



GUIDANCE NOTE

DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE NATIONAL ACTION PLANS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



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Guidance Note series

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Cover: (Left to right) Women's Empowerment and Learning Centre representatives, Nureesan Cheani, Apichaya Chaichana and Maruf Chebueraheng, on stage during a Women, Peace and Security Forum, held on 17–18 August 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand. Photo: UN Women/Pathumporn Thongking

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KEY TERMS AND ACRONYMS

Ableism: The idea that non-disabled people are superior to people with disabilities and that disability is negative or undesirable, resulting in discrimination, prejudice and stereotypes against people with disabilities. Ableism is often reflected in historical laws, policies, and practices that reinforce the exclusion and subordination of people with disabilities, including eugenics policies, those that allow for the institutionalization of people with disabilities, and those that deprive people with disabilities of legal capacity.¹

ASEAN and the ASEAN RPA on WPS: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising 11 Member States in South-East Asia. In 2022, ASEAN adopted the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (ASEAN RPA on WPS), providing a regional framework for advancing the WPS agenda across South-East Asia.

CEDAW: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is an international human rights treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and entered into force in 1981. CEDAW requires countries to eliminate discrimination against women in all areas and promotes the equal rights of men and women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.

CRPD: The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is an international human rights treaty that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006. After the necessary minimum number of nations had ratified the CRPD, it internationally entered into force in 2008. The Convention sets out the fundamental human rights of people with disabilities and its purpose is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

OPDs: Organizations of persons with disabilities. These are representative civil society organizations that are led, directed and governed by persons with disabilities, whose members are primarily persons with disabilities, and that are fully committed to the principles and rights in the CRPD.²

WPS agenda: The women, peace and security agenda is a United Nations framework established through UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and supported by nine subsequent resolutions.

WPS NAPs: Women, peace and security national action plans. These are plans created by UN Member States to plan and track progress towards implementation of the WPS agenda.

1 United Nations Human Rights Council. (2020). Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (A/HRC/43/41). <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/43/41>

2 UN CRPD Committee. 2018. General comment No. 7 on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, para. 11. CRPD/C/GC/7.

INTRODUCTION

Women with disabilities are peacebuilders, community leaders and rights-holders, yet they remain among the most systematically excluded from the peace and security processes that shape their lives. Women with disabilities account for 19.2 per cent of all women worldwide,³ with around 350 million women and girls with disabilities estimated to be living in Asia and the Pacific.⁴

Due to discrimination and marginalization at the intersection of gender and disability, women with disabilities are left behind in many aspects of their lives. They are one of the groups most excluded from education and employment, they face significantly higher rates of gender-based violence than do other women and are often left on the margins of society. These experiences are compounded in humanitarian emergencies and armed conflict, which have a disproportionate impact on women with disabilities. Although armed conflicts exert a devastating toll on women with disabilities, this reality remains largely invisible and under documented, due not only to the absence of reliable data, but to the erasure of their participation in policymaking, peacebuilding and recovery efforts.

As the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) affirms, persons with disabilities are not inherently vulnerable, but due to discrimination and exclusion they are often placed in vulnerable situations. Nujeen Mustafa, the first woman with a disability to brief the United Nations Security Council,

described how persons with disabilities are placed in vulnerable situations during armed conflict as part of her intervention on the situation in Syria in 2019:

“A blind person may know how to manage in her own environment, but can you imagine what it must be like to navigate the rubble and debris strewn across their path to safety? Someone who is deaf might not realize that there are gunshots or warnings to evacuate and may end up in danger. If you have an intellectual disability or psychosocial disability, leaving what is familiar behind can be very confusing and a source of great anxiety. However you look at it, the risks are greater just because you have a disability.”⁵

In particular, Mustafa poignantly illustrated how gender and disability intersect to heighten risks for women with disabilities in armed conflict:

“Being a woman and having a disability makes it doubly more difficult. For example, a man can ask for help from a male friend to flee. But in a society like Syria, a woman cannot. If you don’t have an immediate male relative, you cannot just call on a friend to carry you.”⁶

Experiences like hers are not unique to Syria; they are part of the daily reality for women and girls with disabilities all over the world.

3 WHO (World Health Organization) and World Bank. 2011. World Report on Disability.

4 UN ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific). Undated. Disability in Asia and the Pacific: The facts. <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Disability%20The%20Facts.pdf>

5 Mustafa, N. 2019. “Statement at the UN Security Council briefing on the humanitarian situation in Syria.” 24 April. Accessed 16 April 2026. https://www.womenpeacesecurity.org/files/UNSC_Briefing_Syria_Mustafa-04-2019.pdf

6 Ibid.

More than 25 years ago, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Together with nine subsequent resolutions, it established a groundbreaking framework recognizing women as active participants in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and calling for greater attention to their needs before, during and after conflict. In response, many States have developed women, peace and security national action plans (WPS NAPs) and related policy frameworks to advance women's participation in peace and security decision-making and strengthen gender-responsive approaches to conflict prevention, protection, relief and recovery.

In 2019, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2475 on the protection of persons with disabilities in armed conflict. This resolution recognizes the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on persons with disabilities and calls on parties to armed conflict and Member States to ensure their protection, access to assistance and services, and meaningful participation in humanitarian response and peacebuilding. It provides further guidance on ensuring that conflict-related preparation, response and recovery are inclusive, promote meaningful participation and uphold human rights.

While UN Security Council resolution 2475 should complement and strengthen the WPS agenda for persons with disabilities, the two frameworks have developed largely in parallel, with limited integration at the national level.

At the same time, women with disabilities are often not considered in humanitarian settings and their contributions to peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and relief and recovery often go unrecognized and unsupported.⁷ Furthermore, for women and girls with disabilities, peace and security is not only as the absence of armed conflict, but also the presence of safety, dignity, equality, autonomy, access to services, and freedom from violence and structural exclusion.

While some progress has been made, implementation of the WPS agenda at the national level in Asia and the Pacific, as in many other regions, continues to largely exclude women with disabilities. Two gaps drive this exclusion: the lack of practical guidance and tools for disability-inclusive WPS, and the systematic absence of women with disabilities from WPS processes at every stage, from consultation and drafting through implementation and monitoring. These gaps are evident in WPS NAPs and related strategies and policies across the region.

This Guidance Note aims to address this gap by providing practical, evidence-based recommendations for disability inclusion into WPS NAPs. It is intended primarily for policymakers, but it may also be useful for other practitioners and civil society actors involved in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of WPS NAPs. Throughout the Guidance Note, the voices of women with disabilities from across Asia and the Pacific gathered through focus group discussions and surveys are woven into the analysis. These voices are not illustrative additions; they are the foundation of the guidance.

7 See Conciliation Resources. 2021. Untapped Peacebuilders: Including Persons with Disabilities in Building Peace.



A student learns Braille as a first step towards undertaking training and skills development at a training centre for Afghan women with disabilities. Photo: UN Women/Sayed Habib Bidell

METHODOLOGY

In preparing this Guidance Note, UN Women and Women Enabled International undertook a mixed-methods research process combining a desk review and primary research with women with disabilities across the region.

The desk review examined existing WPS NAPs from Asia and the Pacific, relevant international human rights and peace and security frameworks, academic and policy literature on the intersections of gender, disability and conflict, and promising practices in disability-inclusive WPS programming. This review provided the analytical foundation for the legal and policy analysis and the recommended actions contained in this Guidance Note.

To ensure the Guidance Note is grounded in the lived experiences of women with

disabilities, UN Women and Women Enabled International also conducted focus group discussions with and received survey responses from 26 women with disabilities from across Asia and the Pacific. Participants represented diverse country contexts, types of disabilities, gender identities, ages, Indigenous Peoples, and experiences with armed conflict and crises, as well as different levels of familiarity with and engagement with the WPS agenda. The insights provided by these focus group participants are the foundation for many of the recommendations in this Guidance Note.

This Guidance Note has also been reviewed by a group of expert reviewers, including WPS practitioners, disability rights experts and women with disabilities from across the Asia-Pacific region, to ensure its accuracy, relevance and practical utility.

HOW TO USE THIS NOTE

This Guidance Note is intended as a practical resource, not a prescriptive template. WPS NAPs across Asia and the Pacific vary significantly in their scope, structure and context, and there is no single model for disability inclusion that will be appropriate in every setting. The recommendations and frameworks set out in this Note are intended to be adapted to national circumstances, used selectively where relevant and built upon over time.

Underpinning this guidance, however, is a shared normative foundation spanning the WPS agenda, international human rights law, international humanitarian law and related frameworks, that makes disability inclusion a common obligation across the region, regardless of context. States and practitioners are encouraged to use this Note alongside those instruments, and to advocate for disability inclusion in WPS to be reflected in regional frameworks and commitments across Asia and the Pacific.

The Guidance Note is organized in four parts, each of which can be read independently or as part of the whole:

Part 1: Background and context sets out the legal and policy framework underpinning disability-inclusive WPS, including relevant human rights treaties, Security Council resolutions including UNSCR 2475, and literature, and provides an overview of the current state of disability inclusion in WPS NAPs across Asia and the Pacific. It is intended for readers who want to understand the normative foundations and regional context before engaging with the practical guidance.

Part 2: Creating the conditions for disability-inclusive WPS NAPs sets out the guiding principles that should underpin all disability-inclusive WPS NAP processes, and the practical first steps States should take at the outset of NAP development. It is intended for policymakers and NAP drafters at the early stages of planning.

Part 3: Disability inclusion across the four WPS pillars provides detailed guidance on disability inclusion across each of the four pillars of the WPS agenda (participation, prevention, protection, and relief and recovery), including the specific experiences of women with disabilities under each pillar and concrete recommendations for NAP content. It is intended for those drafting, reviewing or revising NAP content.

Part 4: Accountability, oversight and accessible communications addresses how disability-inclusive commitments can be monitored, reported on and communicated accessibly throughout NAP implementation. It is intended for those responsible for NAP implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Finally, the **Annex** contains a practical checklist that can be used throughout the NAP cycle, from preparation through to implementation, to assess the disability-inclusiveness of both NAP processes and content.

PART 1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT



LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

While a broader range of international instruments, including from international human rights law and international humanitarian law, is relevant to disability-inclusive WPS, the following frameworks provide the most direct normative foundation for the guidance set out in this Note.

CRPD and CEDAW

Two foundational international human rights instruments – the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) – provide a strong normative foundation for ensuring women with disabilities can participate fully in peace and security processes. Disability-inclusive WPS national action plans are a critical mechanism through which States can translate these commitments into practice.

