



Apply Human Rights

Introduction to Litigators and others to Human Rights of Disabled Persons

Persons with disabilities are entitled to exercise their civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights on an equal basis with others. Disability summarizes a great number of different functional limitations occurring in any population in any country of the world. People may be disabled by physical, intellectual or sensory impairment, medical conditions or mental illness. Such impairments, conditions or illnesses may be permanent or transitory in nature.

The UN estimates that there are 500 million persons with disabilities in the world today. This number is increasing every year due to factors such as war and destruction, unhealthy living conditions, or the absence of knowledge about disability, its causes, prevention and treatment.

Persons with disabilities suffer from discrimination based on society's prejudice and ignorance. In addition, they often do not enjoy the same opportunities as other people because of the lack of access to essential services.

The work of the UN constitutes the most important actions taken by an international organisation in the area of disability.

International human rights law determines that every person has:

1. The right of equality before law
2. The right to non discrimination
3. The right to equal opportunity
4. The right to independent living
5. The right to full integration
6. The right to security

Policy regarding disabilities is often dominated by the notion of "equalization of opportunities", which means that society must employ its resources in such a way that every individual, including persons with disabilities, has an equal opportunity to participate in society.

The most important international standards on the rights of persons with disabilities can be found under the **Regulations category**.

We have as well covered the regional agreements on the rights of disabled persons and published them under the geographical area, such as **Africa, Americas, Asia, Middle East, Europe and Oceania.**

At the national level most countries have implemented and enforced the human rights of persons with disabilities in national law as well as in national practice in family, civil, penal, labour and commercial codes and administrative rules and regulations.

Still the effective enjoyment of these rights through their full recognition, effective protection and their application is expected from many States. Governments must not only refrain from violating the human rights of all disabled persons, but must work actively to promote and protect these rights.

Interpretation of women rights by UN and others is another category under which we placed Compilation of General Comments and General Recommendations adopted by Human Rights Treaty Bodies- International Human Rights Instruments.

To have access to legal recourse against violations of human rights of persons with disabilities is essential. That is why the **Complaint Procedures** category contains an overview of complaint procedures under different international and regional human rights bodies. Individuals who claim that any of their rights have been violated and who have exhausted all available domestic remedies may submit a written communication to the Committee for consideration.

The **Bibliography** category consists of the list of important publications on specific issues of human rights of persons with disabilities. Ex. "Guide to Disability Rights" which provides practical information on employment, free medication, social security benefits, special education, and tax benefits.

If you need to get in contact with the persons or organisations working on protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities and get their view on a certain problem we have the **Contact persons/organisations category** at your disposal. Ex. Organisations advocating for and educating about the rights of persons with disabilities.