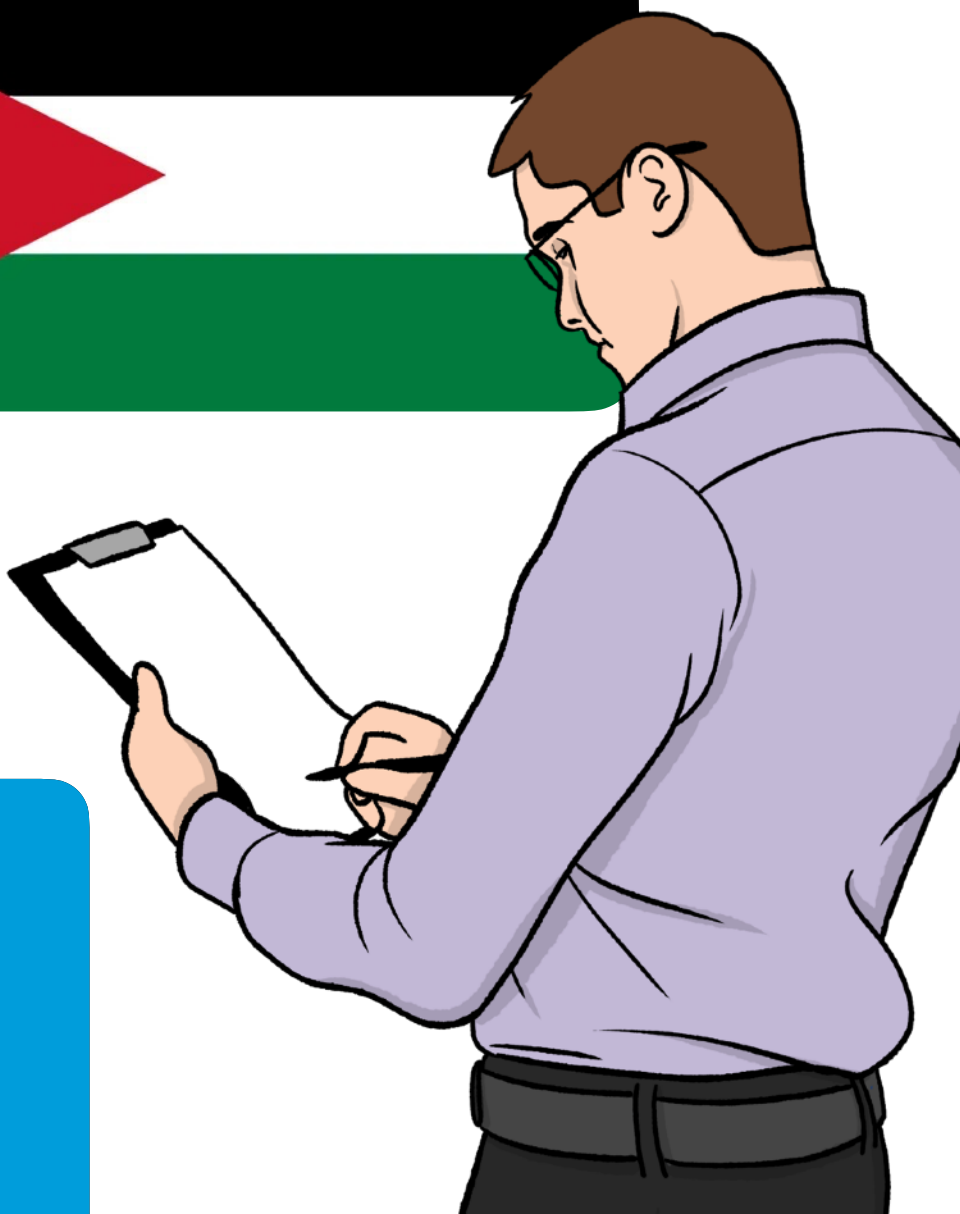




Visit to Jordan



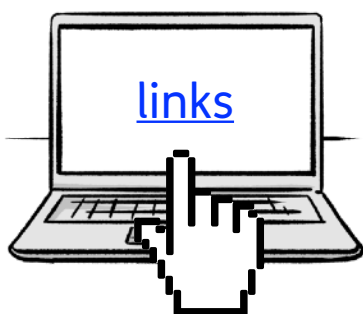
Easy
Read

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In this Easy Read document, hard words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after we have used them.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#).

