

Labour demands answers after damning UN report

The

Labour Party is calling on the Secretary of State for the Department of Work and Pensions, David Gauke MP, to come before Parliament to explain why the Government has failed to implement recommendations from a United Nations report

into the rights of disabled people, which has resulted in the chair of the UN's

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities describing the situation as a 'human catastrophe' for disabled people.

Following

the first ever investigation into a breach of their convention protecting disabled people's rights last year, the UN found that the UK Government has committed 'grave and systematic violations', and set out a number of measures they needed to take to improve.

As

yesterday's review described, implementation of the initial recommendations has

been 'uneven' and 'insufficient'. Despite having months to improve, the Government is still failing to understand, adapt to or apply a human rights model of disability; to properly consult disabled people in the implementation

of the convention; and to address concerns about the impact of austerity measures which have increased levels of poverty among disabled people.

Debbie

Abrahams MP, Labour's Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary, said:

"Yesterday's

damning report highlights the complete failure of this Tory Government to listen to the UN, and to take action to guarantee the basic rights of disabled people.

"Their

lack of progress across almost all of the UN Committee's recommendations reflects the Government's refusal to accept the misery faced by disabled people

as a result of their failing austerity agenda.

"The

Secretary of State must come before the House at the earliest possible opportunity to explain why the Government has refused to listen to the UN, and

instead continues to violate disabled people's rights.

“The next

Labour Government will incorporate the UN CRPD fully into UK law.”