work that **VODG** and a new **Commission** has done recently.



Voluntary Organisations Disability Group is often written as **VODG** for short.



VODG work with different organisations to make sure disabled people get the help they need.



A **commission** is a group of people set up to carry out a particular job or project.



The **Commission** was led by disabled people from **ethnic minority** groups



An **ethnic minority** are people who live in a place where most other people are a different race.



It includes people from all ethnic groups.



The **Commission** wanted to understand how COVID affected disabled people who are Black, Asian or from an **ethnic minority**.



The **Commission** found that it was hard for disabled people who are Black, Asian or from an **ethnic minority** to understand important health information.



The government did not involve disabled people who are Black, Asian or from an **ethnic minority** very well.



Disabled people who are Black, Asian or from an **ethnic minority** experienced **racism** or **ableism** and had trouble getting health care and other services they needed.



Racism means treating someone differently or unfairly because of the colour of their skin or where they come from.



Ableism means treating someone differently or unfairly just because they have a disability.



Organisations, including the government, can be **racist** or **ableist** too.



For example, some people are treated worse by these organisations or by laws because of the colour of their skin or because they have a learning disability.



They might not be given the same opportunities.



The **Commission** suggested lots of ways to make things better in the future:



- Before making important decisions during emergencies, like COVID, the government should make sure that everyone's needs are thought about.



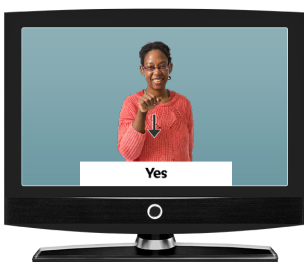
- People who are affected by the decisions the government makes should be asked and listened to, so they can help decide the best way to do things.



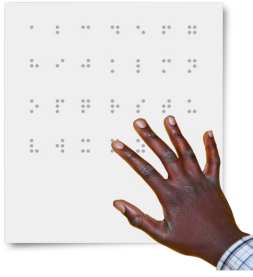
- People who are Black, Asian or from an **ethnic minority** should help decide the different ways important information is shared, including different languages.



- The government should use ways of sharing information that people already know and use, like TV or websites, so that everyone can easily find and understand the information.



- Information on TV about health should have sign language and words on the screen so that everyone can understand, even if they are deaf or have trouble hearing.



- Important information should be written in different ways, like Easy Read or recording it as audio or **braille**. **Braille** is special raised dots for people who are blind so that they can feel what words mean.



- The government should make sure that rules are followed fairly and equally during different religious and cultural holidays.



- A group of people with disabilities who are Black, Asian or from an **ethnic minority** should be asked by government to help it make decisions.



- This group can help teach the government, councils, and the health system about treating everyone fairly and understanding how disabilities and people who are Black, Asian or from an **ethnic minority** are connected.



- The government should ask disabled people's organisations to help teach disabled people who are Black, Asian or from an **ethnic minority** how to use computers and the internet.



- They can also help people to buy computers and tablets where needed.



- NHS apps on phones and computers should be tested to make sure that everyone, no matter their background, can get the right information.



- The government should make sure there is enough money to take care of adults who need extra help.



- The government should look closely at who can get help, how they get it, and what special services are available for disabled people who are Black, Asian or from an **ethnic minority**.



- It is important that people who are Black, Asian or from an **ethnic minority** know about the help available to them and understand how to get it.



If you want to know more, you can visit the **VODG** website where you can find different versions of the report and more information.
www.vodg.org.uk