CRPD

The CRPD is a groundbreaking human rights treaty adopted in 2006. It reaffirms that all human rights apply to persons with all types of disabilities, while also recognizing that States must adapt how they respect, protect and fulfil these rights to address the specific human rights violations experienced by persons with disabilities and to ensure they can effectively exercise their rights.⁸ It also shifts the narrative about people with disabilities, from one that treats persons with disabilities as “objects” of charity, medical treatment and social protection towards viewing persons with disabilities as “subjects” with rights, who are capable of claiming those rights, exercising agency and autonomy over

their lives, and being active members of society. This attitudinal shift underpins the implementation of the CRPD in more than 190 States Parties and other entities that have ratified the treaty.

The CRPD is guided by a set of core principles, outlined in Article 3, including respect for inherent dignity and individual autonomy, non-discrimination, full and effective participation and inclusion in society, equality between men and women, and accessibility. These principles underpin all obligations under the Convention and are highly relevant in peace and security contexts.

Two provisions of the CRPD are especially relevant for the WPS agenda. **Article 6** recognizes that women and girls with disabilities face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and obliges States Parties to take measures to ensure their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. This provision highlights the importance of addressing the gendered dimensions of disability and ensuring that the rights, participation and leadership of women with disabilities are actively promoted across policy and decision-making processes.

CRPD General Comment No. 3 (2016) provides authoritative interpretive guidance on Article 6, affirming that women and girls with disabilities experience compounded discrimination on the basis of both gender and disability, and elaborating States Parties’ obligations to guarantee their autonomy, participation and access to justice across all areas of life, including in conflict and post-conflict contexts.⁹

8 See OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights). Undated. “Background to the Convention.” Accessed 6 April 2026. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/crpd/background-convention>.

9 UN CRPD Committee. 2016. General Comment No. 3. CRPD/C/GC/3

Other relevant CRPD articles

While this Guidance Note focuses on Articles 6 and 11, many other CRPD provisions are of particular importance to women with disabilities in conflict and peacebuilding contexts, including Article 4(3) (consultation in decision-making), Article 9 (accessibility), Article 29 (political and public life), and Article 32 (international cooperation), among others.

Article 11 of the CRPD sets out the most direct obligations for States regarding peace and security:

“States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.”¹⁰

Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Gerard Quinn dedicated his 2021 report to the General Assembly to the experiences and rights of persons with disabilities in armed conflict. Recognizing that a human rights model of disability and that the autonomy and agency of persons with disabilities is central to understanding Article 11, Quinn determines that the obligations for States to ensure “protection and safety” is two-fold. It includes obligations to:

1. Accommodate difference, including by paying extra attention to the particular needs of persons with disabilities in the ways we protect civilians in conflict; and

2. Protect human rights for persons with disabilities in the context of armed conflict, including their right to be heard and make decisions about their lives, not simply be subjected to protection schemes that are not designed with their needs and desires in mind.

Central to this analysis is Quinn’s observation that “There is no such thing as an inherently vulnerable person, but only persons with disabilities placed in vulnerable situations.”¹¹ This framing is fundamental to a rights-based approach to disability inclusion in peace and security. It locates the problem not in the person but in the systems and structures that fail to accommodate them.

As the CRPD Committee has outlined, Article 11 is particularly relevant for women with disabilities, who face greater risks of sexual and gender-based violence during conflicts, less access to redress and justice mechanisms, and specific gender and disability intersectional barriers to accessing humanitarian aid and evacuation.¹²

¹⁰ UN CRPD, art. 11

¹¹ United Nations General Assembly. 2021. Rights of persons with disabilities: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Gerard Quinn. A/76/146, para. 16.

¹² UN CRPD Committee. 2016. General Comment No. 3. CRPD/C/GC/3, paras. 49–50.

In addition to these rights obligations outlined in Article 11, the full scope of other rights outlined in the CRPD also apply in crises, conflict and post-conflict settings, including the rights to equality and non-discrimination, access to justice, health, education, accessibility, and participation in public and political life, as well as the rights to live in the community and to equal protection before the law. The CRPD Committee's Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, are also particularly relevant in this context, recommending that States continue to accelerate towards deinstitutionalization during conflict, ensure targeted measures to evacuate people with disabilities in institutions and guarantee their access to humanitarian relief efforts, while ensuring that deinstitutionalization remains a priority during recovery.¹³

CEDAW

The CEDAW Convention also provides an important complementary framework. Adopted in 1979 and often described as the international bill of rights for women, CEDAW requires countries to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in all areas and promotes women's and girls' equal rights.

CEDAW Committee General Recommendation No. 18 (1991) was an early recognition of disability within CEDAW's scope, recommending that States Parties report on measures taken for women with disabilities, including equal access to education, employment, health services and social security, and to ensure that they can participate in all areas of social and cultural life.¹⁴

CEDAW Committee General Recommendation No. 30, adopted in 2013, addresses women's rights in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict reconstruction, and requires States Parties to collect data on the WPS agenda and report on compliance with UN benchmarks.¹⁵ Read alongside the CRPD, and particularly Article 6, this General Recommendation reinforces States' responsibility to ensure that women with disabilities are not invisible in conflict-related data, policy and programming.

CEDAW Committee General Recommendation No. 40, adopted in 2024, provides guidance on achieving equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems across all sectors, including peace and security. Critically for the WPS agenda, it adopts an intersectional approach and explicitly recognizes women in all their diversity. It recommends that States ensure parity at all stages and levels of peace and security decision-making, and specifically recommends the full inclusion of women with disabilities in conflict prevention, management and resolution. General Recommendation No. 40 therefore reinforces States' responsibility to ensure that women with disabilities are active participants in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, not only as beneficiaries of protection but as agents of change.

A 2026 Addendum to General Recommendation No. 30 provides updated guidance on applying it within an intersectional framework and includes a dedicated section on the rights of women with disabilities in conflict, referencing Security Council resolution 2475 (2019) and calling on States to uphold the CRPD and to ensure accessible reintegration, rehabilitation and psychosocial support for women and girls with disabilities.¹⁶

13 UN CRPD Committee. 2022. Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies. CRPD/C/5, para. 107.

14 UN CEDAW Committee. 1991. [General Recommendation No. 18: Disabled women](#).

15 UN CEDAW Committee. 2013. [General Recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict](#).

16 UN CEDAW Committee. 2026. [Addendum to General Recommendation No. 30 \(2013\) on women in conflict](#).

The WPS agenda

The women, peace and security agenda is a global framework that promotes women's leadership, participation and protection in peace and security efforts. Established by United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions,

the WPS agenda recognizes that women are disproportionately affected by conflict and crisis, yet play crucial roles in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding.

The WPS agenda is grounded in 10 UN Security Council resolutions, which form the foundations of the WPS agenda.

The WPS agenda emphasizes four key pillars:



1. Participation

Women's equal participation and gender equality in peace and security decision-making processes at all levels.



2. Prevention

Prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.



3. Protection

Women and girls are protected from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and their rights are protected and promoted in conflict situations.



4. Relief and recovery

Specific relief needs of women are met, and their capacities to act as agents in relief and recovery are strengthened in conflict and post-conflict situations.

To implement the WPS agenda at the national and local levels, States are encouraged to develop WPS NAPs. More than 115 WPS NAPs have already been developed by countries worldwide.¹⁷ These NAPs reflect lessons learned from over 25 years of implementation of the WPS agenda and provide practical means for countries to adapt the framework locally. WPS NAPs also represent promising multi-stakeholder policy processes, ensuring government leadership while allowing for the systematic engagement of relevant government departments, civil society and communities, which in turn bolsters women's participation as a pillar of the WPS agenda.

As of May 2026, 15 countries in Asia and the Pacific have formulated these important plans and other countries in the region are currently developing NAPs.¹⁸

At the regional level, the Pacific Regional Action Plan (2012–2015)¹⁹ provided an important framework for the subregion, though it has now concluded its term. In 2022, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (ASEAN RPA on WPS)²⁰, providing a significant regional framework for advancing the WPS agenda across South-East Asia.

UN Security Council resolution 2475

In 2019, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2475 (UNSCR 2475),²¹ the first stand-alone Security Council resolution on the protection of persons with disabilities in armed conflict. It recognizes the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on persons with disabilities and calls on States and other actors to ensure their protection, access to humanitarian assistance and justice, and their meaningful participation in conflict prevention, peace processes, peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery.

Although not one of the 10 WPS resolutions, there are several important and interconnected themes that emerge from UNSCR 2475 notably:

- **Protection** – Safeguarding persons with disabilities in conflict and post-conflict situations, including from sexual and gender-based violence, and ensuring access to justice.
- **Access to humanitarian assistance and basic services** – Ensuring sustainable, timely, inclusive and accessible assistance to civilians with disabilities affected by armed conflict, including reintegration, rehabilitation and psychosocial support; and access on an equal basis with others to education, healthcare, transportation, information, and communications technologies and systems.

17 UN Women. 2025. "Explainer: What is the Women, Peace and Security agenda?" 20 October. Accessed 14 April 2026. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/what-is-the-women-peace-and-security-agenda>

18 Countries that have created WPS NAPs include: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, Malaysia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. UN Women Asia and the Pacific. Undated. "National Action Plans: Women, Peace and Security". Ten of these plans are active as of May 2026: Accessed 6 May 2026. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/peace-and-security/national-action-plans>.

19 Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012–2015. Available at: https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/pacific_region_regional_action_plan_2012-2015.pdf

20 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (2022). Available at: [ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security - WPS-ASEAN](#)

21 United Nations Security Council. 2019. Resolution 2475. S/RES/2475.

- **Meaningful participation and representation** – Enabling persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to be involved in all aspects of conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction and peacebuilding.
- **Strengthening capacity on disability** – Capacity-building and knowledge across UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding actors on the rights and needs of persons with disabilities.
- **Human rights** – Complying with obligations outlined in the CRPD during armed conflict and eliminating discrimination and marginalization on the basis of disability in situations of armed conflict, particularly those who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.
- **Accountability and ending impunity** – Ending impunity for criminal acts committed against civilians with disabilities during conflict and ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to justice, effective remedies, and, where appropriate, reparations.

The themes emerging from UNSCR 2475 intersect with, and in some cases extend beyond, the WPS agenda. While UNSCR 2475 was adopted unanimously, it has not been consistently implemented, and there is no broadly adopted mechanism for monitoring this implementation or ensuring its localization. This implementation gap mirrors that of the WPS agenda itself, which is exacerbated by funding cuts²² and is felt most acutely by marginalized groups such as women with disabilities, who fall between both frameworks and are consistently overlooked by each.

Disability inclusion in WPS NAPs

Both the WPS agenda and the disability rights framework recognize that women and persons with disabilities face specific risks in crisis and armed conflict, and that States have obligations to ensure their rights before, during and after conflict. The CRPD, CEDAW, UNSCR 2475 and the WPS resolutions establish a comprehensive normative framework that specifically recognizes the needs and rights of women with disabilities at this intersection.

