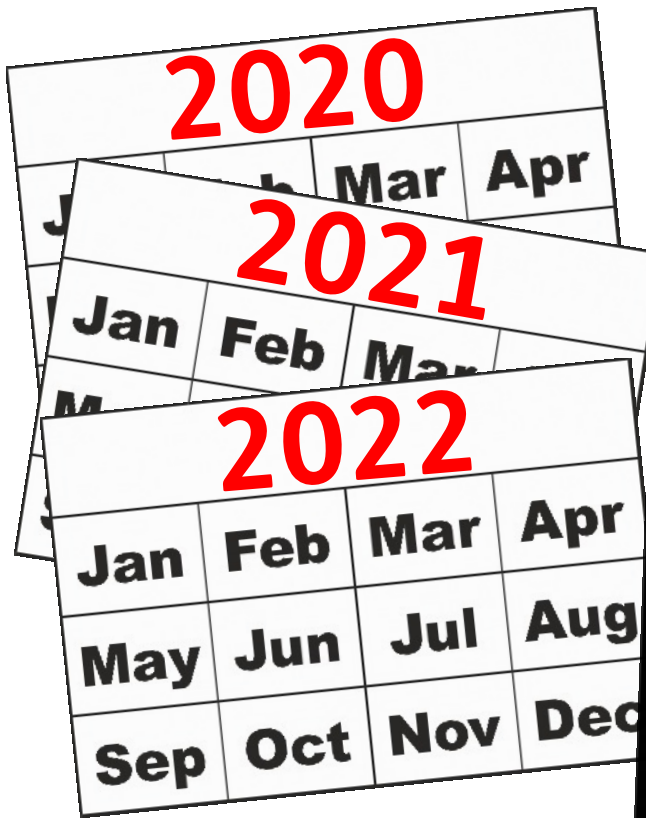




The rights of people with disabilities



What the Special Rapporteur did in 2020 and what the new Special Rapporteur plans for the future.



EasyRead version of:
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities – vision for the mandate (A/46/27).



1. About this report **1**

2020			
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

2. What the Special Rapporteur did in 2020 **3**



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About this report



Every year the **Special Rapporteur** on the rights of persons with disabilities writes a report to tell the **UN** about **human rights** and people with disabilities.



The Special Rapporteur helps countries understand how to make sure people with disabilities can get their human rights.



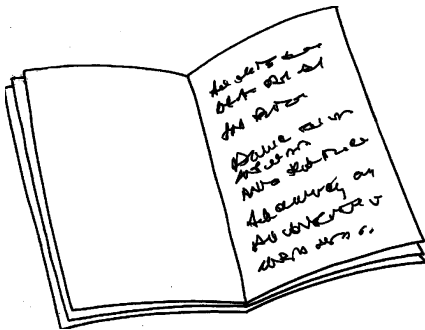
The UN is a group made up of 193 countries. They work together to make the world a safer and better place for everyone.



In August last year Catalina Devandas Aguilar came to the end of her time as Rapporteur and in October Gerard Quinn was voted to be the new one.



This is an EasyRead report on what the old Special Rapporteur Catalina Devandas Aguilar did in 2020 and what the new Special Rapporteur Gerald Quinn is doing and plans to do for the next years.



Some difficult words are in **bold**, these are explained in the section at the end called what the words mean.

2020			
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

2. What the Special Rapporteur did in 2020

Country visits



Visits to Botswana and China had to be cancelled this year because of Covid.

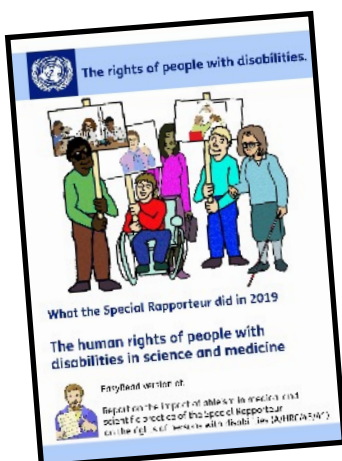
2021			
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

The Special Rapporteur hopes to do these visits in 2021.

Involving people

2 big reports were written last year, both also in EasyRead:

1. The human rights of people with disabilities in science and medicine



EasyRead version of: Report on the impact of ableism in medical and scientific practice of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (A/HRC/43/41).

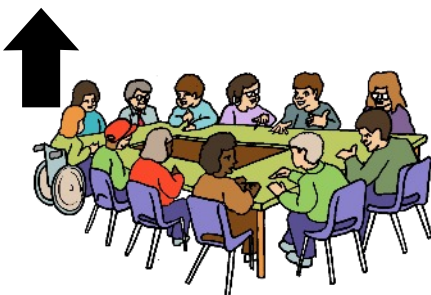


2. Involving and including people with disabilities when countries work together on international aid programmes

EasyRead version of:
Report on disability-inclusive international cooperation of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (A/75/186).



Both these and other reports can from the Special Rapporteur be found here:
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/disability/srdisabilities/pages/reports.aspx>



The Special Rapporteur had lots of meetings and conferences including about rights, abuse and inclusion of people with disabilities.



