



Information About the Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities to Do with Their Bodies, Sex, Relationships and Giving Birth to Children

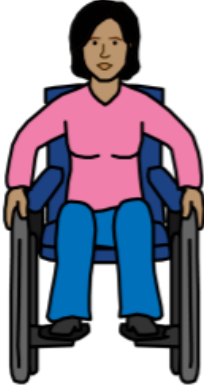
(This is Called Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights)



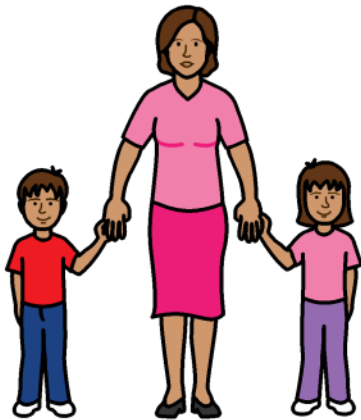
Women Enabled International



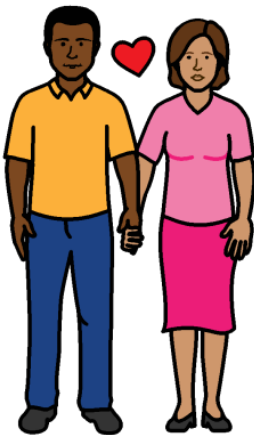
What is this information about?



This information is about women and girls with disabilities.



It is about their rights to do with their bodies, sex, relationships, health, and giving birth to children.



Women and girls with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else.

And they often want to make their own choices about their bodies, health, sex life, relationships and having children.



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

What problems do women and girls with disabilities face?



Women and girls with disabilities need the right healthcare, information and support about sex, relationships and having children.



But many women and girls with disabilities find it hard to get the right healthcare, information and support.



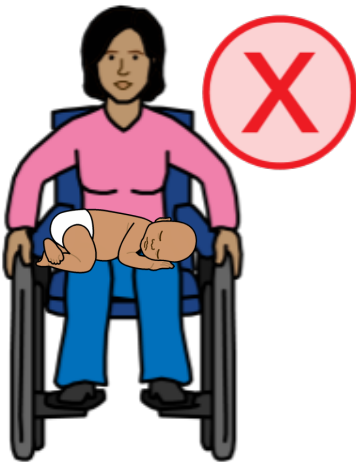
And women and girls with disabilities may be treated badly when they try to get support.

For example, women with disabilities may be treated badly when they try to get healthcare for being pregnant.

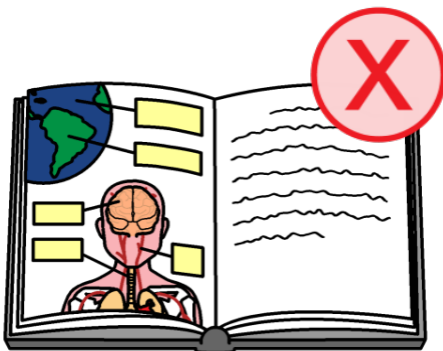


Wrong ideas about women and girls with disabilities

People often have wrong ideas about women and girls with disabilities.



For example, people may think it is wrong for women with disabilities to have sex or have children.



People may think that women and girls with disabilities do not need information about sex, relationships and having children.



Health staff often have wrong ideas about women and girls with disabilities.



Many health staff do not have the right training to support women and girls with disabilities.

Problems with information and equipment



Information about sex, relationships and having children is often hard for women and girls with disabilities to understand or get hold of.



Health services may have the wrong beds and equipment for women and girls with disabilities.

Other People Making Decisions



People may force women and girls with disabilities to have medical operations to:

- Stop them having children
- End their pregnancy
- Give birth in a certain way



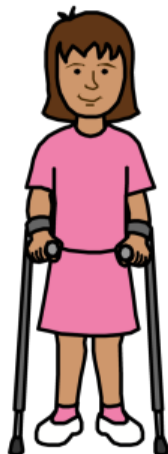
Other people often make these decisions for women and girls with disabilities without asking them.

For example, family members or doctors.



Many laws in the world say that other people have the right to make decisions for women and girls with disabilities.

What rights do women and girls with disabilities have?



