



DID YOU KNOW?

Language, narrative and disability



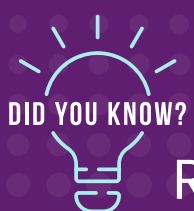
Reframing disability

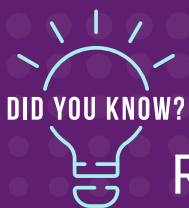
1

Did you know... that the language

used to describe disability plays a powerful role in shaping public understanding, attitudes and policy responses?

Words do not simply reflect reality; they help construct it, influencing how disabled people are perceived and treated.





2

Public narratives are often shaped

by media and political discourse, which tend to frame disability through lenses of “burden” or “pity.”

These framings can reduce disabled people to costs or objects of sympathy, rather than recognising them as equal citizens with rights, contributions and diverse experiences.



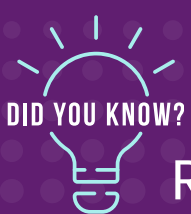


3

Such narratives do not foster

empathy or sustained societal support; instead, they can reinforce stigma and misunderstanding.

They also risk obscuring the structural barriers that shape disabled people's lives, shifting attention away from solutions rooted in fairness and inclusion.





4

In this new political term,

there is an opportunity to reframe how disability is discussed, centring dignity, shared humanity and the common good. More constructive language can support better understanding, strengthen public support and help create the conditions for a more inclusive society.

For more information, search for 'Disability' at
www.gcph.co.uk