



The Empowerment Project - Stronger Voices for Fairer Futures

STAND's Plea to the Committee - The Neurodivergence Inquiry

3 March 2026

As a charity, we are constantly being expected to justify why neurodivergent children deserve the same opportunities as neurotypical children.

So often, people ask us questions such as:

- "Why is diagnosis for neurodivergent children important"?
- "Why is it important to make reasonable adjustments for neurodivergent children?"
- "Why is it important that teachers are trained in neurodivergence and neuro-affirming practice?"

Instead, they should be asking public authorities and service-providers questions such as:

- "Why do you exclude neurodivergent children from accessing their right to healthcare?"
- "Why do you exclude neurodivergent children from accessing their right to education?"
- "Why do you exclude neurodivergent children from the protections in the Equality Act 2010?"

We urge the Committee to highlight that more accountability is needed, and that those involved in developing change should not include professionals or organisations who are complicit in denying neurodivergent children the rights that they deserve.

We hope that the Committee can produce a report which draws a line under the practice of asking neurodivergent people and their families to justify why they deserve better, and instead asks public authorities to justify why they are not doing better.