Of the 10 UN Security Council resolutions that constitute the WPS agenda, only two (UNSCR 1960 and UNSCR 2106) make any explicit reference to persons with disabilities, and both do so only in the narrow context of ensuring that services for survivors of sexual violence take into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities. None of the 10 WPS resolutions include a specific reference to women with disabilities as actors, leaders or rights-holders in peace and security processes. This limited recognition in the normative foundation of the WPS agenda has had direct consequences for how the agenda has been implemented at the national level.

Globally, analysis of WPS NAPs shows that where women with disabilities are mentioned at all, it is most commonly under the Protection pillar and in the narrow framing of vulnerability, as a group in need of special services or protection from sexual and gender-based violence, rather than as active participants across all four pillars. Early analysis of WPS NAPs found that women with disabilities were absent from the vast majority of plans, and that where they did appear, NAPs reflected

22 Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. 2025. [Policy Brief: Funding for Women, Peace and Security: Reflections on 25 Years.](#)

Examples of disability-inclusive language under the participation pillar in WPS NAPs in Asia and the Pacific

Philippines WPS NAP:

Action 2.1 – Active inclusion of civil society and people’s organizations, women’s rights organizations, persons with disabilities organizations (PWDs), indigenous people’s organizations (IPOs) and grass-roots women’s constituencies at all stages of the peace process.

ASEAN RPA on WPS:

Priority Action 2.2.3. (Participation matrix) – Identify groups and women that are underrepresented, and ensure effective and inclusive participation channels, tools and guidelines (including digital ones) for civil society, crisis-affected women and gender-based violence (GBV) survivors among others, such as women with disabilities, women from linguistic and ethnic minorities, etc.

Timor-Leste WPS NAP (2024–2028):

Participation pillar – To review and ensure gender perspectives are integrated into laws, policies and programmes on peace and security and humanitarian actions, and ensure its development and implementation with the maximum participation of all stakeholders, including women from diverse backgrounds, including women with disabilities and survivors of violence in conflicts.

a limited understanding of international disability rights standards, treating disability as a welfare or public health issue rather than a human rights issue.²³

There is a significant gap in the inclusion of the rights, priorities and experiences of women with disabilities in both the WPS agenda itself and in its implementation. States can, however, close this gap by proactively prioritizing disability inclusion in WPS. Developing, implementing and monitoring disability-inclusive WPS NAPs are among the most important practical tools available to States for translating their obligations to women with disabilities into concrete policy and action. Precisely because they are established multi-stakeholder policy processes with monitoring frameworks and civil society engagement mechanisms, WPS NAPs represent a powerful vehicle for integrating disability rights into national peace and security planning. Better integrating the CRPD and UNSCR 2475 into WPS NAPs is not only an opportunity; it is also an imperative that flows directly from States’ existing commitments under both frameworks.

In this context, Asia and the Pacific stands out as a region where promising practices in disability-inclusive WPS planning are beginning to emerge and where the trajectory is more positive than in many other parts of the world. Several NAPs in the region go beyond the narrow protection framing and reflect a more rights-based and participatory approach to disability inclusion. The ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security, Philippines’ fourth-generation NAP (2023–2033), Indonesia’s second NAP (2020–2025), Sri Lanka’s first NAP (2023–2027) and Timor-Leste’s second NAP (2024–2028) are examples of NAPs from the region that include provisions on women with disabilities that reflect a broader understanding of their

23 See Ortoleva, S. 2012. “[Who’s missing? Women with disabilities in UN Security Council resolution 1325 National Action Plans](#).” *ILSA Journal of International & Comparative Law* 2, pp. 395–412.



An access to justice consultation for women with disabilities in Apia, Samoa. Photo: UN Women/Jordanna Mareko

roles and rights in peace and security. Notably, the Philippines WPS NAP, Timor-Leste NAP and ASEAN RPA on WPS offer examples of references to women with disabilities under the Participation pillar, not only as beneficiaries of protection but as agents whose inclusion strengthens peace and security processes.

The Solomon Islands' first WPS NAP references women with disabilities under the participation pillar, and civil society organizations of women with disabilities have been engaged in shaping the development of its second NAP, reflecting a broader regional recognition – signaled by the Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration – of the contributions of persons with disabilities to building and sustaining peace across the Pacific.

The practice of inclusion is not yet universal. Of the 26 focus group and survey participants, 19 came from 11 countries with active WPS NAPs or the ASEAN RPA on WPS. Despite being recognized leaders on gender and disability rights in their countries, only three of these 19 reported having been consulted or involved in developing those plans. All three of these individuals already had strong connections with the governments when they were brought into consultations. No other participants were consulted, and none knew about consultations on WPS being held for the disability community in their countries. Women with disabilities in the region also

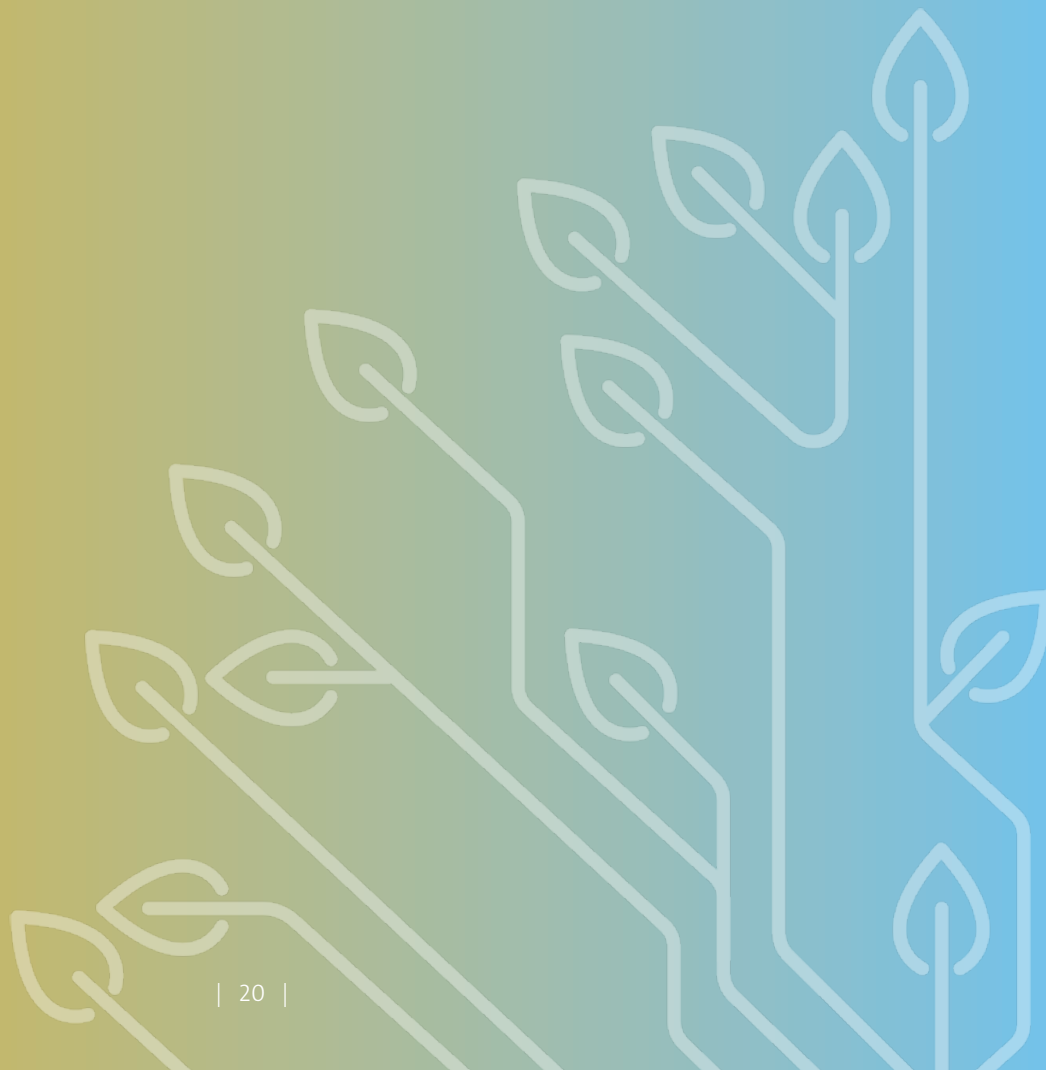
reported that they are not fully integrated into wider feminist and gender equality movements, which may also partially explain their exclusion from involvement in the development of WPS NAPs.

The existence of disability provisions in a plan also does not automatically translate into meaningful inclusion in practice. As one woman with disabilities advocate from South-East Asia observed:

“[In women, peace and] security, disability is largely absent as a cross-cutting priority. Women and girls with disabilities and their representative organizations have not been consistently included in WPS consultations, governance mechanisms or monitoring frameworks. As a result, regional policies and guidance do not adequately address the specific risks, protection needs and leadership roles of women with disabilities in conflict prevention, humanitarian response and peacebuilding contexts.”

These gaps are not inevitable. They reflect choices: in normative frameworks, in NAP design processes and in the allocation of resources that have consistently placed women with disabilities outside the scope of WPS implementation. However, the positive trajectory visible in Asia and the Pacific demonstrates that change is possible.

PART 2. CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR DISABILITY- INCLUSIVE WPS NAPS



Guiding principles for disability-inclusive WPS NAPs

The WPS agenda and the frameworks that underpin the rights of women with disabilities intersect and reinforce each other in several ways that are directly relevant for disability inclusion in WPS NAPs. In order for the development, implementation and monitoring of WPS NAPs to be disability-inclusive, States' approach to WPS NAPs should reflect the following key principles of women's rights and disability rights and justice:

1. A human rights model of disability

The human rights model of disability sets out that persons with disabilities claim and can exercise rights on an equal basis with others. While many laws, policies and practices have historically treated persons with disabilities as the recipients of charity or services or people in need of protection and assistance, the human rights model shifts this narrative by instead establishing that persons with disabilities have agency and autonomy over their own lives. This understanding of persons with disabilities as rights-holders is essential to understanding how women with disabilities should be included in the WPS agenda.

All WPS activities, including the development and content of WPS NAPs, should reflect human rights, recognize women with disabilities as having autonomy and agency over their own lives, and centre and support the participation and leadership of women with disabilities. WPS NAP development should embrace the call

“nothing about us without us”, which stems from the obligation under the CRPD to consult and actively involve persons with disabilities, and their representative organizations, in all decisions that affect them,²⁴ including the development, implementation and monitoring of WPS NAPs.