The old Special Rapporteur supported the rights of people with disabilities. She wrote guides to:

1. issues about Covid and people with disabilities



2. making sure people with disabilities are included



3. getting your rights in law



4. making your own decisions



5. rights to sex and family life.

October 2020						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

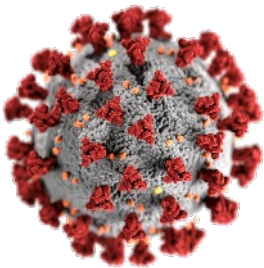


The new Special Rapporteur started in October last year and has had lots of meetings with groups of people with disabilities and other organizations.



These meetings were about:

- the rights of people with disabilities



- Covid and how to include people in what happens next.



3. The main things the new Special Rapporteur wants to do in his job

The Special Rapporteur will do his job in 3 ways:

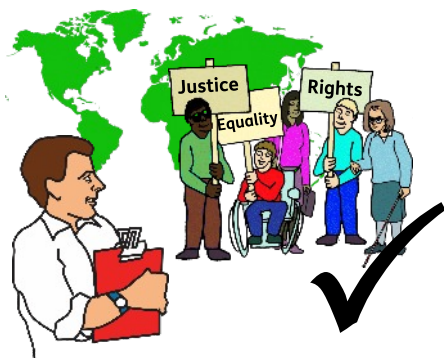


1. Getting information about people with disabilities not getting their rights.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



2. Writing reports each year to the UN and Human Rights Council on main issues about getting rights, including EasyRead versions.



3. Visiting different countries to look at how well they are doing to make sure people with disabilities are getting their rights.

There are 5 areas of work the Special Rapporteur will be looking at:

1. How to make sure people with disabilities get their rights when there are big crisis happening



The **UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities** was a huge change in how we should see and think about people with disabilities. Here we call it the **Convention**.



Instead of seeing people with disabilities as just things to care for, the Convention recognizes that they should be heard and have a choice and control over their life and in the community.



Many things need to change for everyone to change the way they think and to make sure people have their human rights everywhere around the world.



Making sure this happens everywhere to everyone, wherever they live, is difficult and complicated. But it has to happen.



Everything governments and people in charge do must use what the Convention says.



They also need to include what people say, so their rights are included from the start.



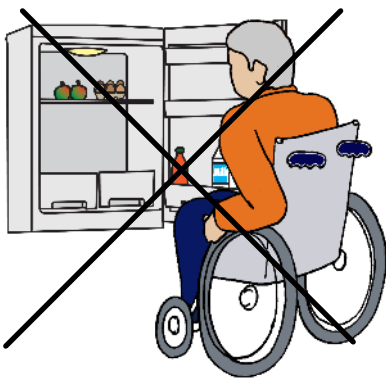
And things are slowly changing for the better.



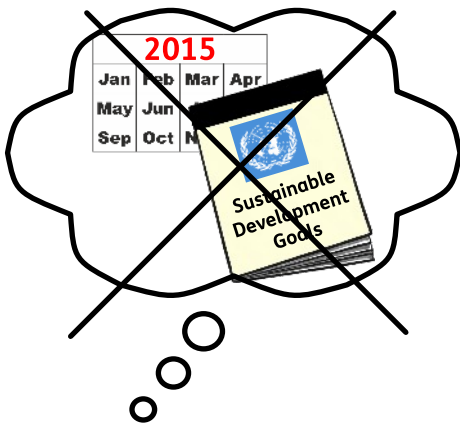
But when huge things like Covid happen the rights of people with disabilities can quickly be forgotten and governments, services and those with power go back to how they used to work.



This is being shown during Covid and lockdowns when people with disabilities have been left without the care and support they need or even, for example how to get food.



This should never happen at times of crisis. These times will happen often and we should be ready to carry on making sure people with disabilities get their basic rights.



The old ways services used to work have to be forgotten about and the UN has done a lot of work to help that happen. This is called the UN **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDG) that came out in 2015.



The Special Rapporteur will use these to help systems and services change.

2. People with disabilities being included and treated equally and fairly.



This is called **inclusive equality**.

It means everyone is seen and treated as equal.



It is for all people with disabilities and means people must be treated equally whatever disability they have.



It means government policies, services and support must change to make sure everyone can make their own decisions and be a part of their communities, not kept apart from them.



The Special Rapporteur will work to help make inclusive equality happen.

3. Working with people with disabilities to make new policies (Co-production)



The Convention said that listening to what people with disabilities say has to be included in any change to the system.



People with disabilities have to be properly involved from the beginning in making any new policy. This is called **Co-production**.



The Convention said that after new policies have been made people with disabilities then have to be involved in checking when and how changes are made.



This is all about people with disabilities having a voice.



The Special Rapporteur will be checking how well this is working.



The Special Rapporteur will also help countries to work in these new ways. With advice and sharing good examples of how things can be done. As well as making sure more people with disabilities know about their rights.



The Special Rapporteur will work in this way himself and involve people with disabilities in his work.



He will make sure all people are included. Including those people who are often not involved and not heard from, for example:

- people with intellectual or learning disabilities



- people who are both deaf and blind



- autistic people



- and people with disabilities who live in the poorer countries of the world.