These are links that will go to another website which has more information.

About this report



This report is from Gerard Quinn, who is the **Special Rapporteur** on the rights of persons with disabilities.



He helps countries understand how to make sure the rights of persons with disabilities are respected.



A **Special Rapporteur** writes reports for the **United Nations**. Every year he writes reports about the **human rights** of persons with disabilities.



The **United Nations** (UN) is an organization made up of many countries working together. It works to make the world a safer and better place.



Human rights are the things that every person should have or be able to do, by law.



This is an Easy Read version of the Special Rapporteur's report of 2023 (A/HRC/52/32/Add.2) on his visit to Jordan.

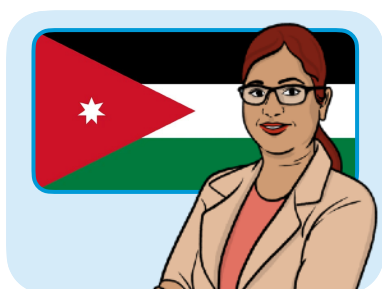
The visit



The Special Rapporteur visited Jordan in September 2022.



He visited different places in Jordan.

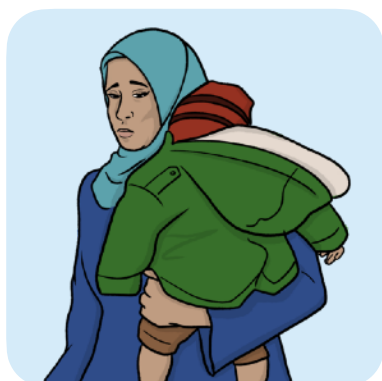


He met:

- Different parts of the government.



- Other organizations.



- Different people with disabilities, like children and young people, and **refugees**.

Refugees are people who have had to leave their country because it is not safe.



The Special Rapporteur thanks everyone who helped him understand what life is like for people with disabilities in Jordan.

What Jordan has done

The law



An **international agreement** called the United Nations Disability Convention says persons with disabilities have the same human rights as everyone else.



An **international agreement** is something that has been agreed by countries around the world.



In this report, we will call this agreement 'the Disability Convention'.



Jordan agreed to the Disability Convention in 2008.



This means they must make sure persons with disabilities get their human rights.

It also agreed to follow rules on:



- Not using land-mines - these are bombs that are hidden under the ground.



- Providing books that people who are blind or have difficulty seeing can read.



Jordan wrote a report for the **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** in 2012.



The **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** are a group of experts in the UN.

They are in charge of checking persons with disabilities get their rights.

The Committee said that:



- It was good that Jordan was trying to stop persons with disabilities being treated unfairly.



- There was more that Jordan needed to do to support persons with disabilities.



Jordan has changed laws to give persons with disabilities more rights.



Persons with disabilities have the right to be included in all parts of life in Jordan.



Jordan has changed laws to make sure people with disabilities get their rights in the same way as everyone else.



Jordan has set up a group called the Equal Opportunities Committee.



It listens to people's complaints to see if people are being treated unfairly.



But, so far it only listens to complaints about people's jobs.



Persons with disabilities may not know about the support they can get to make a complaint.



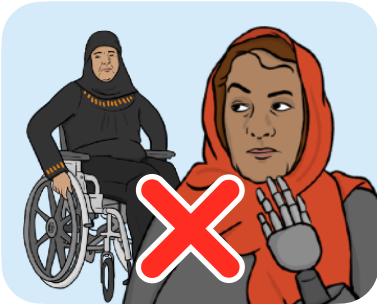
Jordan has changed the law to make sure all new buildings can be used by persons with disabilities.



There are a lot of refugees in Jordan.



Some refugees in Jordan have disabilities.

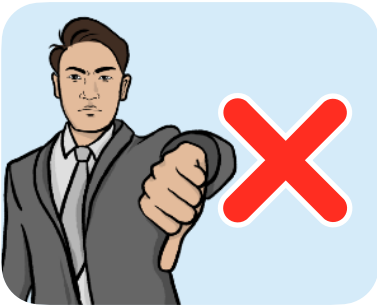


The law does not give them as much support as other persons with disabilities in Jordan.



