



Information about the United Nations for Women and Girls with Disabilities



Women Enabled International



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There is a list of hard words you may need to know at the back of this information starting on page 18.

The words in **bold** in this information are all in the list.

About this information



This information is about women and girls with disabilities.

But anyone may find it helpful.



It is about the **United Nations** and its work on human rights.

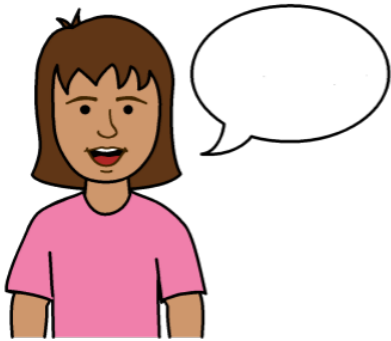


This information tells you how you can have a say about:

- The United Nation's work on human rights.
- What your country should do.



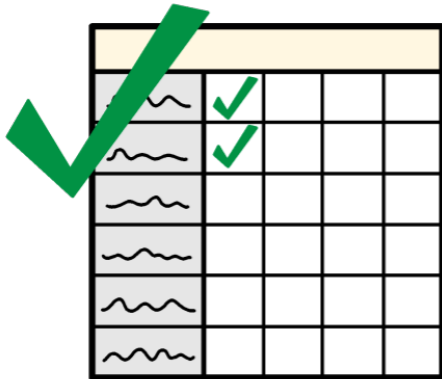
There are still many problems for women and girls with disabilities in the world.



It is important for you to say what you think and what you want to change.

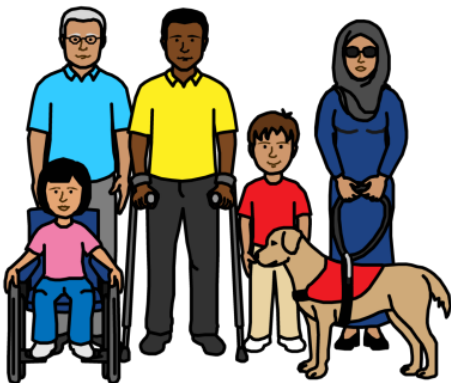


This will help the United Nations and your country know how to make things better.



What are human rights?

Human rights are rights that everyone in the world has.



For example, everyone has the right to be safe, go to school and have a family.

People with disabilities have these rights, like everyone else.

About the United Nations



The United Nations is a group of countries that work together to make the world better and safer.



It is called **the UN** for short.



Most countries in the world are part of the United Nations.

People in the United Nations who work on human rights

The main parts of the United Nations that work on human rights are:



1. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

These people work for the United Nations.



They work to:

- Make sure that everyone in the world gets their human rights.
- Help solve human rights problems.
- Help governments keep their promises about human rights.





2. The Human Rights Council

This is a group of 47 countries in the United Nations.

They work together on human rights.

For example, they:

- Work together to try to solve human rights problems.
- Look at what is happening with human rights in all countries in the United Nations.

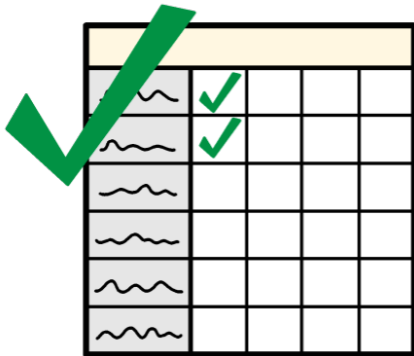


This is called the **Universal Periodic Review.**

Agreements that countries make about human rights



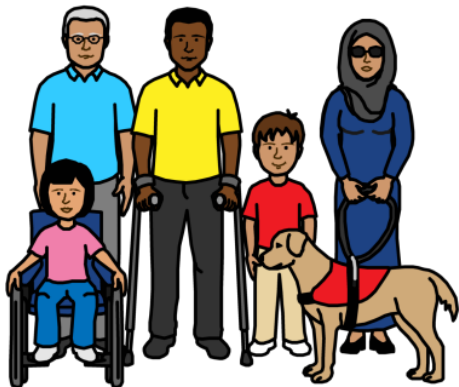
Countries in the United Nations have made some agreements about human rights.



