Logo Iederin

**Article 11 written submission OHCHR – Dutch Disability Platform**

Written contribution by Dutch Disability Platform **Ieder(in)**

*Dutch Disability Platform* [*Ieder(in)*](https://iederin.nl/) *is the Netherlands’ national umbrella organisation for people with disabilities and chronic illness. Having 250 member organisations, including local disability platforms and national associations for specific groups, Ieder(in) is the biggest interest group for people with disabilities in the Netherlands. With the UNCRPD as its compass, the aim of Ieder(in) is to have full freedom of choice for people with disabilities in terms of where they want to live, learn, work, travel and spend their leisure time.*

**Governments need to coordinate on article 11**

Governments need to coordinate their Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and other safety policies. In emergency or disaster situations, particularly persons with disabilities are vulnerable.

Governments and their departments and officials therefore need to:

* **Coordinate** **disability inclusive emergency and safety policies and communications on all levels of authorities and emergency services.** For instance, when the national government makes the national emergency number accessible through an app with a Real Time Text chat function, the emergency number operators need to be trained in how to communicate with people with communication disabilities like deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech-impaired persons.
* **Involve persons with disabilities in development processes.** Use Inclusive Design when developing new products and services. For instance a Public Warning System app. [Inclusive Design](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inclusive_design) is a ‘design process in which a product, service or environment is designed to be usable for as many people as possible, particularly groups who are traditionally excluded from being able to use an interface or navigate an environment.’
* **Practice emergency responses with persons with disabilities.** When emergency services train for responses to emergency and disaster situations in order to improve preparedness. For instance an evacuation because (imminent) flooding, they train communication and evacuation with persons with disabilities.
* **Involve persons with disabilities in development of preparedness scenarios.** When developing scenarios for disaster risk reduction or emergency responses, involve persons with disabilities. Pay special attention to accessible and understandable communication. For instance use easy-to-understand language when informing citizens.
* **Stimulate regional and local disability inclusive emergency and safety policies and communications.** National governments and their officials need to share experience and knowledge of disability inclusive safety policies and communications with regional and local authorities. For instance how to use a sign language interpreter at a crisis press conference.

Involvement of persons with disabilities also means involvement of their representing organisations, like a Disability Platform.

It would really help us when UN promotes and stimulates coordination between different government departments and officials on all government levels and authorities. Maybe UN can come up with ways – together with the European Union – to make it possible to enforce this kind of coordination?