



Goodley, D. and Runswick-Cole, K. (2011) The Violence of Disablism, *Journal of Sociology of Health and Illness*.



In 2011, we wrote a paper about why there is so much violence in the lives of disabled people. We are sharing it again now because of the recent Panorama programme about abuse in care homes (May, 2019).



Our paper was written as part of a research project “Does every child matter, post-Blair? The interconnections of disabled childhoods” funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.



We found that lots of research about disabled children and young people was focused on them being violent or having ‘challenging behaviour’.



Why?

Our paper focused on **why** children and young people experience violence.



We think that people who hurt disabled children and young people should be punished, but we also think it is important to understand why people hurt them if we are to stop violence in disabled people's lives.



Here are some of the ideas we have.



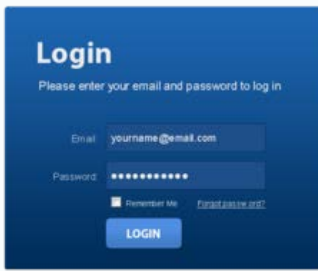
1. Some people working with disabled children and young people don't think that they have feelings or they think their feelings are more important than disabled people's feelings



2. Systems cause violence in children's lives. When systems, like schools, hospitals and social care settings, are underfunded and don't work well, violence starts to begin.



3. The media plays a part. Negative images of disabled people's lives on the news which say disabled people are scroungers and don't work hard encourage violence.



You can download a full copy of the paper here:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1467-9566.2010.01302.x>



If you have questions about the paper, you can contact us:

d.goodley@sheffield.ac.uk

k.runswick-cole@sheffield.ac.uk