The law should change to give them more rights.

Changing how people think about disability



It is important that people do not think badly about persons with disabilities.



But many persons with disabilities told the Special Rapporteur that people thought badly about them.



Young people with disabilities said it affected them and their families.



Some were bullied.



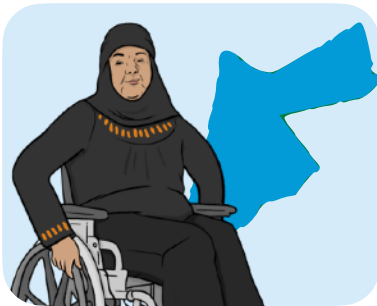
Giving these people some support can make a lot of difference.

Changing organizations and services



In 2007, Jordan created an organization called the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

It is in charge of:



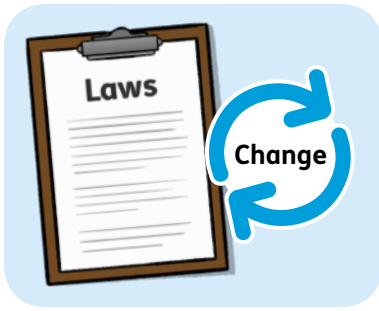
- Making Jordan good for persons with disabilities.



- Making sure persons with disabilities in Jordan get their rights.



The Higher Council works with persons with disabilities.



The government of Jordan is interested in changing the law to support persons with disabilities.



There is not much teaching about disability at university in Jordan.



Jordan does not have a way of checking that it is following the Disability Convention.

Finding out information



It is important to know:

- How many persons with disabilities there are in Jordan.



- What support persons with disabilities need.

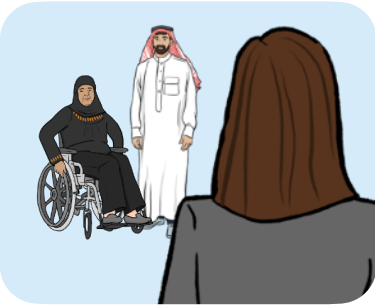


But the government does not know enough.

There is not much information about refugees with disabilities.



If the government does not know enough, it makes it harder to include persons with disabilities.



But they can still do more to support persons with disabilities, even if they do not know exactly how many there are.

What needs to change



The Special Rapporteur found some things that Jordan should change:

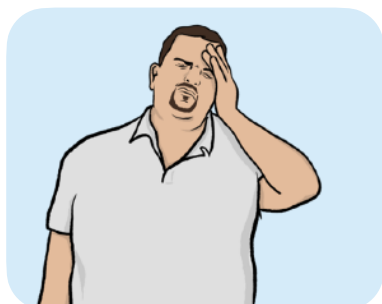
The law



Countries should treat persons with disabilities in the same way as everyone else, and let them make choices for themselves.



But in Jordan, persons with **intellectual disabilities** and **psychosocial disabilities** may not be allowed to make choices for themselves.



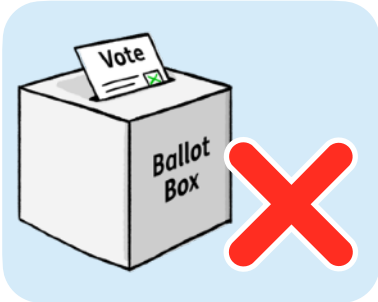
Intellectual disabilities affect how someone is able to learn and understand new information.



Psychosocial disabilities are mental health issues that have a big effect on people's lives.



We do not know how many people are not allowed to make choices for themselves in this way.



These people may not be allowed to vote in elections.

Living in the local community

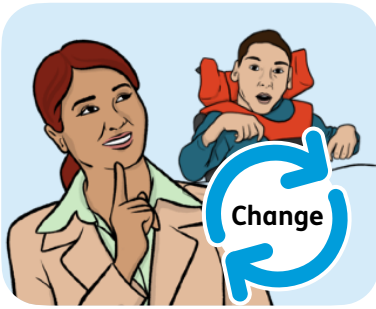


In many countries, persons with disabilities have had to live in **institutions**.

Institutions are places where some persons with disabilities live for a long time. Sometimes they are called long-stay hospitals or mental health hospitals.



But it is important that persons with disabilities can live in their local community.



This means changing how services support people.



