



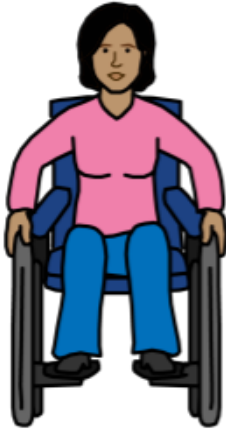
Information About the Right of Women and Girls with Disabilities to be Safe from Violence



Women Enabled International



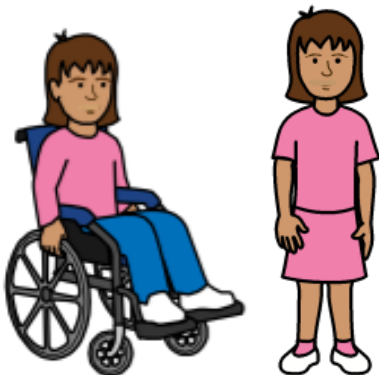
What is this information about?



This information is about women and girls with disabilities.

It is about:

- Violence that happens to women and girls with disabilities.
- The rights of women and girls with disabilities to be safe from violence.



Women and girls with disabilities experience more violence than other women and girls.

Women and girls with disabilities have the right to be safe and get support if they are unsafe.

But people often stop women and girls with disabilities from getting their rights.



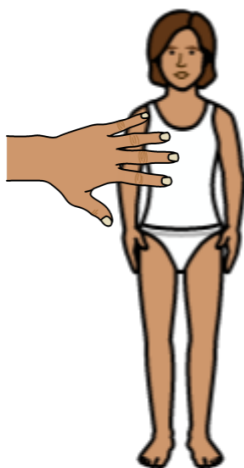
What is violence against women and girls with disabilities?



People may be violent to women and girls with disabilities for many reasons.

For example, because they are a women or girl and because they have a disability.

Violence against women and girls is often called **gender-based violence**.



People can be violent to women and girls with disabilities in many ways.

For example, people may:

- Force women and girls with disabilities to have sex or get married.
- Hit women and girls with disabilities or hurt their bodies.
- Say they will hit or hurt women and girls with disabilities.





People may:

- Stop women and girls with disabilities having things they need, like wheelchairs, medicine and food.



- Stop women and girls with disabilities leaving the house, getting a job or going to school.



- Stop women and girls with disabilities having relationships or children.

People often make choices for women and girls with disabilities about money, health and other things.

This can make women and girls with disabilities more unsafe.



For example, other people could do bad things to them or stop them making their own choices about their lives.

What stops women and girls with disabilities from getting the help they need?



No helpful information or support

Women and girls with disabilities may be scared to speak up about violence.

For example, they may worry that people will hurt them or take their children away.



It can be hard for women and girls with disabilities to:

- Find out what support they can get.
- Use health and support services for women and girls who experience violence.



For example, services may have the wrong equipment.



And staff may not have the right training.



No help from the police and courts

It can be hard for women and girls with disabilities to:

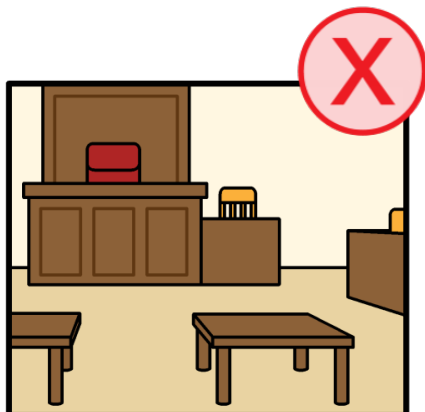
- Get support to speak to the police or courts about violence.



- Get easy information about their rights.



- Enter and move around police stations and courts.



Women and girls with disabilities may find that:

- People do not trust what they say or let them speak in court.
- The police and courts do not punish the person who was violent to them.

What rights do women and girls with disabilities have?



Women and girls with disabilities have the right to:

- Be safe from violence.
- Get the right help from the police, courts and other services.

There are some documents about this.

For example:



- 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.

- 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 governments have promised to do what these documents say.

What must governments do?



Governments must make sure that:

- No one in the government is violent to women and girls with disabilities.

This includes the police and other people who work for the government.



- No one else is violent to women and girls with disabilities.

This includes parents, boyfriends and girlfriends and people who support women and girls with disabilities.



- Women and girls with disabilities get good support and information if violence happens to them.

The support and information should be right for them.



- Services and information are easy for women and girls with disabilities to use.

For example, health services and places that keep women and girls safe from violence.



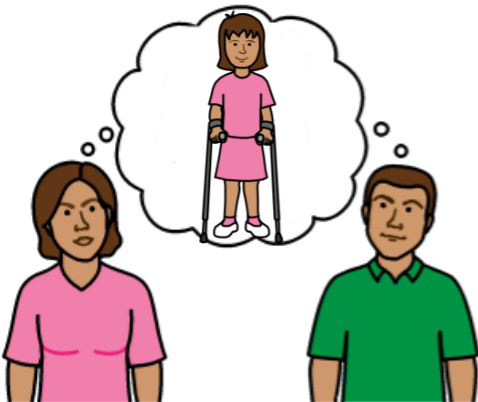
Governments must make sure that:

- There are good laws, plans and rules to keep women and girls with disabilities safe from violence.

For example, it must be against the law to stop women with disabilities having children unless they agree to it.



- Women with disabilities can have a say in the laws, plans and rules.



- People do not think bad things or have wrong ideas about women and girls with disabilities.



- People in the community do not hurt women and girls with disabilities.

For example, they should not force women and girls to get married.

Governments must make sure that:



- People have training about how to support women and girls with disabilities who experience violence.

For example, the police, judges and health and care staff should get training.



- There is good information about violence that happens to women and girls with disabilities.

This will help people make good plans and laws.



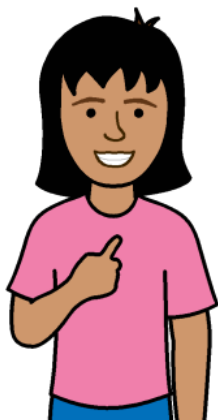
- The police and courts take action if violence happens to women and girls with disabilities.

For example, courts should listen to women and girls with disabilities and punish people who hurt them.



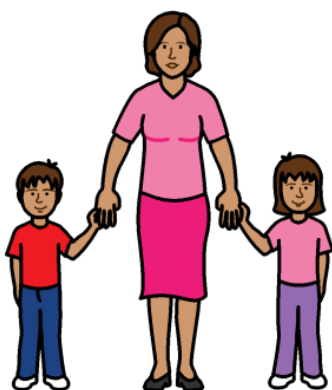
- Women and girls with disabilities get the right money and support to cope after violence.

What else should happen?



The police and courts should:

- Know that women and girls with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else.



- Support the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

For example, courts should not stop women and girls with disabilities seeing their children if violence happens to them.



Women and girls with disabilities should have:

- Easy information about the law and their rights.



- A safe place to stay if they are not safe in their homes.



- Support to speak to the police or courts about violence if they need it.



Police stations and courts should be easy for women and girls with disabilities to enter into and move around.