***Draft outline -Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization of Persons with Disabilities, including in emergency situations***

[Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx)

In September 2021, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted an [annotated outline](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx) of its ***Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization of Persons with Disabilities*, *including in emergency situations.*** The process of preparing the Guidelines began in late 2020 and has continued during 2021. The outline describes the content of the Guidelines, currently under preparation. A draft version of the Guidelines will be published by the end of 2021 with a call for written submissions to all interested stakeholders.

The Guidelines will build on State party obligations, pursuant to article 19 of the Convention on the [right to live independently and be included in the community](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/ConventionRightsPersonsWithDisabilities.aspx#19), the [Committee’s General comment No. 5 (2017)](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD/C/GC/5&Lang=en) on article 19, and the [Committee’s Guidelines under article 14](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=A/72/55&Lang=en). The guidelines will provide further concrete guidance to implement the right to live independently and being included in the community and will be a tool to support States parties and other stakeholders, in overcoming isolation, segregation and discrimination against children and adults with disabilities.

1. ***A bottom-up process: Regional consultations***

The process started with a wide and highly participatory process of seven regional consultations for stakeholders in [Africa, Asia Pacific, Central and South America, Caribbean and North America, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Europe and European Union, Middle-East and North Africa](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx). The contributions and statements from more than 500 persons with disabilities and their representative organizations enabled the Committee to identify the main thematic areas for preparing guidance on deinstitutionalization.

The regional consultations took place online from January to June 2021 and were organized by the Committee’s Working Group on Deinstitutionalization established to promote genuine global action on independent living and in response to the shocking findings contained in the [global report](https://covid-drm.org/assets/documents/Disability-Rights-During-the-Pandemic-report-web.pdf) of the COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor, which exposed the harmful impact of the pandemic on persons with disabilities everywhere.

In 2021, the Committee welcomed the formation of the Global Coalition on Deinstitutionalization composed of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, the International Disability Alliance, the European Network on Independent Living, Inclusion International, and Transforming Communities for Inclusion, and other civil society organizations advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, the Disability Rights Fund and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund, Disability Rights International, the Disability Unit at the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria, and the Validity Foundation. The support of the Global Coalition has been instrumental for the organization of the regional consultations and the participation of persons with disabilities around the world.

During the regional consultations, women with disabilities, young persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities who have experienced institutionalization, persons with albinism, grass-roots and self-advocacy organizations and other civil society organizations presented their testimonies, experiences, and proposals for ending institutionalization, isolation and segregation. Universities and regional disability networks joined the Committee and contributed to the consultations and in preparation of the analytical regional outcome documents.

1. ***2021-2022: The drafting process of the guidelines and general call for submissions***

The Committee will continue expanding the participation of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders in the process of developing the guidelines on deinstitutionalization in 2021 and 2022. With the support of the Global Coalition on Deinstitutionalization and its consultants, it will prepare draft guidelines based on the inputs of a general call for submissions to all stakeholders.

States parties to the Convention, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, independent monitoring frameworks, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders will be invited and will have an opportunity to make contributions to the process.

1. ***Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including during emergencies***

The international consensus about the importance of participation of persons with disabilities and the crucial role of human rights in the recovery phase has been reaffirmed by several multilateral mechanisms and forums. The [Secretary General of the United Nations](https://www.un.org/sg/en) [urged governments to place people with disabilities at the centre of COVID-19 response and recovery efforts and to consult and engage people with disabilities](https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/we-have-unique-opportunity-design-and-implement-more-inclusive-and-accessible-societies).

The Committee has joined this call and the Guidelines on deinstitutionalization represent an opportunity in the post-pandemic period to build back better societies in which persons with disabilities are truly included and benefit on an equal basis with others from freedom of choice and a life included in the community.

The very high level of participation of stakeholders in developing the Guidelines thus far is a mark of the importance of this process and the Committee encourages national and regional actors to develop partnerships that can bring change and new opportunities for the participation of persons with disabilities in society.

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