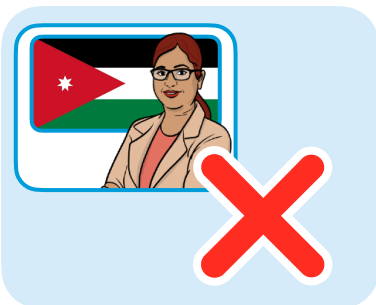
Jordan wants to move persons with disabilities out of institutions and into the local community.



This will help persons with disabilities to be more included.



Many support services are organised by charities.



They do not get much help from the government.



This can mean their services are not as good as they should be.



The government is looking at ways to help these services.



The government is looking at putting the **health department** in charge of institutions.

The **health department** is the part of the government in charge of curing illness and keeping people healthy.



But persons with disabilities are not sick.



The government should not put the health department in charge of institutions.

Schools and universities



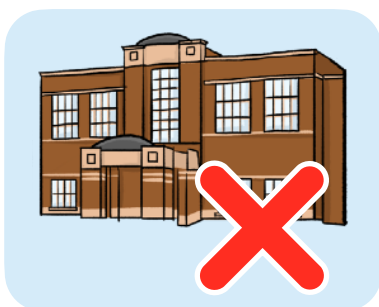
It is important that persons with disabilities get the chance to learn like everyone else.



The law in Jordan says that persons with disabilities should not be left out of school or university.



But many children with disabilities do not get to join in at school.



Many do not go to school at all.



Many children cannot get around school buildings.



Other children and young persons with disabilities do not get the support they need to take part.



The government has a plan for the next 10 years, to change this.



But this is happening very slowly.



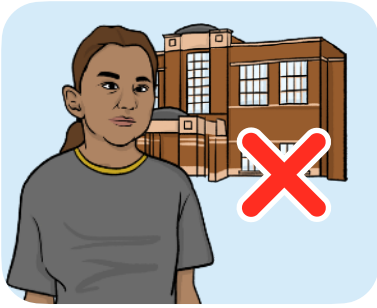
Some children cannot get the equipment, like hearing aids, they need to take part.



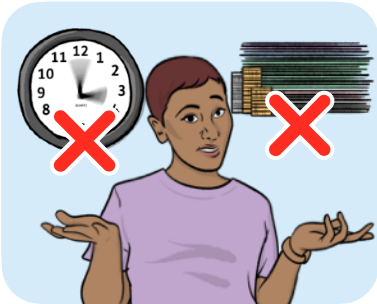
The government says there are more than enough of these in the country.



But the people who need them cannot always get them.



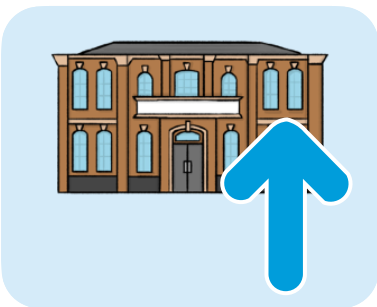
Many children with disabilities who are refugees do not go to school.



Organizations are trying to help, but they do not have enough time or money.



The government is trying to make university better for students with disabilities.



But universities still need to do more to support staff and students to take part.

Jobs and training



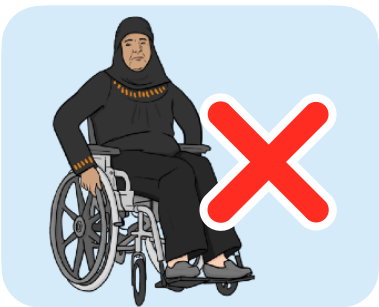
It is important that persons with disabilities in Jordan can get a good job.



The law in Jordan says that persons with disabilities cannot be left out of a job or training because of their disability.



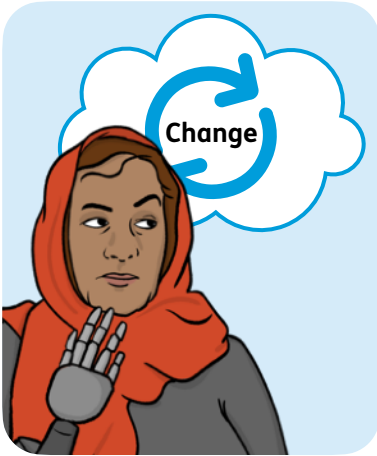
But many organizations do not have many staff with disabilities.



