

Supporting Diverse Communities in Emergency Planning

- Devon Community Resilience
Forum -

a working partnership between



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Some may be isolated/lonely

Don't assume people have help/carers etc.



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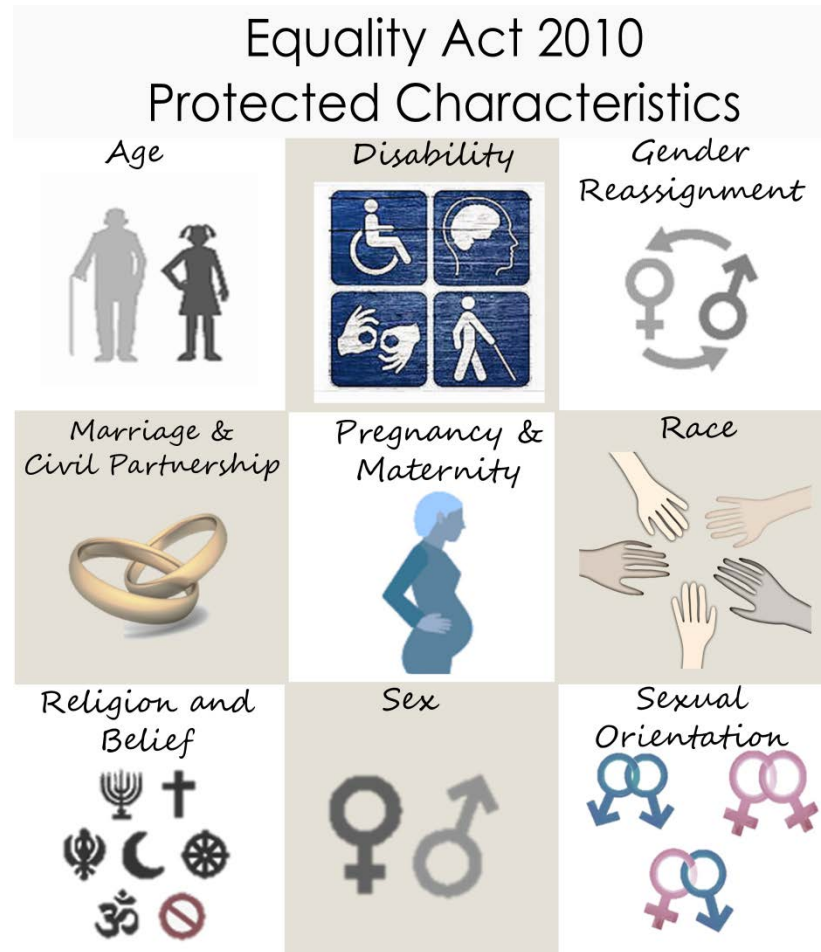
Groups vulnerable in an emergency include:

- Disabled people (deaf, blind/partially sighted, physical disability, mental health, learning disabilities etc).
- People with medical conditions/injury.
- People whose first language is not English (Deaf - British Sign Language users, some ethnic minorities, tourists).
- Younger and older people.
- Pregnant women.

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Public authorities (includes Parish Councils and those providing a service/function on behalf of an Authority) have legal duties to **consider carefully how to:**

- End discrimination, victimisation and harassment.
- Advance equality (which includes encouraging participation and meeting disabled people's needs).
- Foster good relations (such as responding to community tensions and challenging prejudice).

Equality Act 2010 - Public sector equality duty

Examples of meeting diverse needs and ensuring equality



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- Plain English and Easy Read (easy words and pictures) – for people with literacy or language problems.
- Translation/interpreting where needed (via local authority Duty Emergency Planning Officer).
Patience if trying to understand.

Examples of meeting diverse needs and ensuring equality

- Assistance leaving property (including pets).
- Alerting systems for people with hearing/sight loss.
- Extra **patience**, comfort and understanding – helpful for people with learning disabilities and mental health problems.

Examples of meeting diverse needs and ensuring equality

- Positive body language and attitude. Guarding against prejudices.

eg towards: people with disabilities, gays/lesbians, transgender people, ethnic minorities, particular religions (Muslims), Travellers/Gypsies

these groups can experience higher levels of prejudice and harassment in the community.

- Accommodating prayer/religious observance (where practical).

Community Emergency Plan

- Involve people in raising awareness and community planning
- Be inclusive and reach out so it's not just the 'usual suspects'
- Hold meetings in accessible venues.
- Community Response Team –inclusive, show respect for all and be **patient** and helpful for those with additional needs/concerns.
- Plan should “identify vulnerable people within the community”.
- Consideration should also be given to local diversity/language issues. Be ready to provide information in a different way, or give extra care and attention.”



Self-help guides available

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/clearplan



- Film
- Leaflet
- Home Emergency Plan template
- Audio versions
- British Sign Language video
- Polish version
- Easy Read guide
- Large Print



Help raise awareness of our CLEAR guides.
Newsletters, Tweets (especially before a
severe weather event), Meetings etc

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