



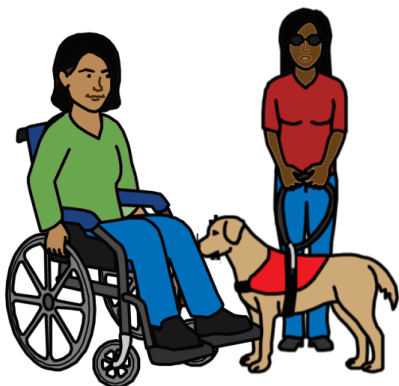
Information about the right of women with disabilities to be treated fairly by the police, courts and the law



Access to Justice for Women and Girls with Disabilities



What is this information about?



This information is about women with disabilities.



It is about their right to be treated fairly by the police, courts and the law.



It is important that everyone can get the right support from the police, courts and the law when they need it.

For example:

- If they have been treated badly
- If they have to go to court or to prison



Women with disabilities have the same right as everyone else to be treated fairly by the police, courts and the law.

But this often does not happen.

What problems do women with disabilities face?



Wrong ideas about women with disabilities

Women with disabilities may be treated unfairly because they are women and because of their disability.



Many people have wrong ideas about women with disabilities.

For example, people may think that women with disabilities:



- Do not know what they are saying
- Cannot be trusted
- Should not be parents and look after children
- Should not live in the community with everyone else



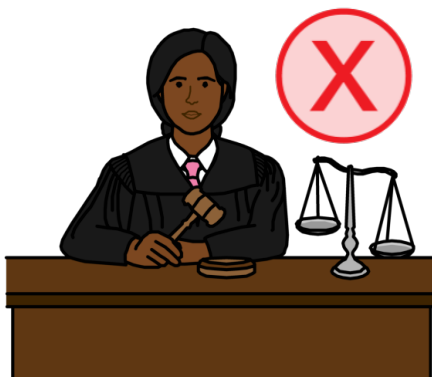
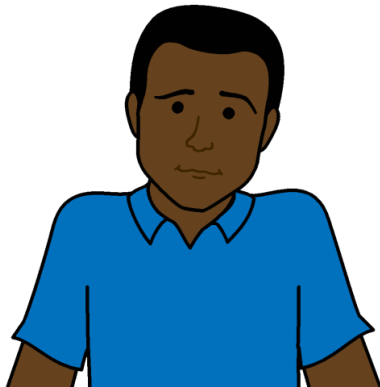
These wrong ideas mean that the police and courts may not:

- Listen to women with disabilities
- Believe what women with disabilities say
- Trust women with disabilities to look after children
- Help women with disabilities if they have been treated badly or unfairly



It also means that:

- People may treat women with disabilities badly because they think the police and courts won't do anything about it



- People may stop women with disabilities taking part in the work of the police, courts and the law

For example, by being a judge or lawyer



Unfair laws and rules

The law may not keep women with disabilities safe from bad things that can happen to them.



For example:

- Violence that happens to women with disabilities
- People forcing women with disabilities to do things they may not want

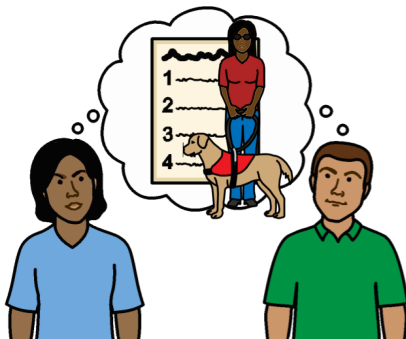


Like having medical treatment to stop them having children

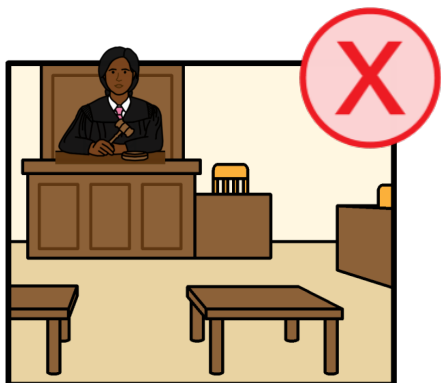


Many laws and rules say that:

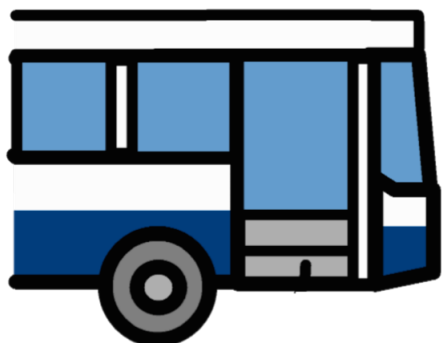
- Women with disabilities do not have the same rights as other people
- Women with disabilities cannot make their own choices about their bodies and lives



The law often allows other people to make choices for women with disabilities.



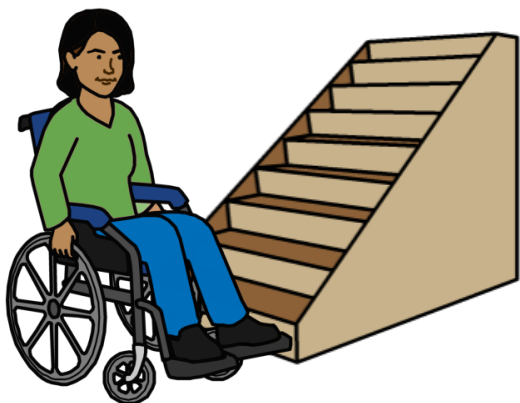
All of these things can stop women with disabilities getting help from the police, courts and the law if they need it.



