



UNPRPD FUND
Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Report on problems people with disabilities face around the world



EasyRead version



About us

1



How we made this report

2



We wrote this report

4



The biggest problems

8



What could be done about it

20



Countries that took part

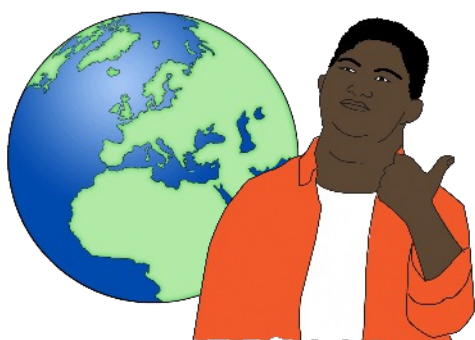
22

About us



We are the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities or UNPRPD for short.

We are part of the United Nations.



The United Nations is an organisation that works on making the world a better place.



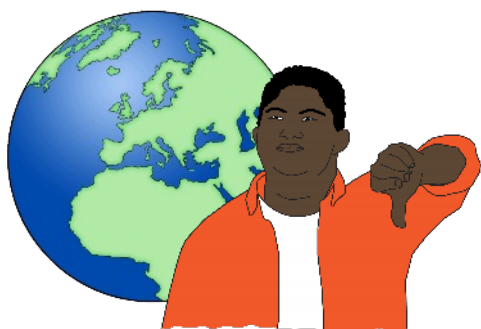
The United Nations works on protecting our rights.

What we do



The Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) gives money to countries where United Nations agencies, governments and organisations have agreed to do more so people with disabilities have the same rights as everybody else.

How we made this report



This report is about the problems people with disabilities face in 34 countries around the world. There is a list of these countries at the back of this report.



We asked 3 questions

1. How are people with disabilities treated in their country?



2. What do people with disabilities need most in each country?



3. Who should get the money and for what?



The people who answered the questions were:

- people with disabilities and their organisations



- governments



- organisations that provide services to people with disabilities.



Each country told us about the problems and their ideas for the future.

We wrote this report



This report is about the problems that were the same in all the countries. We call them **common problems**.



We want people with disabilities to know about these common problems so they:

- understand what needs to be done



- can check that things change and get better



- can protest if things are not getting better



- can work with others who are also working on the same problems.



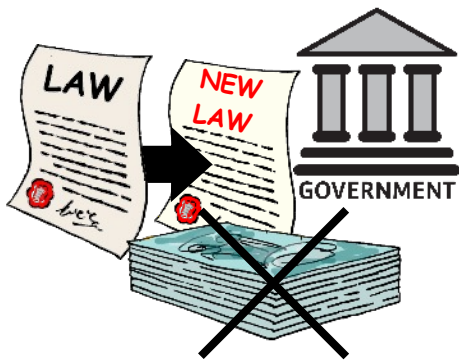
Common problems

All 34 countries have made promises to people with disabilities in their laws and plans.



But these new laws and plans are not put in place.

Also, some old laws still need to change.



We looked at reasons governments are not keeping their promises

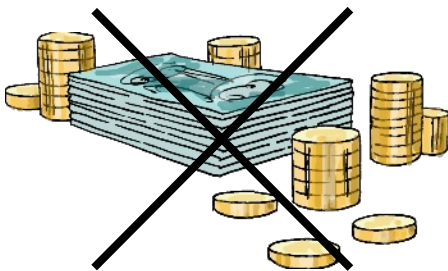
The people in charge of putting laws and plans into place may not have the power and money to make the changes.



Sometimes they do not understand disability.



When a Social Welfare ministry is in charge it may not have the power to tell other ministries and organisations what to do.



It may not have enough money.



Government authorities, donors and organisations do not always work well together.



They work separately and follow their own ideas.



People with disabilities and their organisations are not invited to take part in important meetings about changing laws and putting plans in place.



Or, when people with disabilities and their organisations are invited, they do not get enough support to understand the issues well and prepare.

The biggest problems

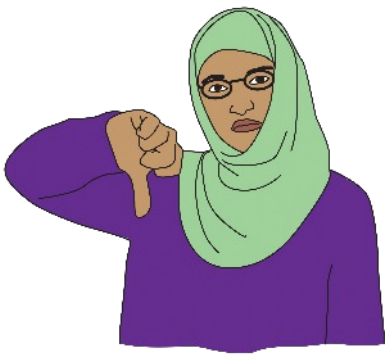


Discrimination

Discrimination is when people with disabilities are treated badly or unfairly because of their disability.

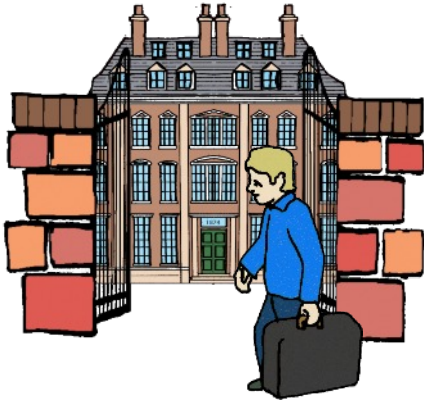


Many government staff and people in the public discriminate against people with disabilities. They think persons with disabilities do not deserve to be included.