2. A twin-track approach to disability inclusion

States should ensure that women with disabilities are included in WPS on two levels. First, they should ensure that any WPS-related activities designed for women broadly also include women with disabilities and address their rights, needs and priorities. Second, States should target some WPS activities specifically towards women with disabilities and to addressing the rights abuses and barriers to inclusion they experience in conflict settings. Women with disabilities should have the choice of whether they participate as part of mainstream WPS activities or in disability-specific WPS activities.

3. Intersectionality, including recognition and inclusion of women with disabilities in all their diversity

In practice, the intersection of gender and disability creates compounding and specific experiences of risk and exclusion that cannot be fully understood by looking at gender or disability in isolation. For example, women with disabilities face heightened risks of sexual and GBV in conflict settings, are less likely to be reached by protection and humanitarian systems, and encounter barriers to evacuation, justice and services that are specific to the combination of gender and disability rather than reducible to either alone.

24 CRPD, art. 4(3). More information about this obligation is also contained in CRPD Committee. 2018. General Comment No. 7: Article 4.3 and 33.3: Participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention. CRPD/C/GC/7.

As focus group participants from across the Asia-Pacific region consistently highlighted, these barriers are further shaped by additional factors, including age, type of disability, Indigenous status, displacement and socioeconomic circumstances, meaning that “women with disabilities” is not a homogeneous category. For instance, Indigenous women with disabilities from the region identified violations of their collective rights related to land, displacement due to climate change, colonization and harmful practices in the name of development. States’ failure to formally recognize Indigenous groups at all places them in particularly precarious situations during conflict. Responses to conflict must account for this diversity if they are to be genuinely inclusive.

Furthermore, women with disabilities are themselves people with diverse disabilities, including intellectual, psychosocial or physical disabilities, neurodivergence, chronic illness, as well as deaf or hard of hearing women, blind or partially sighted women, deafblind women, women with multiple disabilities, and those with impairments who may not specifically identify as persons with disabilities, among others, that shape their experiences in conflict. For instance, women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities may be formally or informally deprived of legal capacity and thus the ability to make decisions for themselves, which can necessitate that they rely on others to protect themselves, evacuate or access services during conflict.

Women with disabilities also have diverse gender identities and sexualities, diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, live in urban and rural settings, come from Indigenous communities, have diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, may be older persons or children and adolescents, and may come from rural communities. States should ensure that their approach to WPS reflects and includes women with disabilities in all their diversity.

A one-size-fits-all approach to disability inclusion will not suffice. Genuinely intersectional approaches require disaggregated data that captures the diverse experiences of different groups of women with disabilities, targeted outreach to women with disabilities in all their diversity and beyond “gatekeepers,” and specific measures that respond to the barriers and priorities of particular communities, including those with diverse disabilities.²⁵

4. Ensuring an enabling, accessible environment

For women with disabilities to participate in WPS, they must have both the means to meaningfully contribute and an enabling environment for their participation. This starts with prioritizing the rights and well-being of diverse women with disabilities in times of peace and addressing gender-based and ableist violence, ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights, addressing barriers to inclusive education and employment, adopting universal design practices, and promoting full, equal and meaningful participation in public and political life.

25 The Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation. 2025. [Nothing About Us Without Us: Disability, Gender, and Security](#) 8-9.



An 'orange' rally in Pakistan. Photo: UN Women/Asfandiyar Khan

Accessibility is a fundamental prerequisite for meaningful participation, not an afterthought. This includes the physical accessibility of venues where WPS consultations and processes take place, and the availability of information and communications in accessible formats including Braille, easy-read and sign language. Adopting universal design principles from the outset is the most effective way to build accessibility into NAP processes rather than retrofitting it later. States and others must also ensure support for women with disabilities to meaningfully participate, including capacity-strengthening on WPS and investment in organizations of persons with disabilities, particularly those that are women-led, to sustain long-term activities, to participate in gender equality movements broadly,²⁶ and to participate in WPS.

First steps in NAP development

Developing a disability-inclusive WPS NAP begins before the drafting table. The first phase of NAP development should focus on building the institutional foundations and evidence base that will make genuine inclusion possible. This includes ensuring government and OPD capacity, establishing coordination mechanisms and conducting a situational analysis that centres the experiences of women with disabilities in all their diversity.

26 For more information about ensuring accessibility and inclusion in gender equality spaces, please see the Feminist Accessibility Protocol: <https://womenenabled.org/reports/the-feminist-accessibility-protocol/>.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Provide capacity-building. Train government officials working on peace and security issues on the human rights and lived experiences of women with disabilities in all their diversity and the importance of the inclusion of their perspectives in this context. Ensure that gender advisors working on WPS have specific knowledge of disability inclusion and the resources to promote it. In parallel, provide accessible capacity-strengthening on the WPS agenda and the NAP process to women with disabilities and OPDs, so they are equipped to engage meaningfully from the outset.

Capacity-building to support WPS NAP development

UN Women has supported governments, including the Solomon Islands, Mongolia, Malaysia and ASEAN to build capacity on disability rights and a disability-inclusive WPS agenda. At the WPS NAP development workshop in the Solomon Islands in 2025, women with disabilities participated as expert presenters and participants bringing lived experience and expertise, and identifying challenges and priorities, ensuring that these are well reflected in the new draft national action plan.

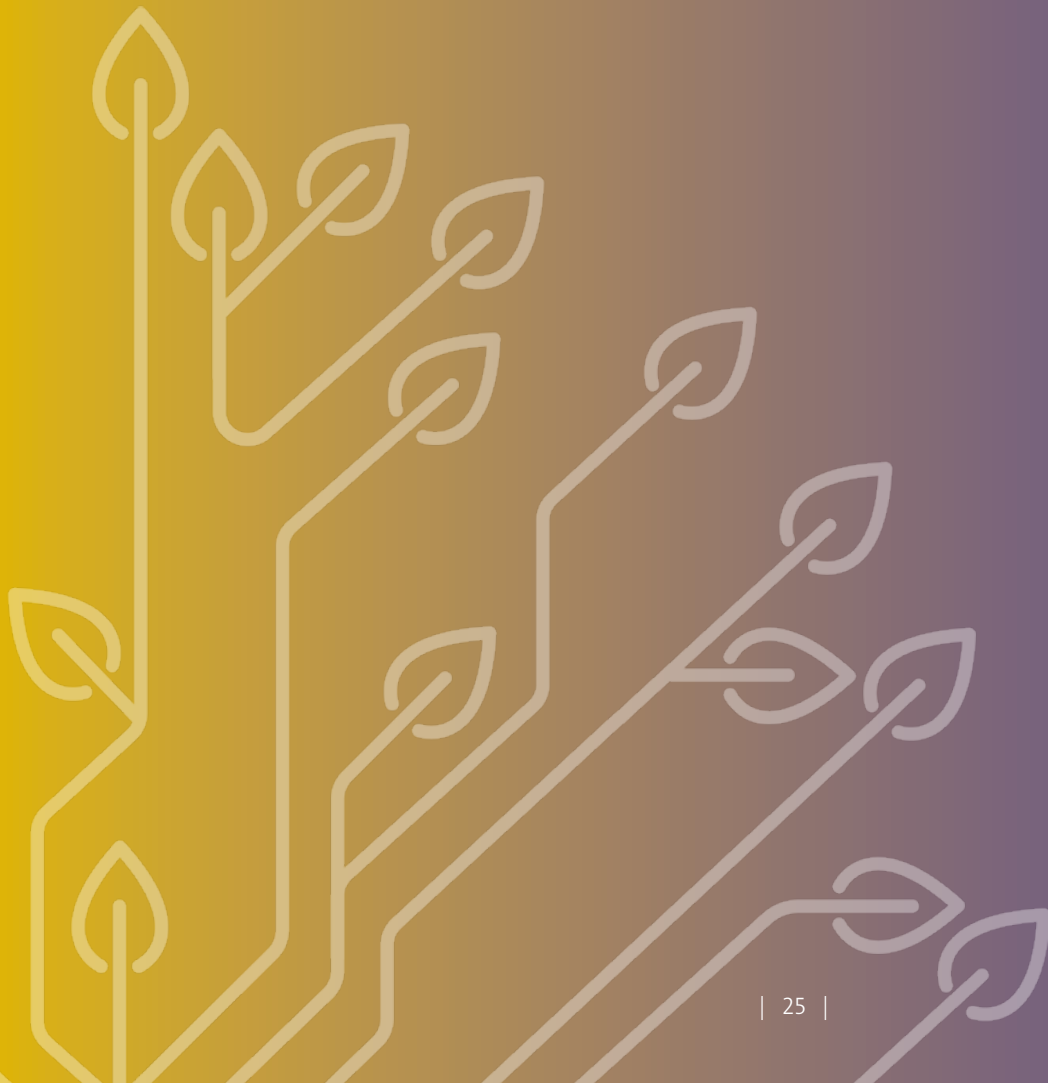
Recommendation 2: Conduct a situational analysis. Before beginning NAP development, conduct a situational analysis that maps the specific experiences of women with disabilities in all their diversity. This may be a stand-alone analysis or part of the broader WPS NAP situational analysis. The analysis should be conducted in partnership with OPDs, particularly women-led OPDs, in an accessible and participatory way and the findings should directly inform the goals, priorities, indicators and content of the WPS NAP.

Components of a situational analysis

A situational analysis should at a minimum map the following:

- The nature and scale of conflict-related risks and harms faced by women with disabilities, disaggregated by disability type, age, geographic location and other intersecting factors
- Existing legal, policy and institutional gaps in the protection of the rights of women with disabilities in relation to peace and security
- The landscape of OPDs and women-led disability organizations in the country, including their geographic reach, capacity, and existing engagement with WPS or peace and security processes
- Barriers that women with disabilities face in participating in WPS processes
- Existing good practices regionally and nationally that the NAP can build on.

PART 3. DISABILITY INCLUSION ACROSS THE FOUR WPS PILLARS



The four WPS pillars: A disability-inclusive approach

The following sections explore the specific experiences of women with disabilities across the four pillars of the WPS agenda: participation, prevention, protection, and relief and recovery, and the implications for disability-inclusive NAP development. Each section concludes with recommendations for ensuring disability-inclusive WPS NAPs.

1. Participation

The WPS agenda establishes that women should have a full and equal role in peace processes, decision-making and leadership at all levels. Yet, women with disabilities remain among the most consistently excluded from these processes. As the UN Secretary-General's 2020 report on women, peace and security notes, women with disabilities are less likely to be prioritized by, or have access to, humanitarian response efforts and are less likely to be included in peacebuilding processes.²⁷

Women with disabilities have historically been excluded from decision-making processes at local and national levels, even on issues specific to gender or disability. When they are invited, participation is often tokenistic: they are brought in after key decisions have been made, or without real opportunity to influence priorities, policies or outcomes.