The Special Rapporteur will also work with, and support large organizations to help them in their work and to reach people they do not reach yet.



He will support new research groups that want to help make the Convention happen.

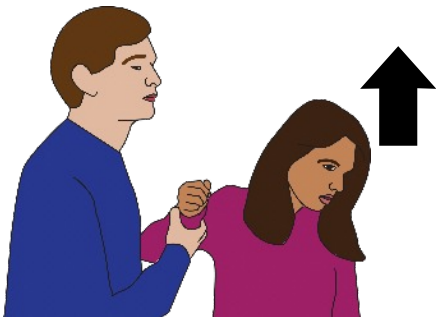
4. Being treated unfairly and unequally for more than one reason



Some people are treated unfairly and unequally for more than one thing.



For example, some women with disabilities are treated unequally because they are women and also because they have a disability.

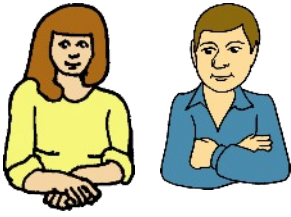


For example, we know women and girls with disabilities are more likely to be hurt or abused.

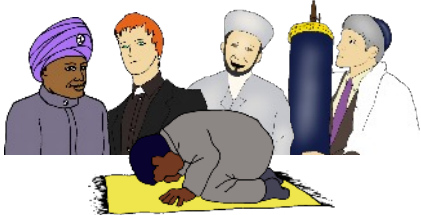


But this could also be for lots of other things like someone's:

- race or color



- sex
- language



- religion



- age



- or something else.



The Special Rapporteur said we need to find out why this happens and what we can do about it.



He also wants to include older people with disabilities and native people with disabilities as well.

5. Working together with the UN



The Special Rapporteur will work with other UN groups to make sure the same work isn't done twice by different people.



He will also ask others to include treating people with disabilities equally in their work and looks forward to hearing about useful information and the results.



The Special Rapporteur wants to carry on all the good work Catalina Devandas Aguilar did before him.



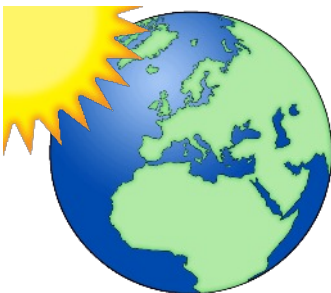
He knows the UN has done a lot in making the strategy to include people with disabilities happen already.



The Secretary-General of the UN now has a team that helps all UN work on disability. For example, they wrote a report on how Covid was affecting people with disabilities more than others.

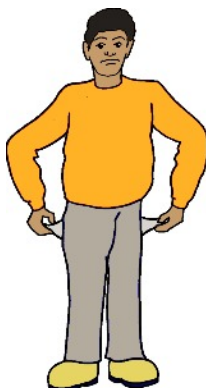


When the UN work includes the rights of people with disabilities in all they do, they can show countries around the world how it can be done.



We know the world is facing huge problems such as:

- climate change, or changes to the weather



- people without money



- people treated unfairly and unequally



- the seas, forests and other areas being ruined



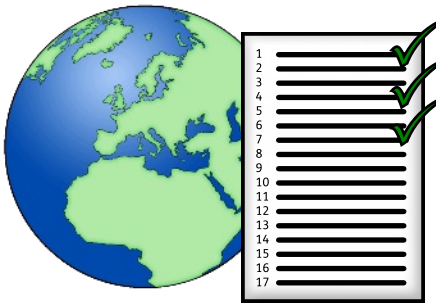
- fighting and wars



- and people treated unfairly.



These problems affect people with disabilities much more than other people.



The UN has a list of 17 things we need to do to make the world better and help sort out these problems called **Sustainable Development Goals**.



Work on these goals will help in the work of the Special Rapporteur as well, especially for people with disabilities with no money and those that are left out.

2030			
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

The will is that real change will happen by 2030.



You can find out more about these goals here
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>



4. The most important areas to work on



The Special Rapporteur's job is very big. So he wants to work more on the 3 most important areas.



1. The big problems affecting us all.



2. People being treated unfairly and unequally for more than one reason.



3. Other important issues.



He will do the work by:

- looking at what has already been done



- meeting and talking with experts



- meeting and talking with people with disabilities and their organizations



- look at what independent organizations have been doing



- writing reports



- visiting countries to see what is happening



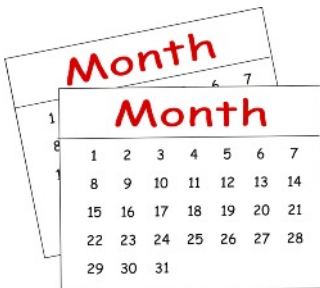
- talking with governments.



His reports will be written in a way that helps and shows how changes can happen.



This will help people with disabilities and make sure women and girls are not left out.



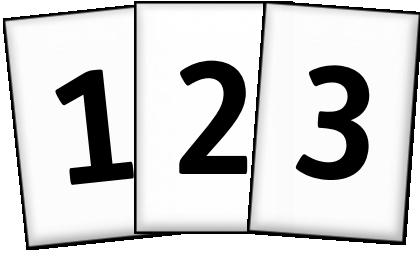
The first group of reports will be on the most urgent issues at the moment.