They have even less women with disabilities.



The government does not do enough to check that persons with disabilities are not being left out.



Organizations do not always know what a **reasonable accommodation** is.

Reasonable accommodations are changes that places and services can make so that disabled people can take part like everybody else.



Some persons with disabilities can get good jobs or training.



But there are still things that make it hard for them to work.



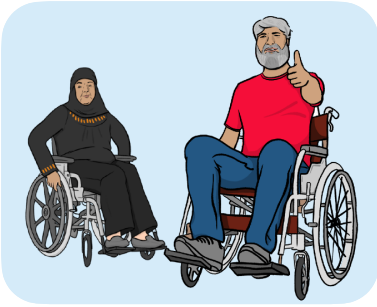
This might be difficulties travelling, or being treated badly.



Labor unions could do more to support persons with disabilities.

Labor unions are organizations that speak up for workers.

The Special Rapporteur went to a factory where:



- A lot of persons with disabilities worked.



- They had made reasonable accommodations for their staff.



- Persons with disabilities were some of the best staff.



This shows that small changes can make a lot of difference.

Support



A lot of support for persons with disabilities in Jordan does not include giving them their rights.



Jordan should do more to help persons with disabilities to take part in the local community.

Making things easier to use



Persons with disabilities find it difficult to get around many buildings.



There is not much sign language to help people use services.



It is important that websites can be used by persons with disabilities.



Jordan should do more to use **technology** in ways that is good for persons with disabilities.

Technology is gadgets and equipment that help people.

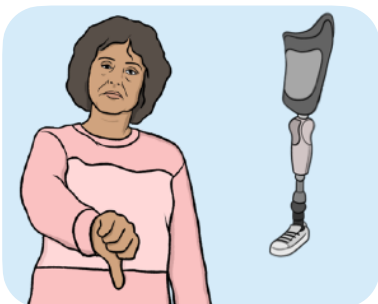
Health services



It is important that persons with disabilities get the right health care.



Health staff should know about the rights of persons with disabilities.

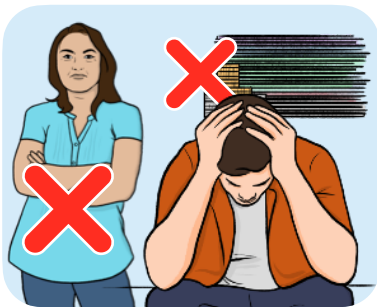


Many refugees with disabilities do not get the support or equipment they need.



Jordan does a lot to support persons with disabilities who used to be soldiers.

Mental health services



Mental health services in Jordan do not have enough staff or money.



This makes the lives of persons with disabilities and their families very hard.



Jordan has a law against trying to take your own life in a public space.



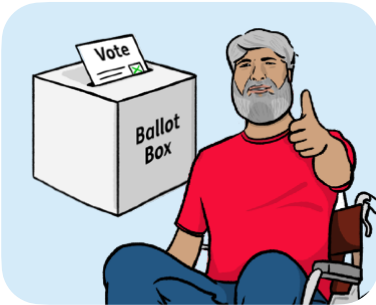
The Special Rapporteur thinks this law should be changed.

Courts



It may be difficult for persons with disabilities to go to court to get their rights.

Taking part in politics



Jordan has ways of helping persons with disabilities to vote in elections.



But there is still a law to stop persons with mental disabilities from voting.

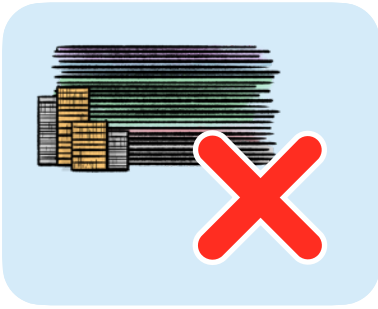


Jordan is working to listen to persons with disabilities, and is giving them support to vote.

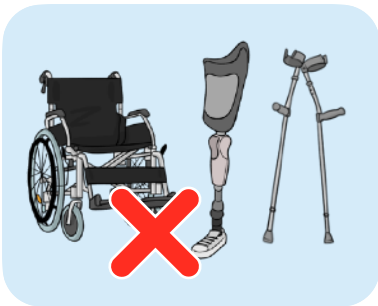


But many persons with disabilities cannot get around the buildings where they vote.