Sometimes, only government officials working on disability, both with and without disabilities themselves, are invited to participate, and their views may not be representative of the wider women with disability community. Some women human rights defenders without disabilities may hold ableist attitudes towards women with disabilities, which creates an unwelcoming environment for women with disabilities' participation. Importantly, accessibility measures – such as sign language interpretation, accessible documents or financial support – are often not provided, further limiting meaningful engagement.

According to an advocate for women with intellectual disabilities in South-East Asia:

“In many cases, government officials listen respectfully and show interest in the issues raised. However, women with disabilities sometimes feel that their concerns are acknowledged but not always translated into practical changes in emergency response systems.”

Women with disabilities frequently lack access to information and capacity-building on WPS frameworks and NAP processes, not because of any lack of capability, but because they have not been included in the spaces where this knowledge is developed and shared. Without this foundation, meaningful engagement in technically complex policy processes is extremely difficult. Focus group participants reported that this exclusion is particularly acute for young women with disabilities, who report that WPS and NAP consultations

27 UN Secretary-General. 2020. Report by the UN Secretary-General on Women, Peace and Security. S/2020/946.

feel distant, technical and disconnected from their daily realities. Many do not feel confident enough joining, due to lack of knowledge about the topic. As noted by a young woman with disabilities from South-East Asia:

“[We need a] process approach that intentionally removes structural barriers and enables young people with disabilities to participate confidently, safely and meaningfully.”

Lack of funding also poses a significant barrier to the participation of women with disabilities and their representative organizations in peace processes, decision-making and leadership – a situation that is worsening with the broader global backlash against human rights, which is disproportionately affecting the most marginalized organizations, including those led by women with disabilities.²⁸ Furthermore, funding for women with disabilities organizations and for supports and services for persons with disabilities broadly to enable their active participation is being reduced in many contexts, at the same time as funding for peacebuilding and conflict prevention is being deprioritized in favour of military spending.²⁹

Meaningful participation requires more than an open invitation. It requires accessible processes and spaces, active outreach to women with disabilities and their representative organizations, the removal of attitudinal barriers that treat women with disabilities as incapable of contributing, and the provision of appropriate support

and accommodations. It also requires that States recognize the value that women with disabilities add to WPS conversations and take their viewpoints onboard. Focus group participants from across the region described being consistently excluded from WPS-related consultations and processes, not through explicit exclusion but through the failure to reach out to them in a targeted manner and make participation possible. This distinction matters: it locates the problem in systems and structures rather than in the women themselves, and it points clearly to what needs to change.

As a woman with disabilities advocate from New Zealand put it:

“An accessible, safe and meaningful consultation process would be one where the mainstream process is universally designed, inclusive and accessible. And then there are also disabled-person led, disability-specific consultation processes for our disability community. And that disabled women and people can choose which to go to and where there are multiple options for engaging in the process [for disabled women in all of their diversity to participate]...”

28 Women Enabled International. 2025. Resourcing and Sustaining Human Rights Defenders at the Intersection of Gender and Disability. https://womenenabled.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/WEI_Survey-Results.pdf.

29 See UN Women. 2025. At a Breaking Point: The Impact of Foreign Aid Cuts on Women’s Organizations in Humanitarian Crises Worldwide; UN Women. 2025. “Explainer: What is the Women, Peace and Security agenda?” 20 October. Accessed 14 April 2026. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/what-is-the-women-peace-and-security-agenda> (noting that some donors are turning away from conflict prevention and peacebuilding even as military spending increases).



Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Include women with disabilities and women-led OPDs in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes on WPS, peacebuilding initiatives and peace agreements, including by reserving seats for OPDs, especially women-led OPDs, on the NAP steering committee and ensuring OPD representation on all working groups. Ensure that the accessibility and reasonable accommodation measures needed for participation are in place, through a twin-track approach that both includes women with disabilities in activities for women broadly and through specific targeted activities for women with disabilities in all their diversity. Assess participation by whether women with disabilities influenced priorities, wording, budgets, indicators and implementation decisions.

Recommendation 2: Continuously raise awareness about WPS with women with disabilities and build the expertise of persons with disabilities and women with disabilities to understand and participate in WPS leadership, decision-making and peace processes, including related to WPS NAPs, with a specific focus on youth.

Recommendation 3: Formally recognize and resource OPDs, in particular women-led OPDs, as partners in WPS NAP design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and public accountability. Allocate a percentage of the NAP budget for disability-inclusive activities, with direct grants available to OPDs.

Recommendation 4: Ensure that disability-inclusive indicators are co-designed with women with disabilities and OPDs as part of the NAP development process, drawing on the findings of the situational analysis. Design indicators before the NAP is finalized so that disability-inclusive commitments are monitorable from the start of implementation.

Recommendation 5: Develop a coordination mechanism that includes different government bodies working on gender, disability and peace and security issues to allow for better decision-making and information-sharing, noting that without this coordination, disability inclusion tends to fall between institutional mandates and no single body takes responsibility.

2. Prevention

Prevention under the WPS agenda involves addressing the root causes of conflict and violence and integrating a gender perspective into peace efforts. Women with disabilities play a significant role in this regard but are often not recognized for their work, including as peacebuilders.³⁰

Due to ableism and patriarchal norms that result in intersectional discrimination against women with disabilities, States deprioritize their rights and well-being on a full range of issues, including WPS. This results in less access to education and meaningful employment, higher rates of poverty, greater risk of gender-based, disability-specific and ableist violence, poorer health outcomes and less community integration for women with disabilities, even during times of peace.

30 Ortoleva, S. 2010. Women with Disabilities: The Forgotten Peace Builders, Loy. L.A. Int'l & Comp. L. Rev. 83, 85.

Addressing intersectional discrimination against women with disabilities is an important part of conflict prevention.³¹

“Peace and security must not be understood only as the absence of war or armed conflict, but as the presence of safety, dignity, equality and freedom from violence, discrimination and structural exclusion in all aspects of daily life. For women with disabilities, this includes being safe from gender-based violence in homes and communities, having equal access to justice, healthcare, education, livelihoods and humanitarian assistance, and being able to participate fully in decisions that affect their lives.” —Woman with disabilities advocate from South-East Asia.

Across the Asia-Pacific region, women with disabilities work as community mediators, grass-roots advocates and peacebuilders, drawing on their own experiences of exclusion and discrimination to identify and address the systemic barriers that drive conflict. Yet their contributions are rarely acknowledged in formal peace and security processes, and they remain largely absent from the prevention mechanisms that would most benefit from their expertise and perspectives.

As the CRPD Committee has noted: “The active and informed participation of everyone in decisions that affect their lives and rights is consistent with the human rights-based approach in public decision-making processes, and ensures good governance and social accountability.”³² OPDs, including those led by and for women, play an important role in conflict prevention by advocating for human

rights and addressing systemic barriers to community participation that can themselves be drivers of conflict.

One of the most significant gaps is the exclusion of women with disabilities from early-warning systems and formal conflict-prevention mechanisms. Early warning systems that do not account for the specific risks faced by women with disabilities, including their heightened exposure to violence, their reliance on community support networks that break down in pre-conflict periods, and their reduced access to information, will systematically miss warning signs that affect this group. Conversely, women with disabilities and their organizations are often among the first to observe and respond to early indicators of community breakdown and rising tensions, precisely because of their proximity to the most marginalized members of society.³³

Despite these contributions, women with disabilities face significant barriers to being included in formal prevention mechanisms. Physical, communication, institutional and attitudinal barriers compound their exclusion from early warning systems, conflict prevention processes and peace negotiations. Ableist attitudes and gender stereotypes lead to the perception that women with disabilities cannot contribute meaningfully to peace efforts, a view that is not only wrong but actively harmful to the quality and sustainability of prevention work. Focus group participants from across the region consistently noted that their expertise and experience were not sought by governments or formal peace and security mechanisms, even on issues that directly affected them.

31 See UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations. 2024. [Policy: Gender-Responsive United Nations Peacekeeping Operations](#).

32 UN CRPD Committee. General Comment No. 7, para. 2.

33 See Conciliation Resources. 2021. Untapped Peacebuilders: Including Persons with Disabilities in Building Peace.



Women with disabilities should be recognized as active agents in conflict prevention. Photo: UN Women/ Srijana Bhatta

Disability-inclusive prevention under the WPS agenda requires four considerations:

1. Recognizing women with disabilities as active agents in conflict prevention, not only as people in need of protection;
2. Removing the physical, communicative, institutional and attitudinal barriers that exclude them from early warning systems, conflict-prevention mechanisms and peace negotiations;
3. Resourcing OPDs and women-led disability organizations to sustain peacebuilding and advocacy work over time; and
4. Addressing the structural discrimination – including ableism, gender inequality, poverty and social exclusion – that increases the fragility of communities and the vulnerability of women with disabilities when conflict erupts.

Gender-specific early warning indicators, such as increases in gender-based violence and the withdrawal of girls from education, are already recognized as signs of impending conflict; disability-specific and intersectional

indicators could be incorporated alongside these to ensure that the experiences of women with disabilities are visible in conflict prevention analysis and response.



Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Recognize women with disabilities as a specific group to be included in WPS leadership, decision-making and peace processes, not only as beneficiaries of protection but as agents and peacebuilders whose work helps prevent conflict. Set minimum-representation targets for women with disabilities in formal peace-process delegations and conflict-prevention bodies.

Recommendation 2: Include women with disabilities and OPDs in the design and operation of early warning systems, ensuring that these systems are accessible, account for the specific risks faced by women with disabilities, and draw on the knowledge and community networks of women with disabilities as sources of early warning information. Set minimum-representation targets for the participation of women with disabilities in government-convened early warning mechanisms, and ensure that early

warning plans and frameworks include disability-specific and intersectional indicators alongside existing gender-specific indicators.

Recommendation 3: Address ableism and intersectional discrimination against women with disabilities in all areas as structural drivers of conflict risk, including by integrating disability rights into broader conflict-prevention programming and by supporting efforts to change the attitudes, laws, policies and practices that systematically exclude women with disabilities from public and political life.

Recommendation 4: Adequately fund and support women-led organizations of persons with disabilities to organize, educate and advocate for their rights. Provide core and flexible funding rather than project-specific funding alone, so that OPDs can invest in their own institutional peacebuilding capacity over time. Allocate a dedicated funding stream within WPS NAP budgets for OPD-led prevention and peacebuilding work.