It can be hard to get support from the police, courts and the law

For example:

- Transport to get to places is often hard to use



- Police stations, courts and other buildings are often hard to enter and move around in



- Many women with disabilities do not get the support they need to deal with the police and courts

For example, information they can understand about their rights, the law and what is happening



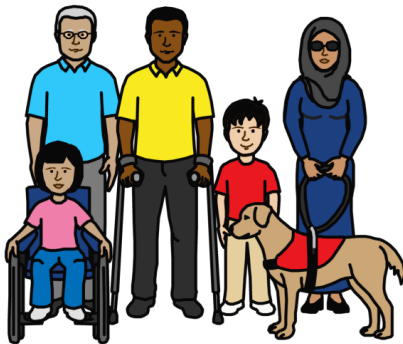
- People who work for the police, courts and the law may not know how to support women with disabilities



- Many women with disabilities are poor

They cannot afford to pay for help or advice about the law

What rights do women with disabilities have?



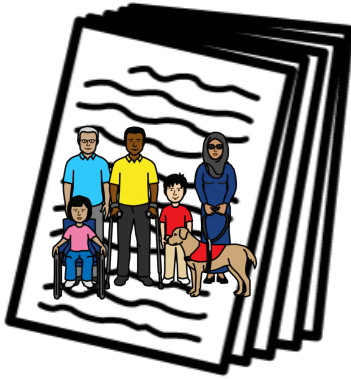
There are some documents about the rights of people with disabilities and the rights of women and girls.



This includes the right of women with disabilities to be treated fairly by the police, courts and the law.

And to get the support they need.

For example:



- There is a document about the rights of people with disabilities.

It is called the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities or CRPD for short.



- There is a document about the rights of women.

It is called the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women or CEDAW for short.

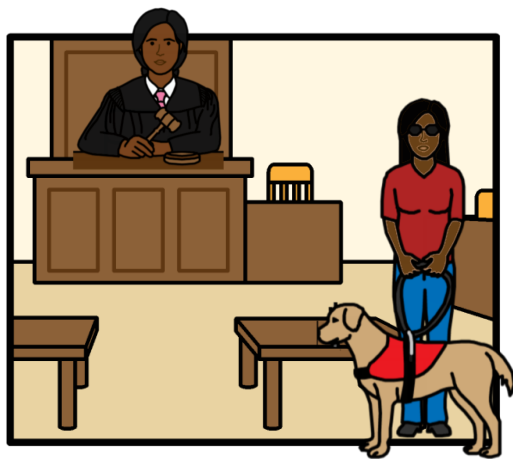


Many countries have promised to do what these documents say.



What must governments do?

Change laws and rules



Governments must change laws and rules to say that:

- All women with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else

This includes the right to go to court and be listened to like everyone else



- All women with disabilities can make their own choices about their bodies and lives

No one should stop this from happening.

For example, it should be safe and easy for women with disabilities to complain or get help if:



- Someone hurts them or treats them badly

For example, if they are hurt or treated badly by the people who care for them or people from the police, courts and the law



- Someone has forced them to do something they do not want

Like live in a home far away from everyone else



Make sure women with disabilities get the right support

Women with disabilities should get the right support from the police, courts and the law if they need it.



The support might include:

- Information that women with disabilities can understand about the law and their rights



- Someone to help them understand what to do or speak up in court



- Speaking to the court by video if they need to



- A safe place to stay if someone has been violent to them
- Someone to talk to about how they feel

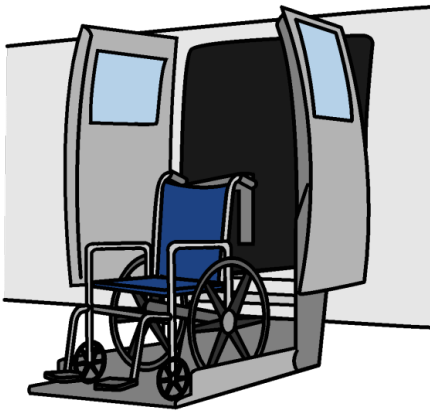


- Money, health care or other support



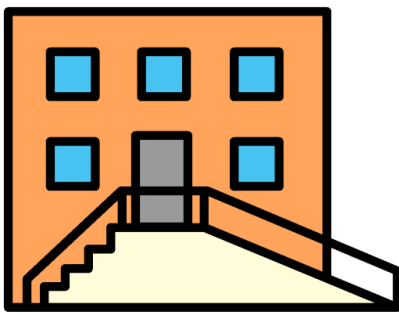
The police and courts should not treat women with disabilities badly because of wrong ideas they may have.

For example, courts should not take children away from women with disabilities because they think that women with disabilities should not be parents.



Make sure women with disabilities can get and use everything they need to

Women with disabilities should be able to get and use everything they need to.



For example:

- Transport to get to police stations and courts
- Police stations, courts and other buildings
- Help and advice about the law



This should be free or low cost so that women with disabilities can afford it



Women with disabilities should be able to take part in the work of the police, courts and law if they want to.

For example, by being a judge or making decisions at court.

What else should happen?



The police, judges and other people who work for the law should get training.

The training should help them to:

- Support women with disabilities in the right way
- Have the right ideas about women with disabilities, listen to them and treat them fairly

