



# A report about the rights of people with disabilities around the world



Easy Read version of:  
**Report of the Special Rapporteur on  
the rights of persons with disabilities**

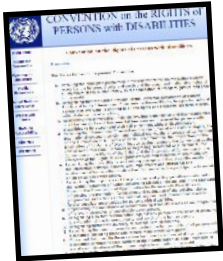
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Sometimes we need to use new or difficult words.



These words are in **bold** and there is a list of what they mean at the end of the report.



# 1. About this report

Every year the **Special Rapporteur** writes reports for the **United Nations** about rights and people with disabilities.



The **United Nations** is a group of different countries that work together to try to make the world a safer place for everyone.



The **Special Rapporteur** is Catalina Devandas-Aguilar.

She helps countries understand what they need to do to make sure people with disabilities get their rights.



This is an EasyRead version of her report about **social protection**.

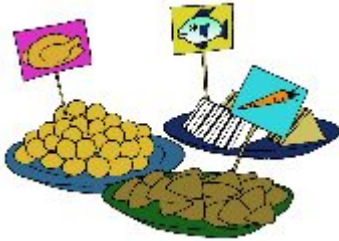
**Social protection** helps governments make sure everyone can live well.





**Social protection** is things that give everyone the same chances in life.

For example:



- having enough food



- basic healthcare



- going to school

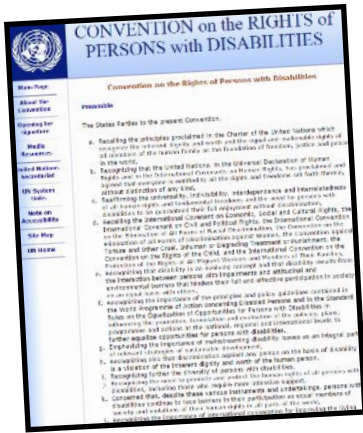


- money to help pay for the things you need if you cannot work or earn enough.



The report says what this means for people with disabilities.

## 2. About the agreement



When we use the word **agreement** in this report we mean the ‘United Nations **Convention** on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’.



A **Convention** is an agreement between different countries.



You can find the full agreement on the UN enable website at:  
**[www.un.org/disabilities/](http://www.un.org/disabilities/)**



Countries that are part of the agreement have promised to do what it says.



They must try to make sure people with disabilities get their **rights**.



**Rights** are things that should happen for everyone.



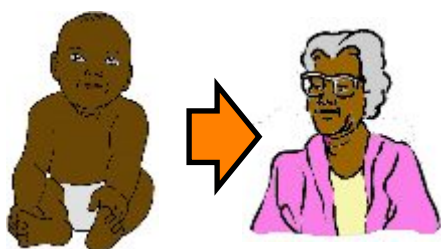
The agreement helps people with disabilities understand their rights and can be used to make things fairer for them.

### 3. Protection for people with disabilities



#### Why this is important

**Social protection** gives everyone the same chance to live well.



This should happen from when you are very young until you are very old.



Governments do this in different ways. Usually they give people support, money or **benefits** if things change or they need more help.



These benefits are for everyone, including people with disabilities, and can help if you:

- are sick

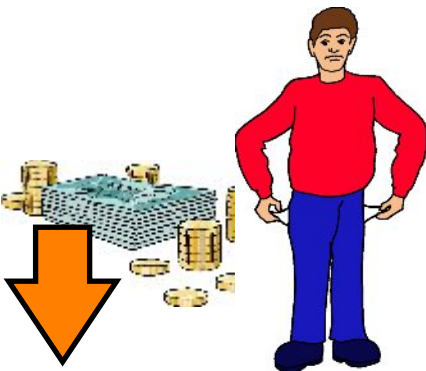




- haven't got a job or lose your job



- have a baby



- get low wages



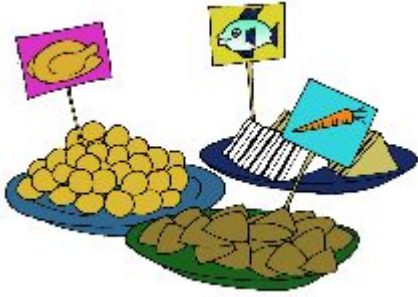
- are older.



Sometimes governments offer extra training or support to help people with disabilities get jobs. This can help you be more secure and independent.