The second group of reports will be about people who are treated more unfairly and unequally for more than one reason.



And the third group will look at some special rights, issues or groups of people.



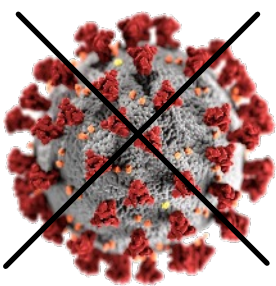
There are more details about these 3 groups of reports below.

Reports

1. The first group of reports will be on the most urgent issues that are affecting everyone at the moment.

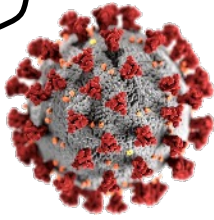


We need to make sure people with disabilities are not forgotten when dealing with these issues.



- a) The first issue is COVID-19 and how to recover from it so we are better than before.

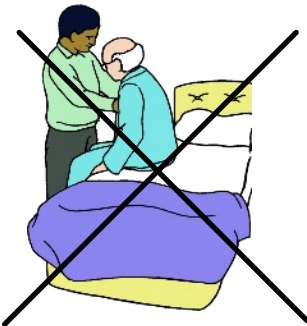
This work is called **Build Back Better**.



We have seen during COVID-19 that sometimes people with disabilities are forgotten about.

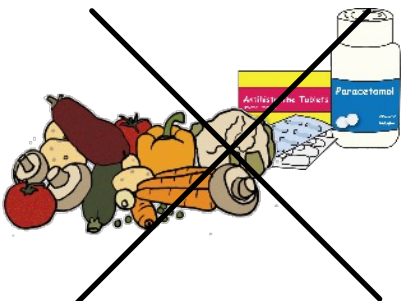


Many people with disabilities have not been able to get the things they needed or things others got without question.

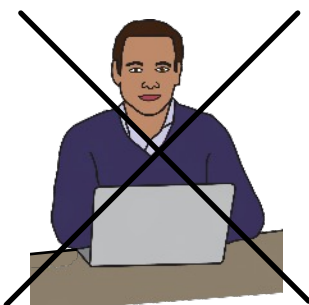


Examples are when:

- services and support are cut



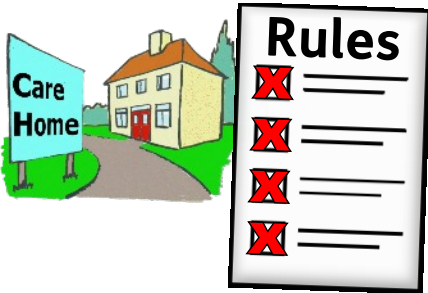
- people cannot get food or medicines



- people cannot use internet or online learning or other services



- families are left with no support



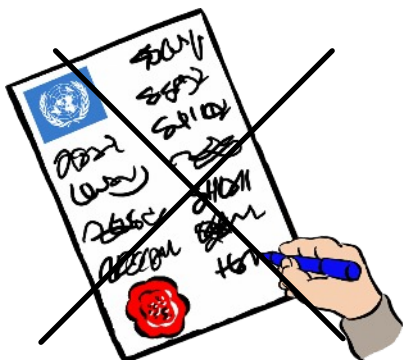
- people with disabilities in care face harder rules than others



- more people with disabilities become homeless



- people in care or institutions catch COVID-19 much more than others.



This breaks articles 11, 19 and 25 of the Convention which talks about what to do in emergencies to guarantee the rights of people with disabilities.



These articles say:

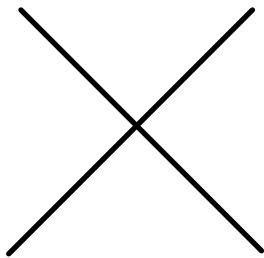
- countries must make sure people with disabilities are safe



- people with disabilities should be supported to live independently and be included in the community



- people with disabilities must be treated equally and fairly when it comes to medicines and services.

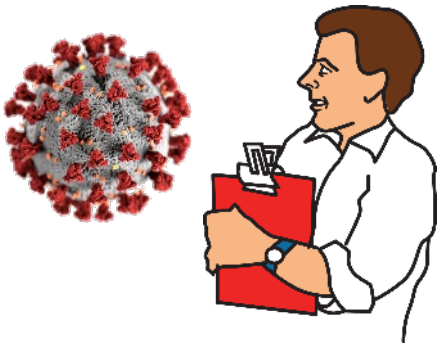


Lots of people are now saying this must never happen again.



And what is done when we come out of COVID-19 must not just include people with disabilities but be stronger and better.