3. Protection

Protection under the WPS agenda involves safeguarding women and girls from violence, including in conflict, crises and post-conflict settings. In general, women with disabilities are at greater risk of violence than are other women and girls and are at least two to three times more likely to experience violence.³⁴

Women with disabilities experience the same forms of GBV as other women, as well as unique forms that arise from intersectional discrimination based on gender and disability. These unique forms may include abuse by caregivers, withholding of medication or assistive devices, denial of necessities like food, water and shelter, violence in long-term residential care institutions and enforced isolation, among others. Women with disabilities also experience distinct barriers to escaping such violence and seeking justice, including because they may be deprived of legal capacity, services and justice systems may be inaccessible, or justice system actors may hold stereotyped views about women with disabilities and be less likely to believe their accounts when they report violence.³⁵

In part because their rights and well-being are deprioritized outside of conflict settings, women with disabilities face even greater violence and exclusion during conflict,³⁶ as has also been observed during other crises.³⁷ Violence against women with disabilities during conflict is significantly under documented, reflecting the many barriers to identifying, reporting and redressing violence both during peace and conflict.³⁸ This risk is based on several factors that exist prior to conflict, including social exclusion, stigma and discrimination, and the perception that women with disabilities are easy targets, as well as factors that stem directly from conflict.

34 Spotlight Initiative. 2024. [Spotlight Initiative Impact Report 2023](#), pg. 2; United States Agency for International Development (USAID). 2012. [United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally](#). It is worth noting that no global data exist on the incidence of such violence, and studies draw on different sources of data.

35 For more information on gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, see Women Enabled International. 2018. [Facts: The Right of Women and Girls with Disabilities to be Free from Gender-Based Violence](#).

36 United Nations General Assembly. 2021. Rights of persons with disabilities: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Gerard Quinn. A/76/146, para. 34.

37 See UNFPA, UN Women and Women Enabled International. 2021. [The Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Girls with Disabilities: A Global Assessment and Case Studies on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Gender-Based Violence, and Related Rights](#).

38 Francis, R.L. 2019. "[Searching for the Voice of People with Disabilities in Peace and Conflict Research and Practice](#)," in *Peace & Change: A Journal of Peace Research*.

For instance, during conflict, women with disabilities are often among those left behind when others flee.³⁹ Some are then killed or subjected to gender-based violence as a result, and persons with disabilities who are left behind are at higher risk of institutionalization, in contravention of their rights and putting them at even greater risk of violence.⁴⁰

As noted by an advocate for persons with intellectual disabilities from South-East Asia:

“Many women with disabilities also depend on family members to evacuate them or help them move to safer places. If their family members are not available, it can be very difficult for them to leave their homes quickly.”

Access to information, especially information regarding evacuations, shelters, safety and security, is frequently unavailable in accessible formats such as braille, easy-to-read or sign language versions, and may not be available at all to women with disabilities who are institutionalized or otherwise segregated from society. As focus group participants reported, if women with disabilities have access to this information, it is often because it was provided by an OPD rather than by the State. According to a women with disabilities advocate from the Pacific:

“Most times, we have to send text messages for them to see so they can evacuate [because they do not see official warnings], but it’s a big challenge for our members.”

Another young woman with disabilities advocate from Australia added:

“The Government, while they make announcements for emergency evacuation, doesn’t look at the implications for people with disabilities, in general nor intersectionally. This impacts especially people from remote and rural areas, and people who do not have access to smart phones and Internet. Digital exclusion includes persons living in institutions, as there are practices of e.g. allowing Internet only for staff and not residents.”

Women with disabilities are also one of the most left-behind groups in relation to digital technology,⁴¹ and this lack of access to smartphones and Internet connections further limits their ability to evacuate.

The changing nature of armed conflict, including the increasing use of explosive weapons in urban areas, has a particularly severe impact on women with disabilities, whose safety, mobility and well-being frequently depend on essential services and support systems that are among the first casualties of sustained conflict.⁴²

Due to inaccessibility and the loss of assistive devices, women with disabilities must often rely on family, caregivers and service-providers to protect them from violence, for evacuation and for accessing humanitarian relief services, including gender-based violence services. However, during conflict, caregivers may flee or be killed, while social supports shut down and protection mechanisms evaporate.⁴³ Indigenous

39 Birchall, J. 2016. [Gender, Age and Migration: An extended briefing](#). BRIDGE, UK: Institute of Development Studies.

40 See UN CRPD Committee. 2022. Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies. CRPD/C/5.

41 See GSM Association. 2020. [The Digital Exclusion of Women with Disabilities - A Study of Seven Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#).

42 United Nations General Assembly. 2021. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A/76/146, para. 29.

43 Obol, A.R. and S. Johanssen. 2020. “Women with Disabilities must not be Excluded.” Women’s Refugee Commission Press Release, Relief Web. 3 December. Accessed April 2026 <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/women-and-girls->

women with disabilities report that their experiences of environmental degradation and non-recognition of land rights further elevate their risks during conflict, including their risks of experiencing sexual and gender-based violence.

As the 2023 *Report of the UN Secretary-General on Women and Peace and Security* notes: “systems and structures set up to respond to emergencies do not always have accessibility in mind, including in terms of supporting women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities... for whom seeking assistance can further exacerbate their vulnerability.”⁴⁴ Due to increased stress and social isolation, family and caregivers may also become the perpetrators of violence during conflict.

According to a woman with disabilities advocate from South-East Asia:

“In my context, conflict, insecurity and crisis disproportionately affect women and gender-diverse persons with disabilities by increasing their experience to gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse, while simultaneously limiting women with disabilities’ access to protection, justice, healthcare and humanitarian assistance. Many protection systems, including police, courts, shelters and humanitarian services remain physically and communication-inaccessible, preventing survivors from reporting violence or accessing support.”

Displacement due to conflict also leads to the near-total deprivation of education for girls and young women with disabilities,⁴⁵ stripping them of opportunities for formal sexuality education, for creating informal social networks to share information about gender-based violence, and for accessing networks of social support that education systems provide.⁴⁶ Girls and young women with disabilities may thus be less likely to report to others or seek help when they experience violence and abuse.

There are also increasing reports of persons with disabilities being targeted for killing, torture, and for sexual and gender-based violence during conflict, including because of their perceived vulnerability or because they are suspected of being former combatants⁴⁷ This also affects women who provide support for persons with disabilities, who may be targeted by armed forces for killing, abduction and sexual violence. Institutions for persons with disabilities have also been targeted or used as human shields by armed forces in conflict.⁴⁸

[disabilities-must-not-be-excluded](#); Women’s Refugee Commission. 2015. [“I see that it’s possible” Building Capacity for Disability Inclusion in Gender-Based Violence Programming in Humanitarian Settings](#); Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. 2012. Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. A/67/227.

44 United Nations Security Council. 2023. Women and peace and security: Report of the Secretary-General. S/2023/725, para. 38.

45 Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. 2017. Sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and young women with disabilities. A/72/133.

46 Pearce, E., K. Paik and O.J. Robles. 2016. [Adolescent Girls with Disabilities in Humanitarian Settings](#).

47 See Human Rights Watch. 2026. “Sudan: People with Disabilities Targeted in North Darfur”. 24 February. Accessed April 2026 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/02/24/sudan-people-with-disabilities-targeted-in-north-darfur>.

48 Priddy, A. 2019. [Disability and Armed Conflict](#). Geneva Academy Briefing No. 14, p. 12.

Myanmar – heightened risk for women with disabilities in displacement

In his November 2025 Conference room paper,, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar found that women and girls with disabilities fear sexual and gender-based violence in displacement settings, a risk compounded by the isolation many already experience. Displacement sites often lack accessible, private sanitation facilities. One young woman described using the toilet in the jungle because no accessible facility existed, and nearly losing her life crossing a makeshift bridge to reach one her father built. The report also finds that mass displacement separates persons with disabilities from the support networks, families, service-providers and community ties that might otherwise offer protection and support.

Source: OHCHR. 2025. “The Hidden Crisis: Disability Rights in Post-Coup Myanmar.” A/HRC/61/CRP.1. Section C. Displacement.



Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Work with women with disabilities and communities to address the specific factors that increase violence against women with disabilities in conflict and crisis settings, including social exclusion, stigma and discrimination, and the perception that women with disabilities are easy targets. Ensure that violence prevention programming explicitly recognizes and responds to the heightened and intersectional violence risks faced by women with disabilities in all their diversity.

Recommendation 2: Develop accessible and inclusive warning and evacuation systems that allow women with disabilities to effectively flee from conflict, including by supporting local OPDs and other service-providers to preemptively identify the warning and evacuation needs of women with disabilities in their communities.

Recommendation 3: Ensure that protection mechanisms recognize the unique forms of violence experienced by women with disabilities, including abuse by caregivers, withholding of medication or assistive devices, denial of necessities like food, water and shelter, violence in long-term residential care institutions, enforced isolation and specific targeting by armed forces. Require that WPS NAP-funded gender-based violence programming, shelters and displacement camps adopt a rights-based approach and meet CRPD accessibility standards as a condition of funding.

Recommendation 4: Develop targeted measures to provide protection and support for women with disabilities who experience conflict-related violence, through accessible reporting systems, inclusive shelters, accessible and inclusive sexual and reproductive health services, and other survivor-centred services. Ensure that these measures are provided in a way that promotes the agency and autonomy of women with disabilities.

Recommendation 5: Support access to justice to redress violations, including by recognizing the legal capacity of all women with disabilities, ensuring access to supported decision-making where needed, providing individualized and procedural accommodations for women with disabilities, and training police, prosecutors and the judiciary on their rights.

OPD-led data collection to protect persons with disabilities in emergencies

The Hanoi Association of People with Disabilities (DP Hanoi) is an OPD that in 2024 piloted a project in My Duc, a flood-prone rural district of Viet Nam, to collect household-level data on persons with disabilities and integrate it into the national Disaster Monitoring System. For the first time, emergency responders could identify where persons with disabilities lived, what assistance they needed, and how to reach them safely during evacuations – information that had previously been absent from disaster planning.

Data were collected by persons with disabilities themselves, shifting their role from passive recipients of aid to active contributors to community safety. The approach is replicable: it relies on structured community data collection and collaboration with OPDs rather than costly infrastructure, and offers a practical model for ensuring that persons with disabilities are not left behind when crises strike.

Source: Zero Project Disability-Inclusive Crisis Response Research Report 2026.

4. Relief and recovery

Beyond immediate humanitarian response, the relief and recovery pillar of the WPS agenda calls for gender-responsive approaches to post-conflict reconstruction and recovery. In practice, the intersectional barriers that result from the compounded effects of gender and disability discrimination are rarely recognized or addressed in recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Women with disabilities are largely excluded from the longer-term processes of post-conflict recovery and reconstruction. Transitional justice mechanisms, including truth commissions and reparations processes, rarely incorporate the specific and unique experiences of women with disabilities, despite UNSCR 2475's explicit call to ensure their access to justice and effective remedies. In some contexts, legal frameworks governing truth and reconciliation processes have failed to clearly define or recognize victims disabled by conflict, leaving them without tailored outreach, accessible complaint channels, or accommodations such as sign language interpretation needed to participate in the process.⁴⁹ Similarly, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes frequently fail to account for the needs of women with disabilities, whether as civilians, as women associated with armed forces, or as women who acquire disabilities as a direct result of conflict.