## What countries must do

Countries must have plans to protect everyone's right to:



- enough food



- basic healthcare



- education



- money to help pay for the things you need if you cannot work or don't earn enough.



## Making things work for everyone

People with disabilities get treated unfairly for other reasons, not just because they have a disability.



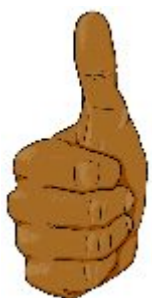
For example, because they are women or because of their race or religion.



**Social protection** plans must work for everyone, including people with disabilities.



The United Nations will involve people with disabilities when it writes plans.



This is the only way to make sure we get things right.



## Changing the way we think about things

Plans for **social protection** must treat people with disabilities equally and fairly and make sure they get their **human rights**.



In the past children with disabilities went to special schools or institutions and we treated people with disabilities as if they were ill.



Now we think about how to make sure people can:

- live independently
- be included in the community
- have choice and control.



Plans need to include things like housing, family life and making it easier for people with disabilities to be part of their community.



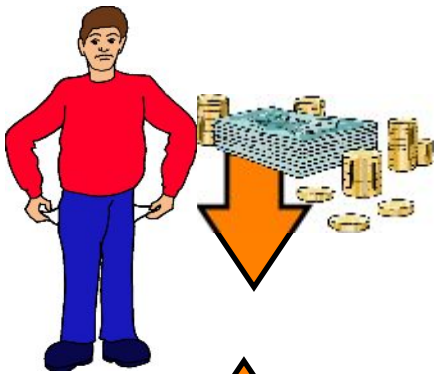




## 4. Including people with disabilities

**Social protection** does not work well for many people with disabilities. They often miss out on plans to give people extra help or support.

This can be because they face extra problems like:



- being poor



- the extra costs of having a disability



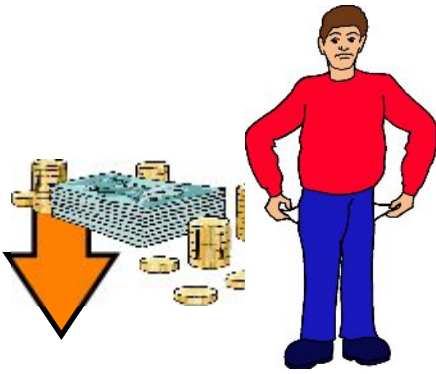
- needing support at different stages in their life



- women and girls with disabilities face extra problems



- being treated unfairly for lots of reasons.



## Being poor

**Poverty** means not having enough money to pay for food, somewhere to live or clothes.



**Poverty** affects more people with disabilities because:

- they do not work or they have a job that doesn't pay much



- do not have the chance to go to school, college or university.



## How to include people with disabilities

Plans to stop **poverty** must think about how to protect people with disabilities.

## The extra costs of having a disability

People with disabilities have to pay extra because they have a disability.



They can spend about half the money they earn on things like:

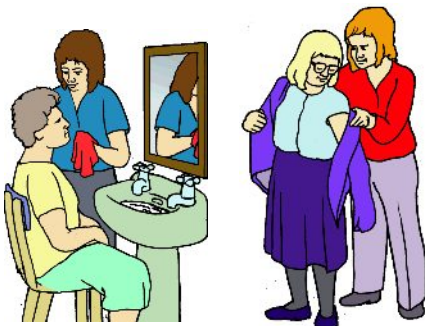
- health care

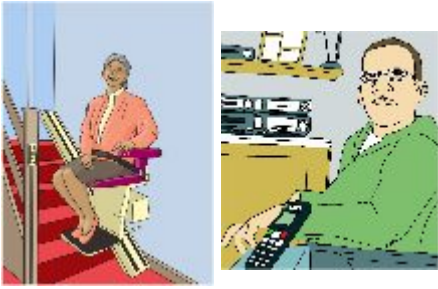


- transport



- personal care





- special equipment to get around or communicate



- changes to their homes



- paying more to buy things in small local shops.



## How to include people with disabilities

Benefits and other money must be enough to pay for the extra things people with disabilities need.