This has got people saying we must Build Back Better and we must make sure people mean it and that planning for emergencies for people with disabilities includes:



- being more ready for emergencies like COVID-19



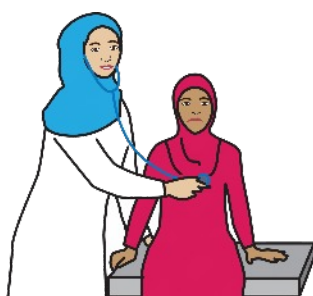
- including what people with disabilities say about planning for and working during emergencies



- making sure people with disabilities are treated equally and fairly in emergencies



- support **independent living** in emergencies and not go back to care in institutions

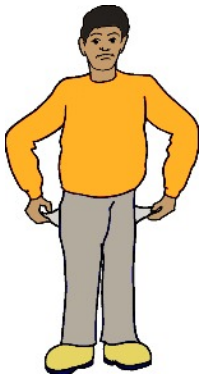


- making sure people with disabilities get equal health care in emergencies.



b) The second area of the Special Rapporteur's work is Climate Change.

Climate Change is affecting the world and everyone in it.



But it is affecting some groups of people more than others.

For example, people who are often not treated equally or fairly like people who are poor or people with disabilities.



And it will affect people in many ways like:

- less work



- less food and land you can grow things on



- lots of people having to leave their homes and move from large areas or islands



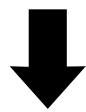
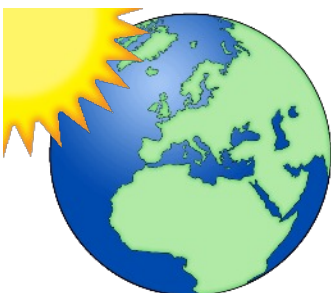
- worse health



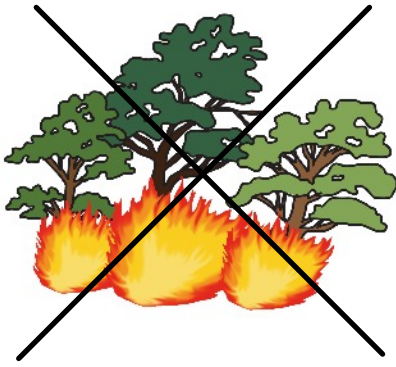
- flooding.



Some Governments are trying to do things about Climate Change and agreeing on what to do. But it is not enough to stop these things from happening.



We need to make sure the damage caused by Climate Change is kept as small as possible.

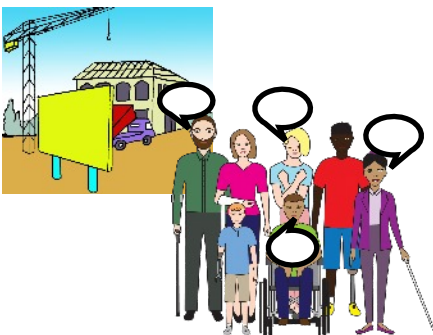


And we need to change how we do things to make the best of the damage that does happen.

This is where the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are so important.



But people with disabilities have not always been listened to or included and there is more work to be done to make sure this happens.

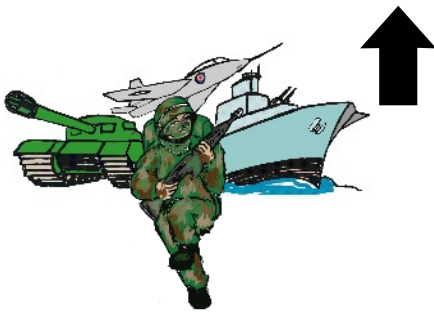


As new ways of getting about, new buildings and homes are built the voices of people with disabilities need to be included to get them right.



This work will list the dangers of not including people and show how to include.

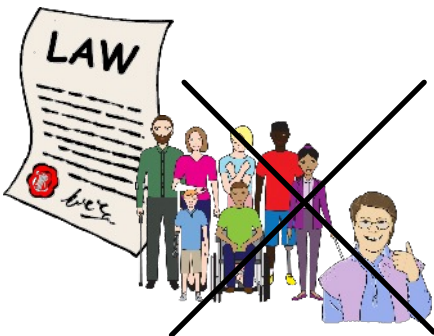
c) The third area is wars and peace-making



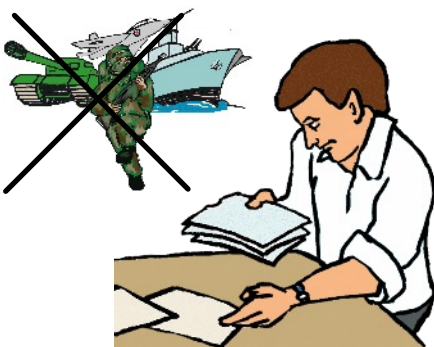
There has been a lot of fighting in recent times.



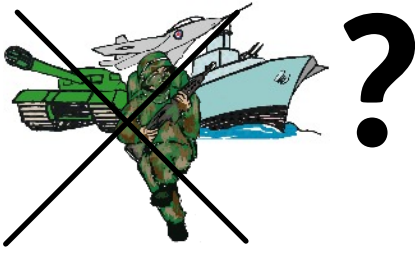
Article 11 of the Convention and other worldwide laws talk about keeping people with disabilities safe.



But the laws are old fashioned and not good at keeping people with disabilities safe.



We need to look at what changes can be made to keep people safer. One way is to include people with disabilities in talks about stopping fighting, and in making and keeping the peace.