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

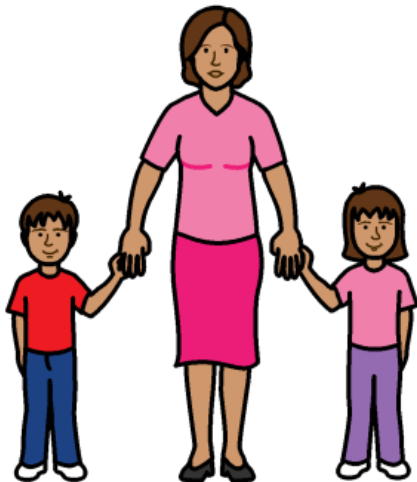
For example:



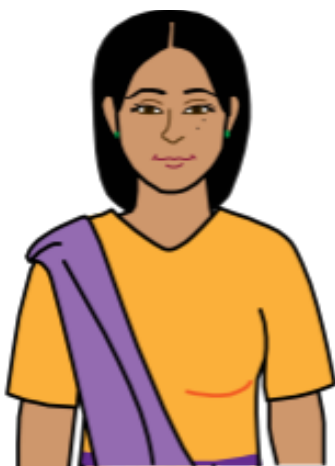
- A document about the rights of people with disabilities. It is called the **Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**. Or **CPRD** for short.
- A document about the rights of women. It is called the **Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women**. Or **CEDAW** for short.



Many governments have promised to do what these documents say.



Everyone has the right to make their own choices about their bodies, health, sex, relationships, and having children.



Women and girls with disabilities have the right to:

- Be safe and healthy.

For example, to know how to have sex in a safe way and keep safe from other people hurting them.



- Be treated fairly and have the same chances as other people.



- Decide for themselves about sex, relationships and having children.

For example, decide if they want children and how many to have.



Governments must make sure that women and girls with disabilities get these rights.

What must governments do?

Governments must make sure that:



- They support the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

For example, by making sure that adults with disabilities can choose to have sex with other people if they want to.



- Other people do not make decisions for women and girls with disabilities.

For example, women with disabilities can choose to have a baby or end a pregnancy, even if their parents or other people do not want them to.

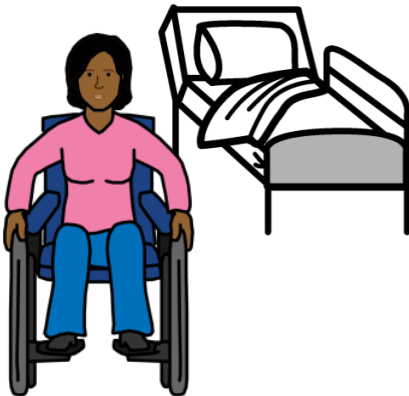


- People have the right ideas and beliefs about women and girls with disabilities.

Governments must make sure that:



- Everyone has enough healthcare, information and support to decide about their bodies, sex, relationships and giving birth.
- People should get this support wherever they live.



- The healthcare, information and support is easy for all women and girls with disabilities to use.

This includes transport to healthcare places and medical equipment.

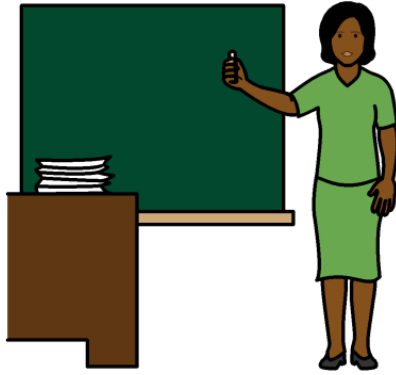


- The healthcare, information and support does not cost too much.



- The healthcare, information and support is good.

And it is right for every person with a disability.



Governments must make sure that:

- Staff have training to support women and girls with disabilities in a good and nice way.

What else should happen?

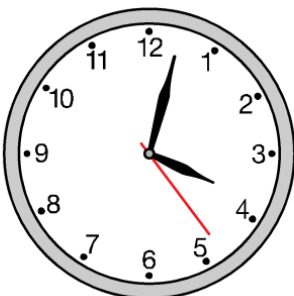


- Women and girls with disabilities should get healthcare, information and support that is right for them.

Staff who give people healthcare, information and support should listen to women and girls with disabilities.



- Staff should make changes if they need to.



For example, women and girls with disabilities may need more time for appointments or information in an easy way for them.



- Women and girls with disabilities should learn about their bodies, sex, relationships, their health and giving birth in a way they find easy to understand.



- Other people should help people with disabilities make decisions if they need it, not decide for them.

You may hear this called
Supported Decision Making.



Being pregnant

Women and girls with disabilities should get the right information and support about:

- Being pregnant and giving birth in a safe way.
- Ending a pregnancy.
- The right to be a parent and support to be a parent.
- Having a child with a disability.
- Tests to check the baby is healthy. And support after the test results.

