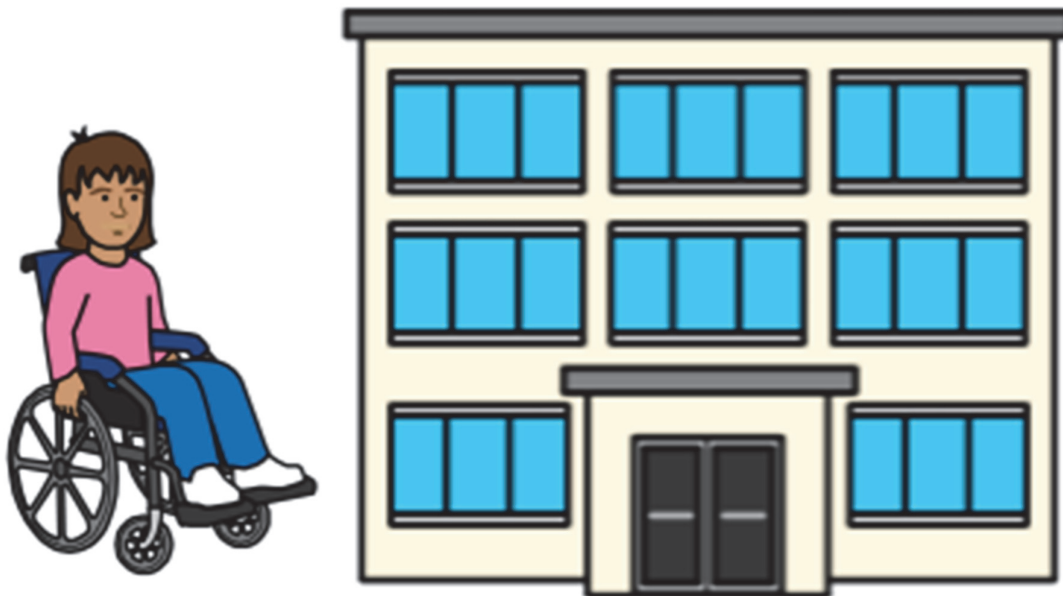


# Life for people with disabilities living in homes for people with disabilities in Brazil



**They Stay Until They Die.  
A Lifetime of Isolation and Neglect in Institutions  
For people with Disabilities in Brazil**



## Who we are

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

We are called Human Rights Watch.



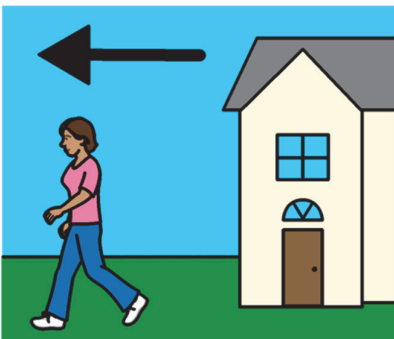
We work to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.

## About this report



This report is about people with disabilities in Brazil.

Brazil is a country in South America.



Many people with disabilities in Brazil have to live away from their families and communities.



Many people have to live in homes only for people with disabilities.



From 2016 to 2018 we looked at what was happening for people with disabilities living in homes for people with disabilities in Brazil.

We went to visit some of the homes.

We talked to many people, including:



- adults and children with disabilities and their families
- groups that support people with disabilities
- staff in the homes
- people from the government



This report tells you what we found out and what we want to happen next.

## Why do so many people with disabilities live in homes like this?



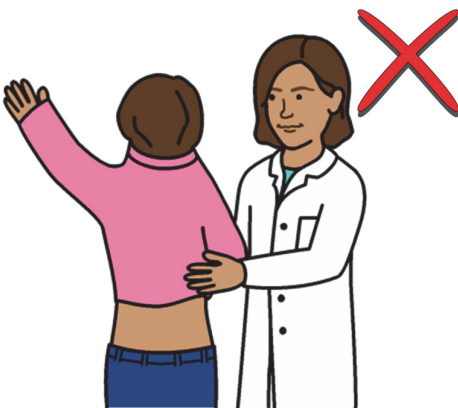
There is not enough support in Brazil for people with disabilities and their families.



This means that many children with disabilities have to live in homes for people with disabilities instead of with their families.



And many adults with disabilities don't get support to live in the community with everyone else.



For example, people with disabilities may need support to communicate or to move their bodies.

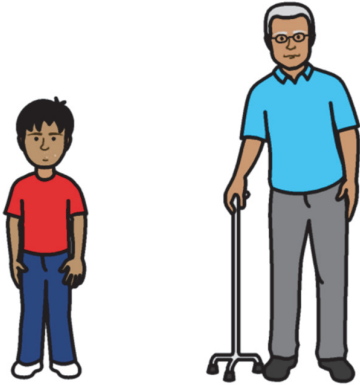
It can be very hard to get this support.