We want to look at:

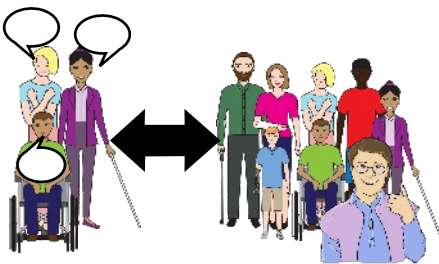
- what people with disabilities have done so far in peace making



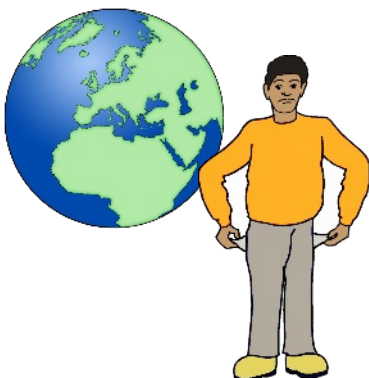
- how good was it



- how can this be used more and supported in the future.



This joins together keeping people safe and having voices heard.

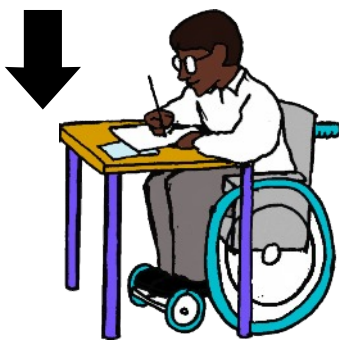


d) Being very poor and having a disability

We know that lots of people with disabilities all over the world are also very poor.

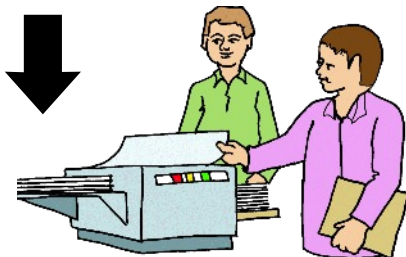


Other things can make it worse for people with disabilities, like being older or coming from certain backgrounds or races.

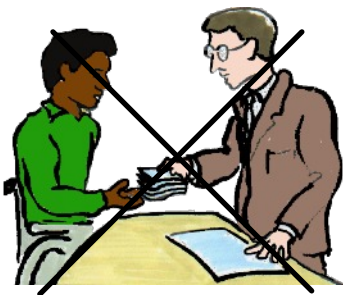


It can follow people with disabilities through their lives so:

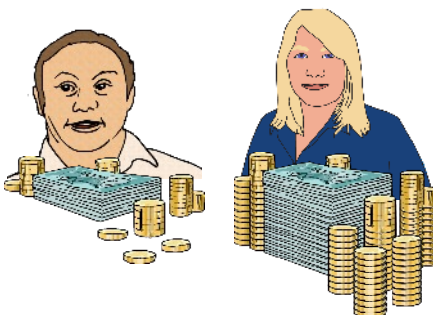
- children with disabilities get less good education



- adults have less chance to get work, especially well-paid work



- self-employed people do not get the same chances of loans or other help with money



- some people with disabilities do not get equal shares of money left by parents when they die



- and people with disabilities are not allowed to make their own decisions.



Being poor with disabilities can mean you do not get equal chances of:

- health care



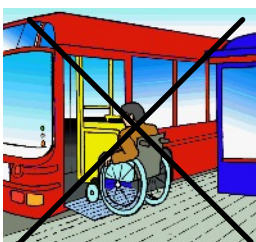
- safe housing



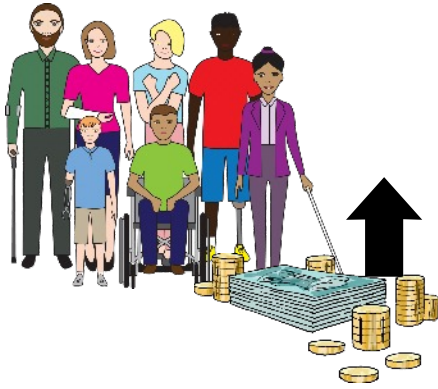
- clean water



- good food



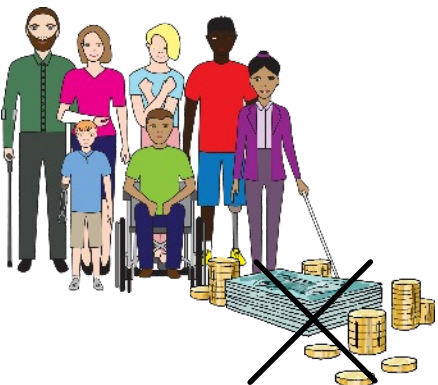
- accessible transport



And many other everyday things, despite the fact that having a disability costs more.



This all affects the person and their families. It often means women have to care for people with disabilities, and when they do that they do not get paid or have a pension. Women are relied on all over the world to do this. And this not fair.



The usual way out of being poor is to get a better job. But as shown above this is often not possible for people with disabilities and the usual benefits and ways to help often do not work well as they do not include the extra costs of having a disability.



The SDG shows how to make this better.

2. The second group of reports will be about people who are treated more unfairly and unequally for more than one reason.