The agreements are often called **Treaties**.

Agreements are documents that say:

- What human rights people have.
- What countries must do to make sure people get these rights.



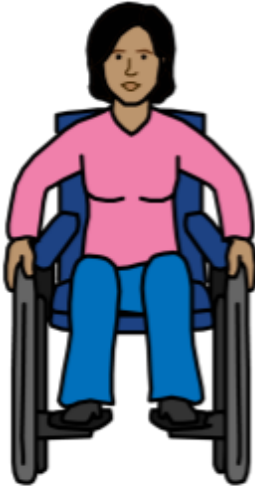
For example, there is an agreement about the rights of women.



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

And there is an agreement about the rights of people with disabilities.

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



Women and girls with disabilities have all the rights in both agreements.

The agreement about people with disabilities has one part only about women and girls with disabilities.

It is called Article 6.

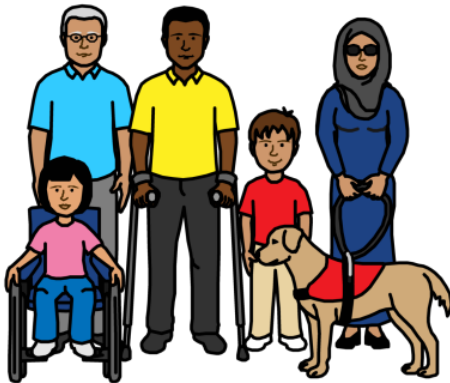


You can read the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)** on this website:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/345108/easy-read-un-convention.pdf



Most countries have promised to do what the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)** says.



This means countries have to work to make life better for **all** people with disabilities who live there.



You can check if your country has promised to do what the agreement says on this website:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/document/s/maps/enablemap.jpg>

Making sure countries do what they promise



Some people from the United Nations check that countries do the right things for people with disabilities.

1. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



This is a group of experts from around the world.

They check that countries are doing what they promised for people with disabilities.

2. The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



This person works with people in different countries to do things like:

- Get information about people with disabilities.
- Say what countries and the United Nations should do for people with disabilities.



- Help countries change their laws and the way they do things.



- Write reports every year about how this work is going.



The person who does this job now is called Catalina Devandas-Aguilar.

You can find out more about her work on this website:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Disability/A-HRC-28-58_EasyToRead.doc

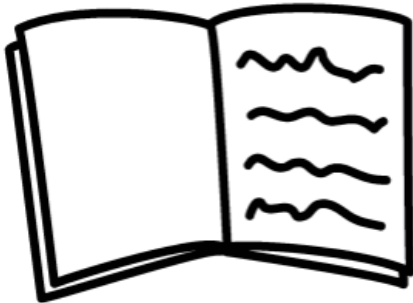
How to have your say at the United Nations



The United Nations checks how your country is doing with its work on human rights.

It is important that they hear from you.

There are many ways you can have a say in this work.



1. You can help write a report about how your country is doing on human rights

Your country must tell the United Nations how it is doing with its work on human rights.

Your country has to write reports about this.



You can help write a report for the United Nations as well.

This is called a **shadow report**.



You can write a report about what your life is like and what your country should do for women and girls with disabilities.



For example, you can tell the United Nations if you are able to:

- Learn at school.
- Get the health care you need.



You can tell the United Nations if your country is not doing things it promised to do in its agreements (treaties).



The United Nations will look at your report as well.



The report will help the United Nations:

- Know how your country is doing on human rights.
- Give your country advice about what needs to change.

Who you can share your report with



The Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council checks how all countries are doing on human rights for everyone.

They check countries every 5 years.



You can write a report for the Human Rights Council when they check your country.

This is called the **Universal Periodic Review**.



A group of experts on people with disabilities

Many countries have promised to follow the agreement about the rights of people with disabilities.

A group of experts from the United Nations checks how your country is doing with this.

