



**United Nations General Assembly – Human Rights Council
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Making sure people with disabilities get the right support from the police, courts and law



About us



We are called the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.**

We are part of the United Nations (UN).



The United Nations is a group of countries that work to make the world a better and safer place.



Our job is to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their human rights.



Human rights are rights that everyone has, like the right to:

- go to school
- work
- be healthy

About this report



People with disabilities have a right to get the support they need from the police, courts and law.



There is a document that talks about this right. It is called:

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities.



Many countries have promised to do what the document says.



This report is about:

- what countries must do for people with disabilities
- some good work that countries told us they are doing

Some problems that people with disabilities face



Many people with disabilities find it hard to get the right support from the police, courts and law.

For example, many people with disabilities find that:

- The law does not support their rights
- The police and courts do not treat them fairly, listen to them or believe what they say.



For example, people with a mental health condition or intellectual disability may not be allowed to speak in court.

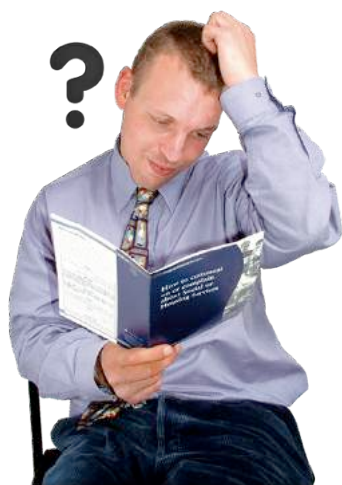


People may think they cannot understand or tell the truth

Many people with disabilities find that:



- Going to court costs too much money
- They cannot get money or advice to help them go to court



- There is no easy information about going to court and their rights



- Other people can go to court and make decisions for them.

For example, people in their family



- Courts and police stations are hard to get into or move around in

What countries must do



Countries must solve all problems that people with disabilities face when they try to:

- get support from the police, courts and law
- work with the police and courts

The right support

People with disabilities should get the right support to:

- Go to court about a crime or something bad that happened to them
- Know their rights and stand up for their rights
- Know what is happening with the police and courts and how to get support





People with disabilities should also get support to:

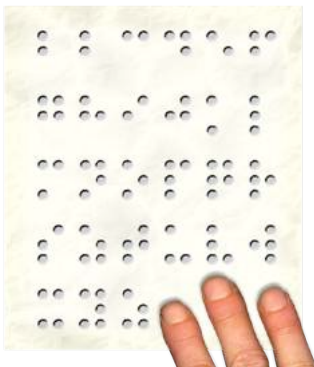
- Take part in the work of the police and courts.

For example, by being a judge, lawyer or part of a jury



Someone with a disability may need support such as:

- Someone to help them use sign language in court



- Information with easy words and pictures, Braille or something else



- Speaking to the court by video instead of going to court



- More time to get ready for court



The support must be free.

And it must be right for each adult or child with disabilities.

The right to go to court and be heard by the court



Countries must make sure that all people with disabilities are treated fairly by courts and the law.

For example, countries must make sure that:

- People with disabilities can have their say in court like everyone else.

Courts should not stop people with disabilities having a say because of their disability.

And other people should not have a say for them





Countries must make sure that:

- Courts listen to people with disabilities and make fair decisions based on what they say



- People with disabilities get support to make their own decisions.

For example, decisions about finding a lawyer and what to say in court



- Court staff have rules and information to help them know what to do

Money and advice to help people go to court



People with disabilities should get advice and money to help them go to court.

This is called **legal aid**.



Countries should make laws about free legal aid.

The legal aid should be easy for people with disabilities to get.

Money and help for people with disabilities who do not get their rights

Countries must make sure that:



- It is easy for people with disabilities to complain or go to court if they do not get their rights.

This means women and girls with disabilities too



- The police and courts look into bad things that happen to people with disabilities.

And people who do bad things to people with disabilities are punished



Countries must make sure that:

- People with disabilities get enough money or help if something bad happens and they do not get their rights.

This is to help them cope, get better and keep safe



- Work is done to stop more bad things happening to people with disabilities

Training for police, court and other staff



Staff should get training about the rights of people with disabilities.



The training should be for:

- Police, judges and lawyers
- Prison staff
- Other people who work for the law or give advice about the law

Countries should also:



- Check that people with disabilities get the right support from the police and courts
- Work with people with disabilities to make better laws and rules

Some good work that countries are doing



- Colombia, Mexico, Finland and Canada made some easy information about the police and going to court.



- Chile, Ethiopia, Peru and Germany have made it easier for blind people to be a judge.



- There is training for the police and judges in Spain, South Africa, Estonia and France.

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