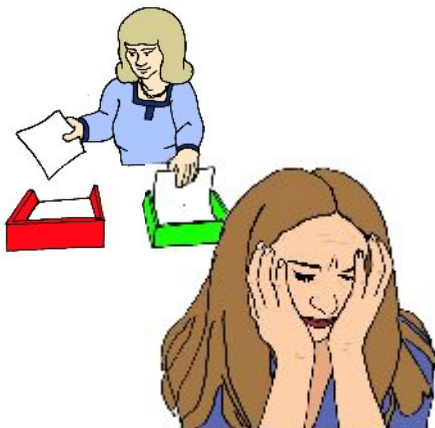


## Support at different times in your life

Families with a child with disabilities often have less money or have other problems.



Children with disabilities often miss out on school.



People with disabilities find it harder to get and keep a job.



People with disabilities can find it hard to get good healthcare and social care.



Many older people with disabilities do not have savings or work pensions.



## How to include people with disabilities

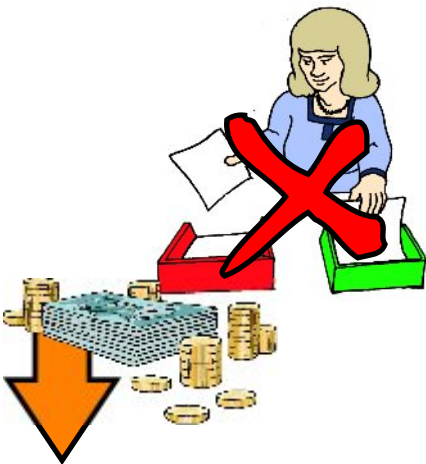
**Social protection** plans must support people with disabilities to be as independent as possible all through their life.

## Extra problems for women and girls with disabilities



In many countries women and girls are treated less fairly than men:

- they do not get the same chances to go to school, college or university



- they do not have jobs or they are paid low wages



- they are often expected to care for other members of their family.



## How to include people with disabilities

**Social protection** plans must make sure women with disabilities do not miss out, especially if they are caring for other people.



## Discrimination for lots of reasons

**Discrimination** means treating someone unfairly or worse than other people because of who they are.



For example because of their:

- race
- religion
- being gay, lesbian or bisexual
- disability.



People with disabilities can be treated even worse if they are also in one of the other groups that can get treated unfairly as well.

## How to include people with disabilities



**Social protection** plans must think about all the different discrimination people with disabilities can face.



## 5. What countries need to do



Countries must make sure **social protection** gives people with disabilities the same chances in life as everyone else.

These are the things they must do.

### Look at their laws

Countries that are part of the agreement must:



- make sure their laws support people with disabilities to get **social protection**



- check to see if people with disabilities are treated fairly for benefits or other support

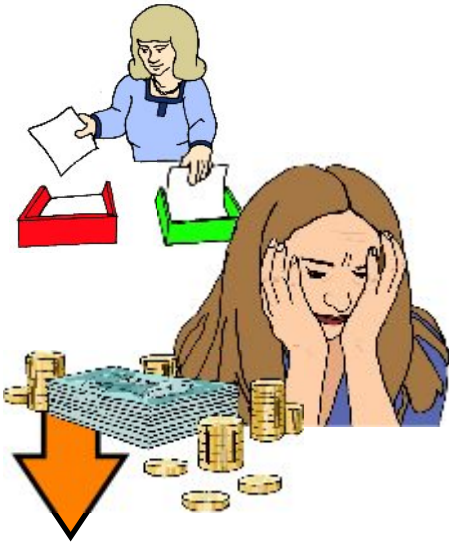


- look at how laws about disability link with things that affect everyone. For example, housing, education or health.

## Look at how they plan



The whole government must understand and work on the rights of people with disabilities - not just the department that deals with disability.



They should:

- check if people with disabilities who cannot work miss out because they do not put money into a work pension



- make sure disability benefits give people enough money to pay for things they need because of their disability



- make sure the way benefits are linked does not mean people with disabilities lose all their benefits if they earn more money.

## Think about benefits



Governments should:

- make sure people do not miss out on benefits because they have a disability you cannot see or their disability is worse on some days than others



- agree how to define or describe disability in a way that includes all people with disabilities.



This will help countries decide who should get different benefits. It should also help people who need support and benefits to get them



- look at how much money people with disabilities have and what extra they need to spend because of their disability when they decide who can get the benefit.