This is a big problem because it is hard to change the way people think.

People with disabilities are left out of community and family life



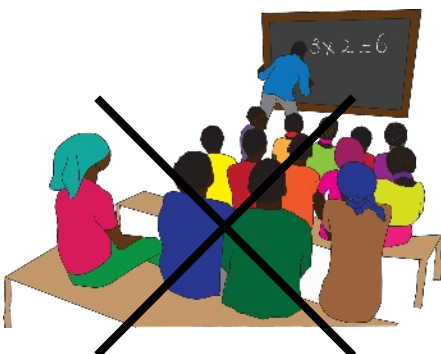
In some countries, people with disabilities are still sent to institutions to live far away from their families.



In some countries, people with disabilities are kept at home by their families.



Sometimes, people with disabilities are locked in a room at home by their families.



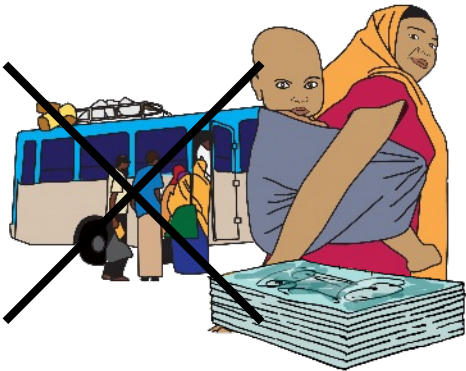
They can't go to school, make friends or get a job.

Children with disabilities do not get support

Children with disabilities have a hard time getting good support services.



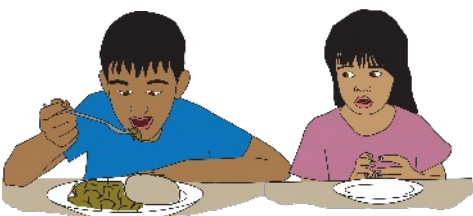
Sometimes their caregivers do not know where to go to get support.



Sometimes they cannot afford to travel long distances.



Many children never reach any service at all. They just stay at home without getting any help.



Children with intellectual disabilities are more often treated badly and not given the things they need, like food or care.



People with disabilities have poor healthcare or social care

Staff working in health or care centres are often poorly trained and do not know how to talk to people with disabilities.



Adults and children with disabilities are sometimes treated badly during medical examinations.



Medical examinations ask questions to find out what people with disabilities cannot do.



This is not helpful to understand the support people with disabilities need to take part in society.



People with disabilities are left out of education

Many children with disabilities do not go to school.



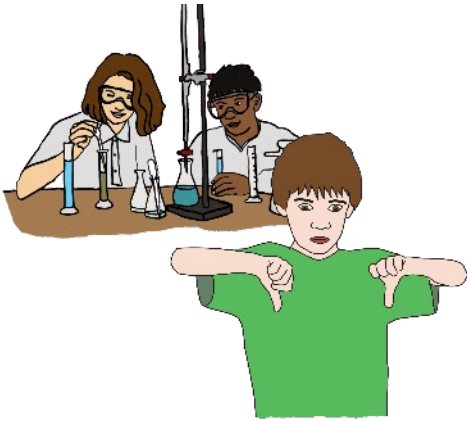
Community schools are not ready for children with disabilities.



Teachers have large classes and are not willing or trained to teach children with disabilities.



Only special schools or special classes give a few children with disabilities an opportunity to learn.



But they are not given the same education as children without disabilities.

This is not fair.

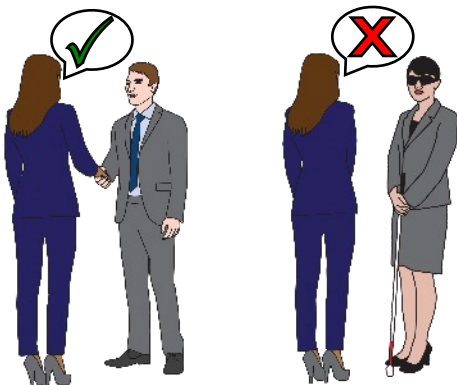


These children also risk abuse and being lonely if they are far away from home.



People with disabilities are left out of employment

People with disabilities have a hard time finding work.



Employers do not try to employ people with disabilities.



Many people with disabilities need help from their families to pay for things. Many people with disabilities beg or trade things for money.



People with disabilities are often poorer than people without disabilities.



People with disabilities face abuse and violence

Violence and sexual abuse happen to people with disabilities more than other people.



The police often fail to help them get justice in the courts.



It is especially difficult for women and people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities to be heard and believed.