## What problems do people with disabilities in the homes face?



There are many problems for children and adults with disabilities in the homes for people with disabilities.

For example:



Most people with disabilities come to the homes when they are children. They are still there when they are adults.

Many people with disabilities live in the homes all their lives.



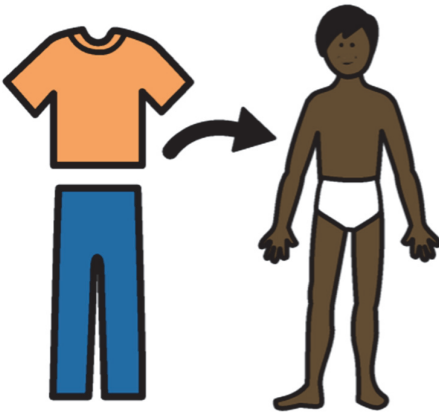
Many people with disabilities in the homes don't get the care they need.



Most staff in the homes want to help people with disabilities.

But there are often not enough staff.

And many staff don't have the right training to support people with disabilities.



Some staff don't help people with disabilities to get dressed properly.

Some adults with disabilities have to wear diapers without other clothes.



Staff may stop people with disabilities from moving their bodies.

For example, staff in some homes tie people with disabilities to their beds.



Staff may give people with disabilities medicine to control them without asking them first.



There is not much for people with disabilities to do in the homes.

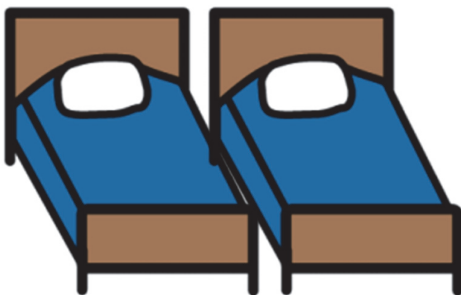


People with disabilities may have to stay in their beds or rooms for a long time.



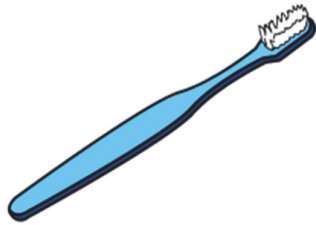
Many people with disabilities in the homes are not allowed to make their own choices.

For example, they can't choose what to do or who to spend time with.



People with disabilities may have to share a room with many other people.

There is no chance to be private.



Some people with disabilities have to share things with other people, like clothes or toothbrushes.



Many children with disabilities in the homes don't go to school



Most people in the homes can't choose to leave the homes even for a short time.



Other people decide if they can leave or not.



It is hard for many people with disabilities to complain about the homes if they need to.



# What is the government in Brazil doing?



By law governments should make sure that people with disabilities:

- can live in the community or with their families like everyone else
- can make their own choices



The government in Brazil has agreed to make sure that all people with disabilities get their rights.

They signed a document about this in 2008.

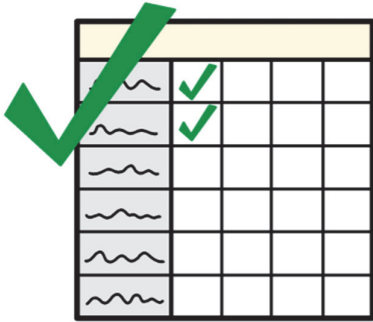


In 2016 a new law was made about the rights of people with disabilities.



But people with disabilities who live in homes for people with disabilities are not getting their rights.

## What we want to happen next



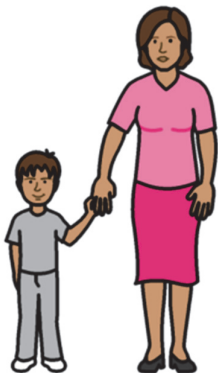
The government in Brazil should start work straight away on the following things:



Stop using these homes for adults and children with disabilities.



Make a plan about this and say when it will happen.



Make sure there is good support for people with disabilities and their families near where they live.

This will help children with disabilities to live with their families or another family.



And it will help adults with disabilities live where they want with support if they need it.



Stop children and adults with disabilities being treated badly in the homes.

For example, stop staff in the homes giving people medicine to control them without asking them first.



Make sure there are people to check the homes to make sure they are safe and treat people well.



Make it easy for people with disabilities to complain if they are treated badly in the homes.



Make sure children with disabilities in the homes can go to school with children without disabilities.



There are some smaller homes for people with disabilities to live in.



These homes should support people with disabilities to live how they choose.

People with disabilities should choose if they want to live in the homes or not.



Make sure that all adults with disabilities can make their own choices.

The law should not allow other people to make choices for them.



People with disabilities should get support to make their own choices instead.

For example, choices about where to live, which doctors to see and what relationships to have.