49 Advocacy Forum Nepal et al., Nepal: Submission on Transitional Justice to the 51st Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (17 July 2025), paras. 43–44.



A woman with a disability weaving a traditional mat in Savaii, Samoa. Photo: UN Women/Jordanna Mareko

Post-conflict recovery planning and programming must actively integrate women with disabilities if it is to be genuinely inclusive and sustainable, including as part of restorative justice that brings affected communities back together after conflict.⁵⁰ Holding participatory consultations with women with disabilities to ensure that their perspectives on relief and recovery processes are taken into account will benefit not only women with disabilities, but communities and societies more broadly.

Women and girls with disabilities often face limited access to education and vocational training, which constrains their livelihoods, economic opportunities and economic security, and, in turn, their ability to participate meaningfully in relief and recovery processes. Evidence reveals both a lack of sufficient financial support for social protection schemes and sustainable employment programming for persons with disabilities in post-conflict

situations.⁵¹ Developing avenues for their increased education and vocational training would help address this gap, with positive knock-on effects for their livelihoods, economic security and, ultimately, their participation. By supporting their upskilling, communities benefit from more resilient economic recovery and a stronger foundation for sustainable peace. In particular, Member States can ensure that women and girls with disabilities are directly engaged in government and donor discussions related to relief and reconstruction projects, and address the barriers that systemic discrimination creates to their accessing upskilling and training opportunities. Across all of these areas, a significant and compounding factor is the lack of disability-, age- and gender-disaggregated data in post-conflict settings, which makes it difficult to assess the scale of exclusion, design responsive interventions and hold States accountable for their obligations to women with disabilities.⁵²

50 For more information on restorative justice and disability, see Stienstra, D. 2023. [“\(Th\)reading Rights and Justice: Women and Girls with Disabilities,”](#) in Global Society, pp. 354–374.

51 See United Nations General Assembly. 2023. Peacebuilding and the inclusion of persons with disabilities: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, A/78/174

52 Ibid., para. 62.



Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Ensure that transitional justice mechanisms, including truth commissions and reparations processes, explicitly account for the experiences of women with disabilities, in line with UNSCR 2475's call to guarantee their access to justice and effective remedies.

Recommendation 2: Ensure that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes explicitly account for the needs and rights of women with disabilities, whether as civilians affected by conflict, as women associated with armed forces and armed groups, or as women who acquire disabilities as a direct result of conflict. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programming should be accessible, provide appropriate support and reasonable accommodations, and be designed in consultation with women with disabilities and OPDs.

Recommendation 3: Hold regular, structured participatory consultations with women with disabilities and OPDs, including women-led OPDs, throughout the design and implementation of post-conflict relief and recovery programming.

Recommendation 4: Invest in accessible education and vocational training programmes for women and girls with disabilities, and ensure their direct engagement in government and donor discussions on relief and recovery projects.

Recommendation 5: Collect, analyse and publicly report disaggregated data on the situation and experiences of women with disabilities throughout post-conflict recovery and reconstruction, in partnership with OPDs, and use these data to inform programming and report against disability-inclusive indicators established in the NAP.

Timor-Leste: Integrating disability inclusion and transitional justice accountability into the WPS NAP (2024–2028)

Timor-Leste's second WPS NAP includes commitments to implement the recommendations of its two transitional justice commissions, the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR) and the Commission of Truth and Friendship (CVA) with specific reference to women survivors of sexual violence and persons with disabilities, particularly survivors of past conflict.

The NAP includes a measurable indicator tracking the number of the CAVR and CVA recommendations related to rights of women, including survivors of sexual violence and people with disabilities, that are incorporated into policies and programmes at national and international levels. This provides an example of how NAPs can link disability inclusion and transitional justice accountability, and strengthen the Government's commitments to addressing rights and needs of conflict-affected persons with disabilities.

Source: Timor-Leste National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2024–2028)

Applying the WPS agenda to humanitarian response

The core principles of the WPS agenda, including gender-responsiveness, meaningful participation and protection from violence, should shape how humanitarian actors reach women with disabilities in crisis settings. In practice, humanitarian response is often inaccessible to women with disabilities, a situation that can increase their vulnerability to violence, exploitation and abuse. Disability stigma can also lead families to conceal the presence of family members with disabilities, making it harder for humanitarian actors to identify and respond to those who may need assistance. Humanitarian workers themselves report that they lack the capacity to ensure the inclusion of women with disabilities, pointing to a systemic gap in training and resourcing.

Women with disabilities report that they are rarely consulted in devising evacuation plans or setting up temporary shelters and hygiene facilities. Where shelter facilities are provided, accessibility is often an afterthought: no accessible beds or toilets, restricted ability to leave their rooms, or no private space for feminine hygiene and disability-related care needs. They also face heightened barriers to sexual and reproductive health information, goods and services, as humanitarian workers may incorrectly assume that women with disabilities only require disability-related support, increasing their risk of unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections.

The 2019 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action offer a comprehensive operational framework for closing this gap, covering camp management, shelter, health, nutrition and protection. Applying a gender- and disability-responsive approach to humanitarian response includes:

- Ensuring that humanitarian assistance programmes, including temporary shelter and health services (including sexual and reproductive health services), are designed and delivered in line with the IASC Guidelines.
- Developing humanitarian assistance programmes specifically targeted at women with disabilities, ensuring that they are informed by and are accessible for women with disabilities.
- Training humanitarian workers on the rights, needs and priorities of women with disabilities, and on how to support their access to humanitarian assistance and services.

PART 4.

ACCOUNTABILITY, OVERSIGHT AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATIONS





WE RISE Together Focus Group Discussion on Gender Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion in Thailand.
Photo: UN Women/Pathumporn Thongking

MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMMUNICATING ACCESSIBLY

Accountability and monitoring are not the final step of WPS NAP development. They are a continuous responsibility that runs throughout the NAP cycle. For disability inclusion to be meaningful rather than symbolic, States must establish mechanisms that allow progress to be tracked, gaps to be identified and women with disabilities to hold governments accountable for their commitments. This requires independent oversight, accessible reporting, and a genuine feedback loop with women with disabilities and their organizations. It also requires that States use the full range of international accountability mechanisms available to them, including UN treaty body reviews, to report on and strengthen their implementation of disability-inclusive WPS commitments.



Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Include disability-specific indicators, targets, responsible agencies, timelines and dedicated budget lines as part of WPS NAPs.

Recommendation 2: Use the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning⁵³ as the disaggregation standard for disability data, supplemented as appropriate by Washington Group/UNICEF Child Functioning Module questions where data on children are needed.⁵⁴ States should be aware that the Short Set has limitations in capturing the experiences of people with psychosocial disabilities, and are encouraged to explore supplementary data-collection approaches, in consultation with OPDs of persons with psychosocial disabilities, where capacity and context allow.

53 Washington Group on Disability Statistics. Undated. “The Washington Group Short Set on Functioning.” Accessed May 2026. <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com>. The Washington Group on Disability Statistics is a UN Statistical Commission City Group established to develop internationally comparable disability measures for use in national censuses and surveys.

54 Washington Group on Disability Statistics. Undated. “Short Set, Frequently Asked Questions.” Accessed May 2026. <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/resources/frequently-asked-questions/short-set/>.

Recommendation 3: Establish independent oversight mechanisms, accessible complaints and redress procedures, and public reporting on progress to address challenges and gaps in implementation, including with the active involvement and leadership of women with disabilities.

Recommendation 4: Utilize UN treaty monitoring body reviews, including CRPD Committee and CEDAW Committee reviews, Universal Periodic Review and Voluntary National Reviews of the SDGs to report on progress and gaps in disability-inclusive WPS implementation.

Recommendation 5: Develop accessible versions of WPS NAPs, including screen-reader accessible, Braille, local sign language, Easy-Read and/or plain language, and translated into other languages, concurrently with the official version.

Recommendation 6: Ensure that any monitoring and evaluation reports are also made publicly available and provided in accessible formats.

Recommendation 7: Report back to women with disabilities about how their contributions shaped WPS NAPs and their implementation, and what changes have resulted from their participation.

Philippines: Embedding disability data and OPD partnerships in NAP accountability

The Philippines' fourth-generation National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2023–2033) embeds disability inclusion across accountability mechanisms. To strengthen accountability, Action Point 24.2 requires the regular collection of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data, and Action Point 24.9 recognizes OPDs as key partners in monitoring and evaluating the NAP. Together, these measures help ensure that disability inclusion is both participatory and measurable.

Source: Philippine National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2023–2033.



Opening of the WE Centre in Narathiwat, Thailand. Women's Leadership, Peace and Resilience (2026). Photo: UN Women/Ploy Phutpheng

CONCLUSION

Women with disabilities are peacebuilders, advocates and rights-holders whose inclusion makes peace and security processes stronger, more representative and more sustainable. Across Asia and the Pacific, momentum is growing in regional frameworks, in National Action Plans, and in the work of women with disabilities themselves. This Guidance Note has set out a practical framework to support States in sustaining and deepening that momentum.

WPS NAPs across Asia and the Pacific are diverse and they differ in scope, structure, duration and the national contexts they reflect. There is no single model for a disability-inclusive NAP, and this Guidance Note does not seek to impose one. What endures across all contexts, however, are the principles and commitments set out in this Note: that women with disabilities should be included as rights-holders and leaders across all four pillars of the WPS agenda; that their inclusion must be genuine, accessible and resourced; and that NAPs must be built with women with disabilities, not simply for them.