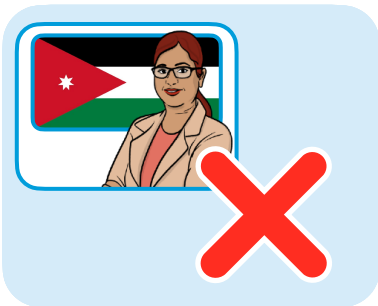
Poverty



Poverty means not having enough money to buy the basic things you need to live.



Persons with disabilities in Jordan who live in poverty often cannot get the equipment they need to take part in life.



Government services do not do enough to support them.

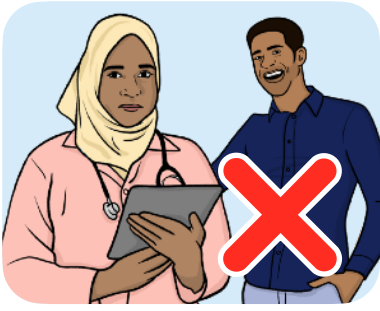
Refugees with disabilities



Many refugees live in Jordan. The government does a lot to support them.



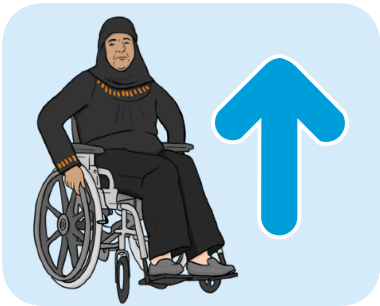
But refugees with disabilities are not getting enough support.



Many refugees with disabilities cannot get the health care, learning or jobs they need.



Organizations from around the world support refugees in Jordan.



They need to do more to support refugees with disabilities.

Working with other countries



Jordan works with other countries to support persons with disabilities around the world.



Jordan should check and make sure that the money they get from organizations around the world really helps persons with disabilities.

What we think should happen



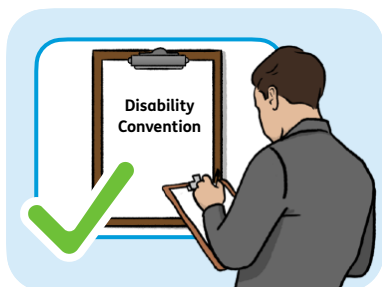
The Special Rapporteur has suggested some changes that the government should make:

The law



The government should:

- Change the law to follow the Disability Convention better.
- Check that the Disability Convention is followed and persons with disabilities are given their rights.
- Assume that 1 in 6 people are persons with disabilities.
- Find out more about the lives of persons with disabilities in Jordan.



How the government works

The government should:



- Make sure that services give people rights and let them make choices for themselves.



- Train government staff on the Disability Convention.



- Let the public know about treating persons with disabilities well.



- Find out how many persons with disabilities there are in Jordan.

Rights and choices

The government should:



- Make sure that all persons with disabilities always get their rights and can make choices.



- Look at ways to support persons with disabilities to make choices.



- Train services on the rights that persons with disabilities have.

Living in the community

The government should:



- Reduce the number of institutions.



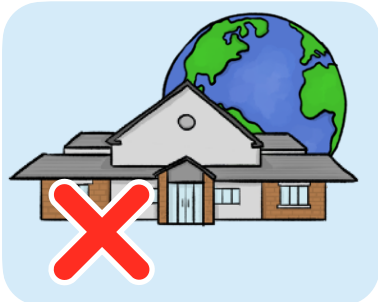
- Make new local services for children and adults with disabilities who live in the local community.



- Stop putting people from other countries into institutions.



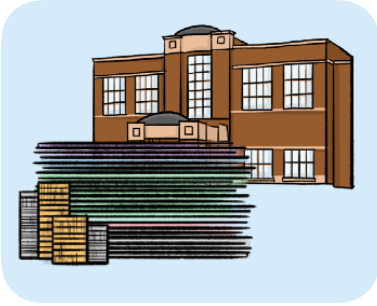
- Decide how to move persons with disabilities who are from other countries out of institutions.



It is important that they do not move to their home country and get put in an institution there.