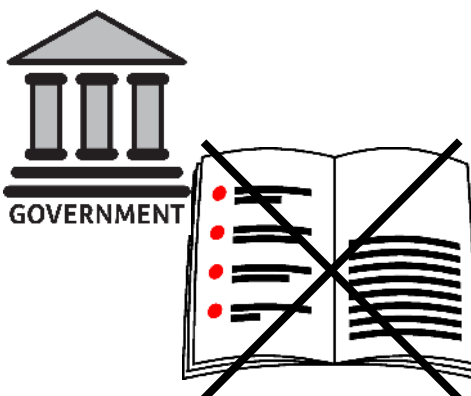


Information is hard to understand

Important information from the government may be difficult to read and understand.



There is no simple language version or Braille or sign language information.



Reasons why governments are not doing more to help people with disabilities

Governments do not have information.



Governments do not have enough information about the different challenges people with disabilities face.



They do not know how many people with disabilities live in their country.



Much of the information they have does not give a full picture of the challenges people with disabilities deal with.



This means they do not know about the different needs of men, women and children with disabilities.



There is not enough funding

Governments often think they can solve the problem with small amounts of money for disability projects.



But this only helps a few people with disabilities.



People with disabilities are left out of planning

Governments think it is too difficult and too expensive to include people with disabilities in their regular work.



This means that people with disabilities are not part of most plans, budgets, projects and programmes of governments.



This is the same for other international and national organisations working on the right of people.

Organisations do not work together



Government agencies and organisations that want to make the lives of people with disabilities better do not work together.



They have different ideas and support different small projects. We would like them to include persons with disabilities in all their projects.

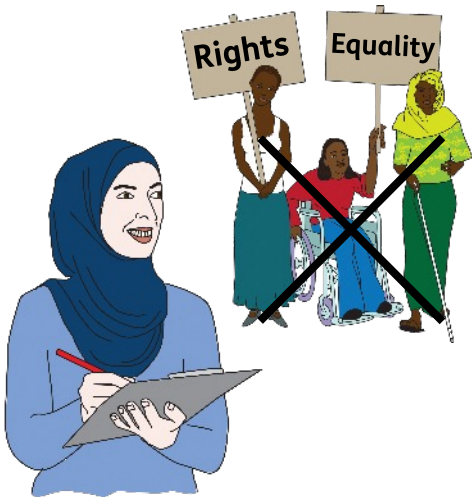


People with disabilities and their organisations:

- do not work together to tell government and its international supporters what they are doing badly



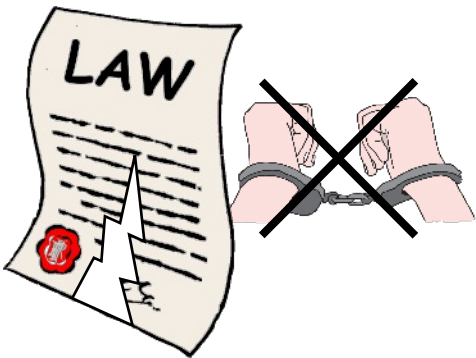
- are not usually invited to important meetings. Sometimes they are invited but have not had the time and support to prepare good arguments.



Human rights are not respected equally

Human rights institutions often do not check when the human rights of people with disabilities are not respected.

They do not think it is as important as other human rights violations.



There is no punishment for governments, companies or organisations when they do not follow the laws on disability inclusion.

What could be done about it



Governments can help

Governments must make sure that they keep their promises to people with disabilities.



Governments can involve people with disabilities and their organisations in planning and checking their work.



United Nations country teams can help

United Nations country teams could help governments improve their ways of working with people with disabilities.



For example, the United Nations country teams can include people with disabilities in the projects that they are funding with goals and budgets just for the inclusion of people with disabilities.



Then they can report on how projects make a difference in the lives of men, women and children with different types of disabilities.



United Nations country teams could help people with disabilities and their organisations to improve their ways of working.



For example, the United Nations country teams can help them find important information and prepare for meetings with the government.

Countries that took part



Here is a list of the 34 countries that took part:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Argentina | 9. Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| 2. Armenia | 10. Ecuador |
| 3. Bangladesh | 11. Eswatini |
| 4. Cambodia | 12. Gambia |
| 5. Cameroon | 13. Ghana |
| 6. China | 14. Georgia |
| 7. Colombia | 15. Guatemala |
| 9. Cook Islands | |

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 16. Kenya | 26. Sierra Leone |
| 17. Kyrgyzstan | 27. Tanzania |
| 18. Moldova | 28. Timor Leste |
| 19. Montenegro | 29. Trinidad and Tobago |
| 20. Mozambique | 30. Tunisia |
| 21. Nepal | 31. Uzbekistan |
| 22. North Macedonia | 32. Vietnam |
| 23. Panama | 33. Zambia |
| 24. Rwanda | 34. Zimbabwe |
| 25. Serbia | |

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