



These headlines lead to hate crime, saying 75% of people claiming to be disabled are lying. House of Commons Library says it's only 0.5%.

All Equal  
All Different:  
*people*  
with  
PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT

**Achievements**

"Often dealing with an impairment gives people inner strength to achieve. But we must be accepted as we are."



Stephen Hawking



Tani Grey-Thompson



Tiger Woods



Physical impairment is widespread and occurs when parts or systems in the body do not work as they should or are missing. This may occur from accidents or war; diseases like polio, TB, asthma; inherited conditions like muscular dystrophy or childhood arthritis. If the brain is damaged or deprived of oxygen this can affect the nervous system like cerebral palsy. Cancers and heart conditions count as physical impairments.



Cerrie Burnell-CBeebies presenter



In the past, people with physical impairments were often blamed and scapegoated. In Europe, from 1480-1680, 'Witches' were often identified because they looked different or their children were born disabled. 1000s were killed.



3 disabled women hung as 'witches' Oxford 1613.



People with physical impairment learn to do things in a different way, learning to use aids such as a wheelchair, false limb or crutches can help people with these conditions live worthwhile lives. Prejudice is still common, based on old untruths and can lead to bullying and discrimination today.

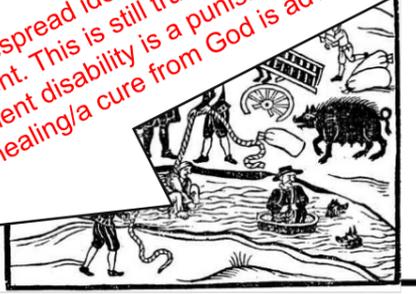
F. D. Roosevelt was elected president of the USA 4 times. He had polio in both legs. He decided he must hide his impairment to be elected.



Only 7% of disabled people use a wheelchair. Yet the symbol for disabled people is a wheelchair. This creates the mistaken idea that most disabled people are in a wheelchair. **Most disabled people have a hidden impairment- there are no visible signs.**



There was a widespread idea that physical impairment was a punishment. This is still true in some cultures. In the Old Testament disability is a punishment. In the New Testament a healing/a cure from God is advocated.



**History**  
In the past, people with physical impairments were often treated badly. The Disabled People's Movement have successfully campaigned to change attitudes, environments and laws. However, many buildings and transport systems are still not barrier free.