Schools and universities

The government should:



- Make sure schools have enough money to follow the government's plan for the next 10 years.



- Make sure that schools and universities know what reasonable accommodations are.



- Find out about how to make schools and universities easier for persons with disabilities to take part.

The government should also:

- Include persons with disabilities in schools and universities by:



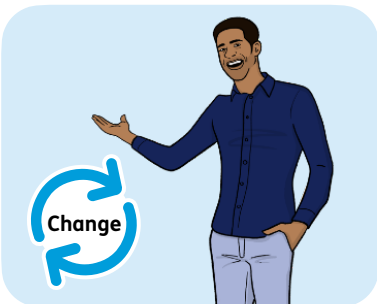
- Getting different organizations to work together.



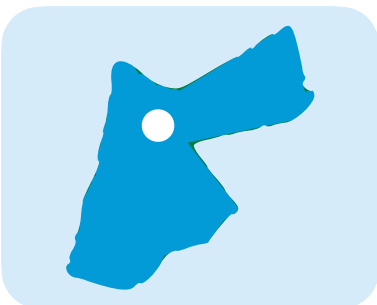
- Teaching teachers and families about disability.



- Giving children support on their own if they need it.



- Looking at changing how they teach.



- Check what children need outside of **Amman**.

Amman is the capital city of Jordan.

The government should also:



- Have a **campaign** to stop bullying of children with disabilities.

A **campaign** is work to try and change something.



- Teach about disability rights in universities.

Jobs and training

The government should:



- Let companies know about the rights of persons with disabilities to work.

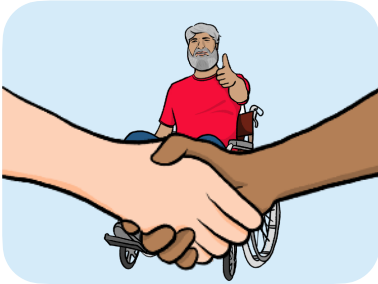


- Make sure companies know about reasonable accommodations.

The government should also:



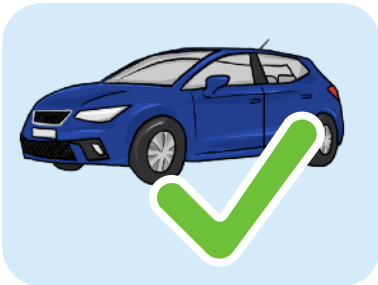
- Check that companies have persons with disabilities working for them.



- Help companies to work together to support staff with disabilities.



- Help labor unions to support persons with disabilities.



- Provide ways of getting to and from training for persons with disabilities.



- Check what happens when persons with disabilities are left out of jobs.



- Look at making more laws to get companies to include staff with disabilities.

Money

The government should:



- Find ways of helping persons with disabilities with money.



- Make sure that money and support is given to persons with disabilities in a way that gives them rights.



- Get different organizations to work together more to support persons with disabilities.

Supporting persons with disabilities to take part

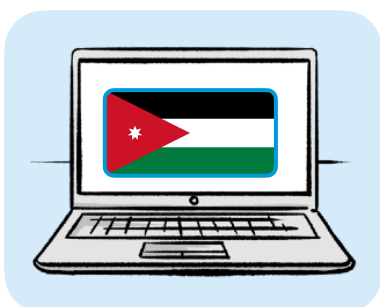
The government should:



- Make sure persons with disabilities can use buildings and transport.



- Make sure that different parts of Jordan check that new buildings think about persons with disabilities.



- Make sure that persons with disabilities can use government websites.



- Use Jordanian Sign Language.

Health care

The government should:



- Give persons with disabilities better health care, closer to their homes.



- Teach young persons and women with disabilities about sex in ways they can understand.



- Give services enough money to support persons with disabilities in the best way.

Mental health

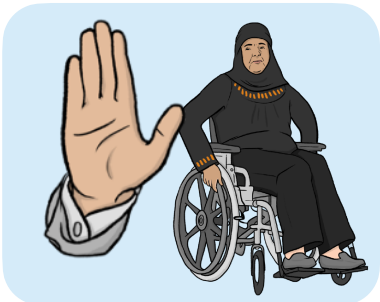
The government should:



- Make sure that persons with psychosocial disabilities, intellectual disabilities and **dementia** get choices about their care.