This group of reports will look at what we can learn from these groups of people who are treated more unequally. And how to make things better.

a) Older people with disabilities



Some older people also have disabilities and are then included under the Convention.



But lots of older people do not have a disability and are not included.

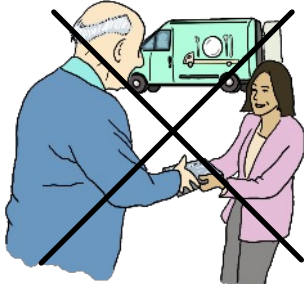
But older people can face the same problems as people with disabilities. They can be:

- ignored

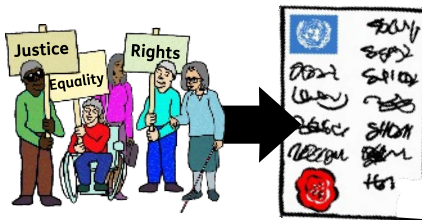




- not seen as able to make decisions



- not supported to live independently.



So many of the rights in the Convention are needed for older people as well.



This work is to look at what issues both groups face and what can be done about it, including the work that has been done already.



b) Native people with disabilities

Native people are often called indigenous. It means the same.



Many native people both with and without disabilities live in poor and bad conditions and areas.



Their rights need to be respected with any change needed to include and respect their culture and ways of doing things.



This work is about finding out and understanding the situation for native peoples with disabilities better.



This way work can be done that helps people get their rights and respects their culture.



There are some areas we know about to look at including:

- out of home care



- dropping out of school



- being homeless



- being poor



- getting into trouble with the police.



The Special Rapporteur will work closely with others in the UN who know and work with native peoples.

3. And the third group looks at some special rights, issues or groups of people.

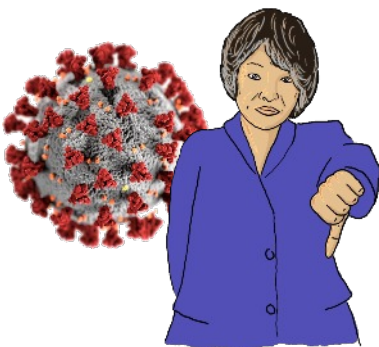
a) Thinking again about how services can do things better



Having good laws and policies can be weakened if old institutional ways of doing things don't get changed as well.



This is called the **medical model of disability**, and using it still makes it difficult for people with disabilities to get their rights.



But the difficulties people are facing during COVID-19 has shown us the old ways of doing things make it even worse in emergencies.



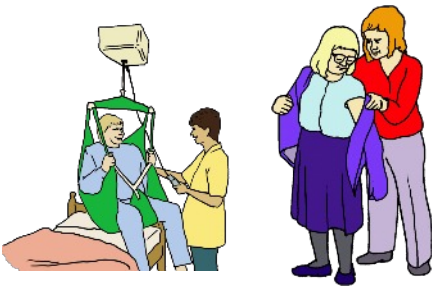
Now is the time to move on from the old ways to a system that is based on the rights of people. This is called the **human rights model of disability**.



More and more countries make it possible for people with disabilities to be in control of their **service money** and in charge of buying what support they want and need. This is good and follows what the Convention says.



Some countries have the choices available on web sites so people can choose what they want.



This helps build community based services that should help give better services during an emergency.



This way of working will help poorer countries that are starting to think about how to organize services for people. They do not have to make the old mistakes first.



All of this raises questions about how to do it well and make sure services are good.



This work is looking to find out lots more about these changes.



It is also a chance to look at the issue of women often having to be carers.

b) Using new technology

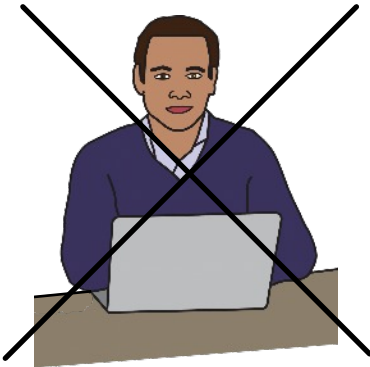
Computers and robots are doing more and getting better every day. This is all called **new technology**.



New technology affects us all and a lot of it in good ways.



But as computers are learning they can also make bad decisions.



Also a lot of people with disabilities do not have computers or technology, or cannot use them.

We need to look at some of the problems for people with disabilities with this new technology, like:



- when computers are looking for people to do jobs they might not choose people with disabilities – just because they have a disability. And this is not fair and is against the Convention



- when computers do not think about all the different kinds of disability in how they learn



- when people believe all the computer says



- when things like face recognition do not work properly with the faces of people with disabilities



This work will think about the issues of new technology for people with disabilities.



It will support the good things technology offers and how they can be best used, as well as trying to stop some of the problems some people with disabilities have.

c) The job of groups of countries in one organization



Groups of countries have joined together in some places to make one new organization. A good example of this is the EU or **European Union**.



The Convention allows these new organizations to support their countries to keep to the Convention.



The different organizations around the world do things differently but do a lot of good work on the rights of people with disabilities.



It is a good time to look at what they are doing and how in more detail.



This work is to look at how well these organizations are working and helping the countries in their group to make sure people with disabilities get their rights.