## Think about access

People with disabilities will miss out on **social protection** if they don't know about it or cannot get to places where it is happening.



Countries must make sure people with disabilities:

- know what is happening



- can get into buildings or places where things happen



- have transport to get there

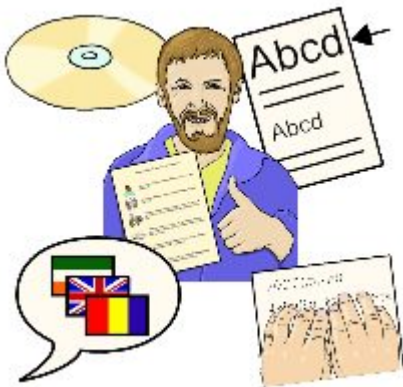




- can use services like banks to manage their benefits



- have people who can **communicate** with them in the right way.



**Communicate** means to help people talk and understand information, for example by using computers, easy read or Braille.

## Involve people with disabilities from the start



The agreement says countries must involve organisations of people with disabilities when they plan things that affect them.



Many countries do not do this properly.

They should:



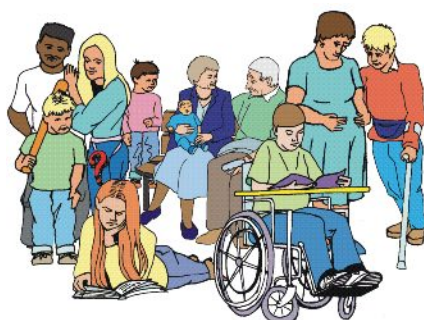
- involve people with disabilities in any plans that might affect them, not just plans about disability



- explain how people can be involved



- involve children and adults with different disabilities – including people with an intellectual impairment or learning disability and people with autism.



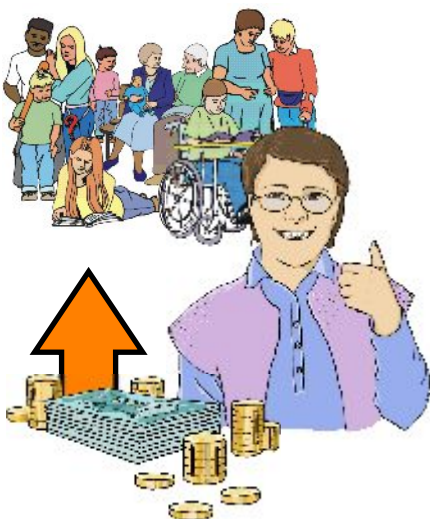
## Work to help people with disabilities get this right.



Poor countries might have to do this more slowly. They must have plans to say when things will happen and how they will pay for them.



Every country must start by making sure everyone has the same chance to get support and benefits.



When they can afford to, countries should spend more on **social protection**.



When a country gives money to help a poorer country they must make sure people with disabilities have an equal chance to get this help.



## 6. What happens next?



Governments must make sure people with disabilities have a right to social protection.



The report says they should:

- make sure this is in all their laws and plans
- make sure people with disabilities can use the same support, benefits and projects as other people
- make sure disability support and benefits helps people be independent and does not take away other rights
- have decisions about who can have support and benefits that are fair for people with disabilities







- have benefits that give people with disabilities enough money to live on



- do not take away peoples' rights if services are cut



- find out if **social protection** is working for people with disabilities



- set up good ways to involve and listen to people with disabilities and their organisations



- work with other countries to share ideas.



The report also says that the United Nations should support and tell people about **social protection** in all its work.



## 7. What the words mean

**Benefits** – money some governments give people if they:

- are sick
- have a disability
- do not have a job or lose their job
- have a baby
- get low wages
- are older.

**Convention** - an agreement between different countries.

**Communicate** - to help people with disabilities talk and understand information, for example by using computers, easy read or Braille.

**Rights** - things that should happen for everyone.

**Human rights** - basic rights and freedoms that should happen for every person in the world.

**Poverty** - not having enough money to pay for food, somewhere to live or clothes.

**Social protection** - how governments make sure everyone has the same chance of a good enough standard of living.

**Special Rapporteur** - a person working for the UN who helps countries understand what they need to do to make sure people get their rights.

**United Nations** - a group of 193 different countries that work together to try to make the world a better and safer place for everyone.



## Credits



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