MAKING DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY A REALITY



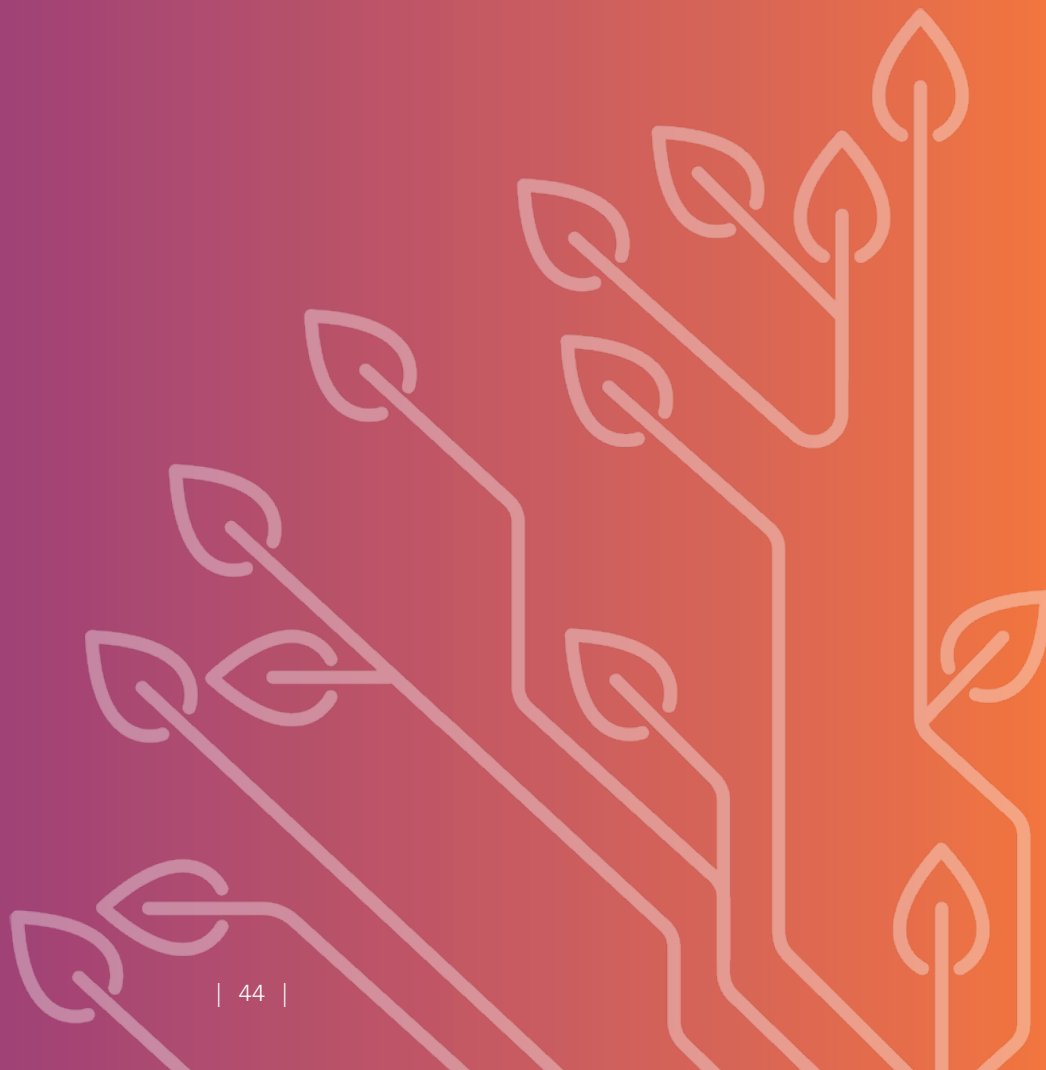
Women with disabilities are rights-holders and peacebuilders whose leadership, creativity, knowledge, subject matter expertise and experience are essential to effective conflict prevention, protection and recovery – not just to the benefit of women with disabilities, but for the benefit of all. Their inclusion in the WPS agenda is not optional; it is an obligation that flows directly from States’ commitments, including under the CRPD, CEDAW and UNSCR 2475.

Disability-inclusive WPS NAPs must be grounded in a human rights model of disability and an intersectional framework that recognizes women with disabilities in all their diversity. They must reflect the full scope of international human rights standards and be aligned across all four pillars of the WPS agenda, not limited to protection alone.



Above all, disability-inclusive WPS NAPs must be built with women with disabilities, not for them. Their priorities, identified through genuine and accessible consultation, must guide the content of NAPs, the design of indicators and the allocation of resources, from the first step of development through to monitoring and accountability.

ANNEX



DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE WPS NAP CHECKLIST:

A PRACTICAL REFERENCE TOOL FOR NAP DRAFTERS

This at-a-glance checklist is intended as a practical reference tool for States, WPS NAP drafters, civil society organizations, OPDs and UN and regional agencies. It can be used at any stage of the NAP cycle, from preparation and development through to implementation and monitoring, to assess the disability-inclusiveness of both NAP processes and content. It mirrors the structure and recommendations of this Guidance Note. For detailed guidance on any item, refer to the corresponding section of the Note. **The checklist is designed to be adapted to national contexts. Not all items will be relevant or achievable in every setting, and it should be treated as a good practice guide, not a pass/fail assessment.**

1. Creating the conditions for disability-inclusive WPS

- ☐ Are OPDs, in particular women-led OPDs and women with disabilities, adequately funded and supported to engage with WPS processes?
- ☐ Have government officials and NAP drafters been trained on disability rights and the lived experiences of diverse women with disabilities?
- ☐ Have women with disabilities and OPDs been provided with accessible capacity-strengthening on the WPS agenda and the NAP process?
- ☐ Has a disability-inclusive situational analysis been conducted in partnership with women-led OPDs, with women with disabilities directly involved?

Capacity-building workshop in Bangladesh. Photo: UN Women/Mubassira Tabassum Hossain



2. WPS NAP development processes

- ☐ Is disability inclusion an explicit priority with a dedicated budget across all phases of NAP development?
 - ☐ Have women with disabilities been meaningfully consulted through a twin-track approach in mainstream consultations and in dedicated disability-specific consultations?
 - ☐ Has accessible information about the NAP process been disseminated to women with disabilities in formats including easy-read, braille, local sign language and translations?
 - ☐ Has specific outreach been made to young women with disabilities?
 - ☐ Are women with disabilities represented in NAP advisory and steering structures as decision-makers, not only as consultees?
 - ☐ Have women with disabilities been informed how their inputs shaped the NAP before it was finalized?
-

3. Participation

- ☐ Are women with disabilities included across all four pillars of the NAP and recognized as actors, leaders and peacebuilders, not only as beneficiaries?
- ☐ Are accessibility measures and reasonable accommodations in place for all WPS participation processes?
- ☐ Is sustained funding included for OPDs and women with disabilities to participate in WPS leadership and peace processes?
- ☐ Are specific provisions included for young women with disabilities?
- ☐ Is a coordination mechanism between government bodies working on gender, disability, and peace and security in place?

4. Prevention

- ☐ Are women with disabilities recognized and resourced as peacebuilders and conflict-prevention actors in the NAP?
- ☐ Are women with disabilities included in the design and operation of early warning systems, with those systems drawing on their knowledge and community networks?
- ☐ Does the NAP include early warning indicators that are disability-specific and intersectional, to better capture the specific risks faced by women with disabilities alongside existing gender-specific indicators?
- ☐ Does the NAP address ableism and intersectional discrimination as structural drivers of conflict risk?
- ☐ Is core and flexible funding provided to women-led OPDs and women with disabilities to sustain their conflict prevention and peacebuilding work over time?

5. Protection

- ☐ Does the NAP address the social exclusion, stigma, discrimination and ableist attitudes that increase violence against women with disabilities in conflict and crisis settings?
- ☐ Do protection mechanisms recognize the unique forms of violence experienced by women with disabilities, including abuse by caregivers, violence in institutional settings, enforced isolation and targeted attacks?
- ☐ Are accessible warning and evacuation systems included, developed in consultation with women with disabilities and local OPDs?
- ☐ Does the NAP include specific measures to prevent women with disabilities from being left behind during conflict, including safeguards against forced institutionalization?
- ☐ Do targeted protection measures include accessible reporting systems, inclusive shelters, and accessible sexual and reproductive health services?
- ☐ Do access-to-justice provisions recognize the legal capacity of all women with disabilities and include procedural accommodations and training for justice actors?

6. Relief and recovery

- ☐ Does the NAP ensure that transitional justice mechanisms, including truth commissions and reparations processes, explicitly include the specific and unique experiences of women with disabilities?
- ☐ Do disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes explicitly account for the needs and rights of women with disabilities, whether as civilians, as women associated with armed forces, or as women who acquire disabilities as a direct result of conflict?
- ☐ Does the NAP ensure that post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning actively integrates women with disabilities, including as part of restorative justice processes?
- ☐ Are regular, structured participatory consultations held with women with disabilities and OPDs, including women-led OPDs, throughout the design and implementation of relief and recovery programming?
- ☐ Are accessible education and vocational training programmes available to women and girls with disabilities, to support their livelihoods, economic security and participation?
- ☐ Are women and girls with disabilities directly engaged in government and donor discussions on relief and reconstruction projects?
- ☐ Does the NAP ensure that disaggregated data on the situation and experiences of women with disabilities in post-conflict recovery and relief is collected, analyzed and publicly reported, in partnership with OPDs?

7. Accountability, oversight and accessible communications

- ☐ Are independent oversight mechanisms and accessible complaints and redress procedures in place?
- ☐ Are women with disabilities actively involved in designing and delivering NAP monitoring and evaluation processes?
- ☐ Is regular public reporting on progress on disability inclusion in NAP implementation taking place?
- ☐ Are CRPD and CEDAW Committee reviews, Universal Periodic Review and Voluntary National Reviews of the SDGs being used to report on disability-inclusive WPS?
- ☐ Is the WPS NAP published in accessible formats, including screen-reader accessible versions, braille, local sign language, easy-read and plain language?
- ☐ Are monitoring and evaluation reports publicly available in accessible formats?
- ☐ Are women with disabilities and OPDs receiving regular updates on implementation progress and informed of what changes have resulted from their participation?

8. Indicators and data

- ☐ Are disability-specific, measurable and time-bound indicators included across all four pillars?
- ☐ Are indicators disaggregated by sex, gender, disability type, age and other intersecting factors?
- ☐ Do indicators measure both process and outcome?
- ☐ Have baseline data been established and clear responsibility assigned for each indicator?
- ☐ Is a dedicated budget allocated for disability-disaggregated data collection throughout implementation?
- ☐ Are disability-disaggregated data being actively collected and reported across all pillars, including on relief, recovery and reconstruction?

Your Notes



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WOMEN ENABLED INTERNATIONAL

Women Enabled International (WEI) is the leading global organization at the intersection of gender and disability. As feminists with disabilities and allies, WEI works to create structural change by centering and amplifying the work and knowledge of local leaders to push for meaningful participation and impactful solutions.



UN WOMEN EXISTS TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS.

As the lead United Nations entity on gender equality and secretariat of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, we shift laws, institutions, social norms and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. Our partnerships with governments, women's movements and the private sector, coupled with our coordination of the broader United Nations, deliver lasting changes. We make strides in four areas: leadership, economic empowerment, freedom from violence, and peace, security and humanitarian action.

UN Women keeps the rights of women and girls at the centre of global progress – always, everywhere. Because gender equality is not just what we do. It is who we are.

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