We will also think about the different cultures in these areas, how well off they are and what other difficulties they may have.

d) Cultural rights



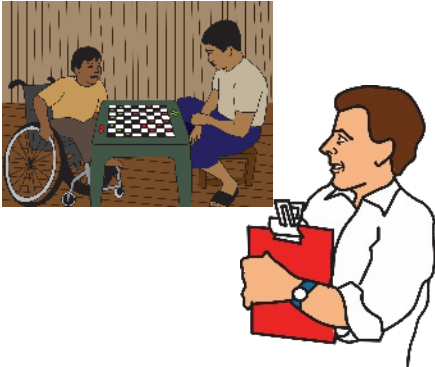
The Convention says people with disabilities have the right to join in and be a part of their **culture**.



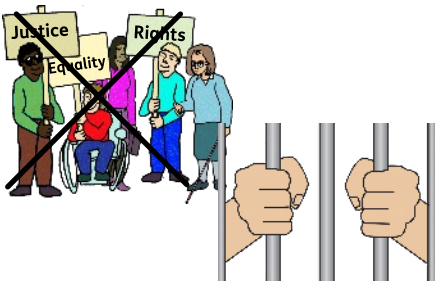
Culture is about who we are and where we come from. It is about the ideas, customs, and ways particular people or groups behave.



It is about everything we do and how we do it. And should also be a part of politics and running a country.



This work will look at the right to culture for people with disabilities. It will start by looking at how people with disabilities are involved. And check how well things are working.



e) Prisoners

Prisoners lose some of their rights when they are in prison.



When people are in court the issues of how badly disadvantaged they have been in their life is usually not looked at.



Courts often look at punishing someone who did something wrong, instead of making sure they do not do it again.



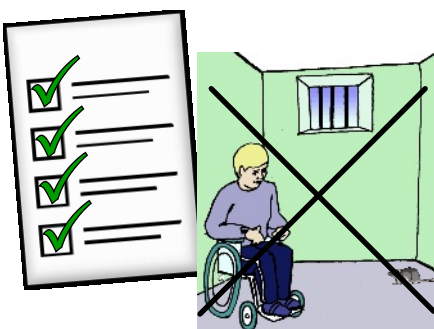
There are more people with disabilities in prison than there should be.



This makes us ask what rights they are getting to things like access and other support they need because of their disability.



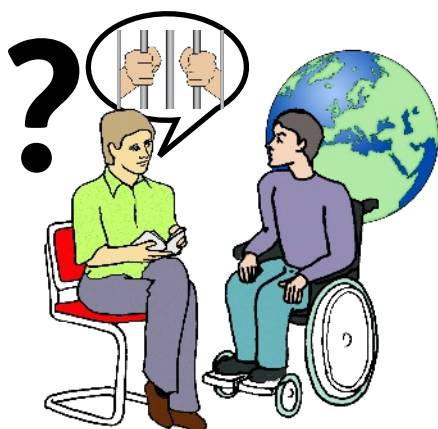
We are especially worried about people's mental health and how this can get worse in prison.



Having standards for prisoners with disabilities that stop awful conditions may help.



As well as ways to help prisoners with disabilities when they come out of prison and go back into the community.



This work will find out more about the many issues prisoners with disabilities face around the world.



We will look at the good things happening to see what can be learnt.



And we will tell others about them. This way we will try to make sure more prisoners with disabilities get their rights.



Finally

The new Special Rapporteur will do his job in a way that:



- looks at things in detail



- includes people with disabilities



- and works together with people with disabilities.



He will work closely with:

- countries



- the other parts of the UN



- experts



- people with disabilities



- disability organizations



- and others



To help make the lives of people with disabilities around the world better.

The Special Rapporteur asks for everyone to support him in his work and make sure it:



- makes changes for the better in the lives of people with disabilities



- and helps everyone get their human rights whoever they are and wherever they live.



What the words mean

Co-production - working with people with disabilities to make new policies, laws, rules or anything else important.

Culture - is about who we are and where we came from. It is about the ideas, customs and ways particular people or groups have.

European Union - a group of 27 countries in Europe working together.

Human Rights – are the rights everyone should get.

Human rights model of disability – this is the way of looking at making sure people with disabilities get their rights set out in the Convention.

Inclusive equality - means everyone is seen and treated as equal.

Independent Living – being in control of your own life and making your own decisions living in your community.

Medical model of disability – is the old way of looking at what people with disabilities need seeing the person as the problem not what other changes can be made to make things better.

Native people - the people who lived in a country before others came. For example Native Americans or Aboriginal Australians.

New technology – is the new inventions being made that change our lives and can make some things a lot easier. From remote controls to computers making the work easier for us.

Service money – this is about having control over the money used to buy your own support or service. It is called different things in different countries, for example Direct Payments, individual or personal budgets.

Special Rapporteur – a job with the UN in charge of a certain area of work about human rights.

United Nations – an organization that aims to keep peace between countries, get countries working together, and make sure people get their human rights.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities – a treaty or agreement that wants to protect the human rights of people with disabilities around the world. Countries that sign up to it are expected to do what the Convention says for people with disabilities in their country.



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