

ANNEX: International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Summary

Main points contained within the convention

People with disabilities shall have effective enjoyment of the universal right to life, on an equal basis with others.

People with disabilities must be recognised as persons before the law, and enjoy legal capacity. They must be able to own and inherit property, and have access to credit.

They must have effective access to justice, on an equal basis with others.

They shall enjoy liberty and security of person; disability can never justify a deprivation of liberty.

The Convention allows for special measures to achieve equality for people with disabilities.

A Duty to Act

States that accept the Convention must take all appropriate measures to promote the rights of people with disabilities.

These include:

- taking account of the rights of people with disabilities in policies and programmes;
- eliminating discrimination, stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices;
- training and awareness-raising through media and education, including for health and legal professionals; and

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- involving civil society and people with disabilities when implementing the Convention

Specific groups

Women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination and realising their rights requires specific measures. Children with disabilities have the right to express their views and have them taken into account.

Their best interests must be a primary consideration.

Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

Every person with disabilities has a right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity, including fertility. People with disabilities must be protected from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, within and outside the home.

Respect for home and family life

The Convention upholds the right of all people with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others – where to live and with whom – and with a range of support services as necessary.

People with disabilities also have the right to home and family life: to marry, found a family and decide freely on the number and spacing of their children. A child cannot be separated from their parents on the basis of the disability of either the child or the parent(s).

Personal mobility

The Convention states that signatories shall take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities.

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Expression, participation and access to information

Persons with disabilities should be enabled to participate fully in political and public life without intimidation and with appropriate support and technical assistance. In order that people with disabilities can exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion:

- Public information must be made available in accessible formats and technologies (for example sign language and Braille); and these formats must be accepted in official interactions.
- People with disabilities must be free and supported to form and join nongovernmental organisations at all levels, including those representing people with disabilities.

Education

People with disabilities have the right to develop their personality, talents and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential.

- Children or adults cannot be excluded from the education system on the basis of disability.
- People with disabilities must be given the opportunity to learn the life and social development skills they need, including alternative means of communication.

Health

Persons with disabilities have the right to the highest attainable standard of health, through, for example:

- being provided with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care as provided to others, including in sexual and reproductive health;

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- receiving early identification and treatment regarding their disabilities; and
- being covered by health insurance and receiving health-care and services without discrimination.

Work, employment and standard of living

Discrimination on the basis of disability is prohibited with regard to all employment matters:

- Recruitment, career advancement
- Equal opportunities in employment, career advancement and return-to-work programmes
- Equal pay for equal work
- Safe and healthy working conditions, including protection from harassment and redress of grievances
- Exercise of labour and trade union rights

People with disabilities have the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, with their basic needs met.

Cultural life, leisure and sport

People with disabilities must be able to:

- access cultural materials, activities, events and media in appropriate formats;
- develop their creative, artistic and intellectual potential for personal and social enrichment;
- be recognised and supported in their cultural and linguistic identity, including deaf culture and sign languages; and
- be able to participate in mainstream and disability-specific sport.

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Children with disabilities must have equal access with other children to participation in play, leisure and sport, including within the school system.

The full text of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities can be found at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/Convention.aspx>