Dementia is a disease in the brain. It affects your memory and behaviour.



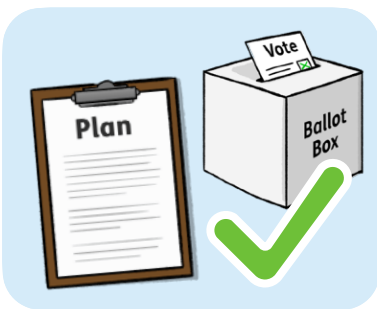
- Stop forcing persons with disabilities to do things they do not want or need.

Taking part in politics

The government should:



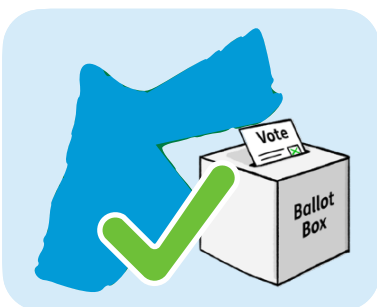
- Write a plan to make sure persons with disabilities can get around all buildings where they go to vote.



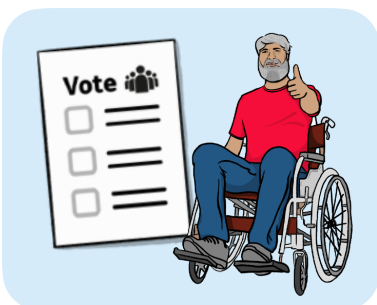
- Write a plan for how to support persons with disabilities to vote in buildings where they cannot get around now.



- Talk to other countries about including persons with disabilities in elections.



- Make sure all parts of Jordan include persons with disabilities in elections.



- Support more persons with disabilities to get voted in, in elections.

The government should also:



- Look at ways to ask organizations of persons with disabilities when making choices in government.



- Check that political parties include persons with disabilities.



- Support organizations of persons with different kinds of disabilities, like intellectual disabilities.



- Do more to support persons with disabilities who live in the countryside to take part in politics.

Courts

The government should:



- Find out whether persons with disabilities are going to court to get their rights.



- Teach law students about disability law.

Refugees

The government should:



- Make sure refugees with disabilities get the same support as other people.



- Find out more about the lives of refugees with disabilities.

Working with other countries

The government should:



- Look at whether support from other countries helps persons with disabilities.



- Work with other countries and the UN to organise services.

The UN in Jordan

The UN in Jordan should:



- Make sure persons with disabilities can get around UN offices.



- Write a plan to support Jordan to make the changes in this report.

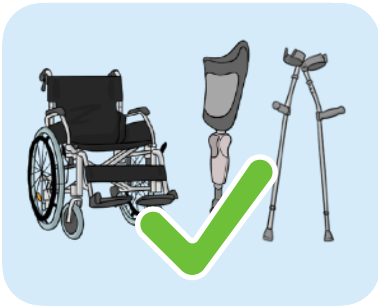
The UN in Jordan should also:



- Help persons with disabilities to take part in life, and support refugees with disabilities.



- Find out more about the needs of refugees with disabilities.



- Check that refugees with disabilities get the equipment they need.



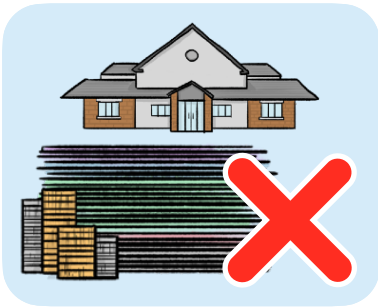
- Make sure that persons with disabilities get all the equipment and support they need.



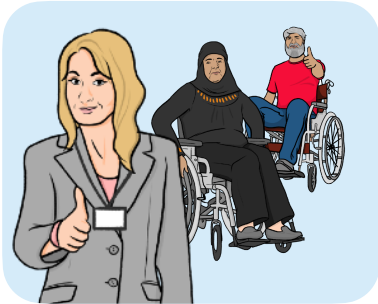
- Work with organizations of persons with disabilities in Jordan.

Organizations that give money in Jordan

Organizations that give money in Jordan should:



- Make sure they do not give money to keep institutions open.



- Support organizations of persons with disabilities.



- Do more to support refugees with disabilities.



- Work with other organizations that give money.

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