

TUNISIA

Specific references to women and girls with disabilities

CRPD Committee 2010-2011 Country Review

List of Issues (LOI), 10 November 2010 CRPD/C/TUN/Q/1

Concluding Observations (CO), 13 May 2011 CRPD/C/TUN/CO/1

Compiled by Myra Kovary, 31 March 2013

Women and girls with disabilities (Articles 1 - 4, 6 and 7):

The Committee requested an explanation as to how information on women with disabilities is collected, in light of the low percentage of women with disabilities recognized among members of the disabled community (33.6 per cent). (LOI, Para 6)

The Committee noted the improvements in the condition of women in general, but also noted the negative perception of women with disabilities within the family and society, and the reported cultural, traditional and family pressures that favour the concealment of women with disabilities, and prevents them from obtaining a disability card, thereby limiting their opportunities to participate in society, and develop to their full potential. (CO, Para 14)

The Committee recommended that the State party take steps to further facilitate the full participation of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities and their families in society. (CO, Para 11)

The Committee recommended that the State party design and implement awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes throughout society, including at the family level, on women with disabilities in order to foster respect for their rights and dignity; combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices; and promote awareness of their capabilities and contributions. (CO, Para 15 (a))

The Committee recommended that the State party ensure the visibility of women with disabilities in the collection of data and statistics. (CO, Para 15 (b))

The Committee recommended that the State party undertake studies and research in order to identify the situation and specific requirements of women with disabilities, with a view to elaborating and adopting strategies, policies and programmes, especially in the fields of education, employment, health and social

protection, to promote their autonomy and full participation in society, and to combat violence against women. (CO, Para 15 (c))

The Committee recommended that the State party evaluate the phenomenon of violence against boys and girls with disabilities, and compile systematic disaggregated data with a view to better combating it. (CO, Para 17 (a))

The Committee recommended that the State party take steps to replace institutional care for boys and girls with disabilities with community-based care. (CO, Para 17 (d))

Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (Article 16):

The Committee recommended that the State party evaluate the phenomenon of violence against boys and girls with disabilities, and compile disaggregated data with a view to better combating it. (CO, Para 17 (a))

The Committee expressed concern at the situation of violence that women and children with disabilities might face. (CO, Para 26)

The Committee encouraged the State party to include women and girls with disabilities in the National Strategy for the prevention of violence in the family and society, and to adopt comprehensive measures for them to have access to immediate protection, shelter and legal aid. (CO, Para 27)

The Committee requested that the State party conduct awareness campaigns and develop educational programmes on the greater vulnerability of women and girls with disabilities with respect to violence and abuse. (CO, Para 27)

Forced medical treatment, forced sterilization and abortion (Articles 12, 15, 17, 23 and 25):

The Committee asked whether specific legislation exists to protect persons with disabilities from being subjected to medical experiments or treatment without their free and informed consent, including forced abortion or sterilization on women with disabilities. (LOI, Para 17)

The Committee recommended that the State party incorporate into the law the abolition of surgery and treatment without the full and informed consent of the

patient, and ensure that national law especially respects women's rights under article 23 and 25 of the Convention. (CO, Para 29)

Education (Article 24):

The Committee recommended that the State party increase its efforts to enforce inclusive education for girls and boys with disabilities in all schools. (CO, Para 32 (b))

Health (Article 25):

The Committee asked if there is any programme in place to disseminate information pertaining to sexual and reproductive health. (LOI, Para 21)

The Committee made no follow up comments on this issue in its concluding observations.

Work and employment (Article 27):

The Committee asked for information regarding the percentage of persons with disabilities - disaggregated by sex - in employment in relation to the general population, both in the open labour market and in special working programmes. (LOI, Para 23)

The Committee recommended that the State party ensure the implementation of measures of affirmative action provided for in the law for the employment of women and men with disabilities. (CO, Para 34 (a))

Statistics and data collection (Article 31):

The Committee requested information on data collection criteria (including an analysis of gender perspective) and the legal framework which regulates the collection and maintenance of personal data, including that on persons with disabilities. (LOI, Para 28)

The Committee welcomed the plans to develop a database to store all available data on persons with disabilities but expressed concern about the low level of visibility of women with disabilities. The Committee noted that such information is indispensable to understanding the situation of women with disabilities. (CO, Para 36)

The Committee recommended that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, enhance capacity-building in this regard, and develop gender-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and reporting on progress made with regard to the implementation of the various provisions of the Convention. (CO, Para 37)

The Committee recommended that the State party systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, on abuse and violence against children. (CO, Para 39)