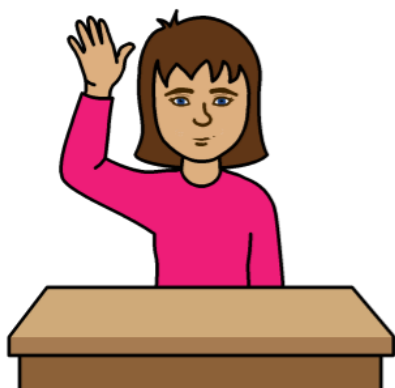
They are called **The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.





You can write a report for this group of experts when they check your country.

This happens every 4 years.



2. You can make a complaint

You can make a complaint if you think your country has broken the promises it made about people with disabilities.



People from the United Nations will look at your complaint.

They will talk to your country to try to fix the problem.



This process is called an **Urgent Communication**.

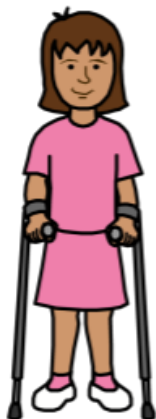


3. You can have a say in some documents that the United Nations writes

Countries may need help to follow
the agreement about the rights of
people with disabilities.



The United Nations writes some
documents to help countries know
what to do.



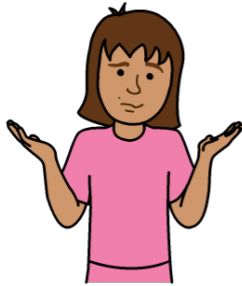
For example, the United Nations wrote
a document to help countries support
women and girls with disabilities.



These documents are often called
General Comments.

The United Nations asks people
what they think before making
the documents.

Some words you may need to know



Here is a list of hard words that people may use about the United Nations.

The word	What it means
Civil Society	<p>You and other people who live in your country.</p> <p>It is people who do not work for the government or the United Nations.</p>
Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women Or CEDAW	<p>An agreement (treaty) that countries have made about the rights of women.</p> <p>Many countries have promised to do what this agreement says.</p>
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Or CRPD	<p>An agreement (treaty) that countries have made about the rights of people with disabilities.</p> <p>Many countries have promised to do what this agreement says.</p>

The word	What it means
General Comments	<p>Documents that the United Nations writes.</p> <p>They help countries know how to make people's rights happen.</p>
Human Rights	<p>Rights that everyone in the world has, like the right to be safe and go to school.</p>
Human Rights Council	<p>A group of countries in the United Nations who work on human rights.</p>
Member States	<p>Countries that are part of the United Nations.</p>
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	<p>People who work for the United Nations.</p> <p>They work to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that everyone in the world gets their human rights. • Help solve human rights problems. • Help governments keep their promises about human rights.

The word	What it means
Optional Protocol	<p>An extra part of the agreement about the rights of people with disabilities.</p> <p>If your country agreed to this extra part:</p> <p>It means you can make a complaint if you think your country has broken its promises about people with disabilities.</p>
Ratify	<p>When a country promises to do what an agreement (treaty) says.</p>
Shadow Report	<p>A report that you can write for the United Nations to look at.</p>
Special Procedures	<p>People who are experts on human rights. They look at how to make human rights happen in different countries.</p>
Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	<p>The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an expert on the human rights of people with disabilities.</p>

The word	What it means
State	Another word for country.
State Parties	Countries that have promised to follow agreements like the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
State Reporting	When a country tells the United Nations how it is doing to keep the promises it made at the United Nations.
Treaty	<p>An agreement about the rights of certain groups of people, like women and people with disabilities.</p> <p>Countries in the United Nations make the agreements together.</p>
Treaty Body	<p>A group of experts who check that countries are following an agreement (treaty).</p> <p>For example, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p>
United Nations (UN)	A group of countries that work together to make the world better and safer.

The word	What it means
Universal Periodic Review	<p>When the United Nations checks how each country in the United Nations is doing on human rights.</p> <p>This happens every 5 years.</p> <p>The people in the United Nations who check this are called the Human Rights Council.</p>