**Organizations Working at the Intersection of Gender and Disability:**

**Submission to the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls on girls' and young women's activism**

*October 15, 2021*

1. **Introduction**

Women Enabled International (WEI), HYPE Sri Lanka, La Luz de Frida, South Sudan Women with Disability Network (SSWDN), and FRIDA Young Feminist Fund appreciate the opportunity to provide the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls (WGDAWG) with information on the activism of girls and young women with disabilities.

Women and girls with disabilities account for almost one-fifth of the world's population of women,[[1]](#endnote-1) but they are significantly underrepresented in political and public life.[[2]](#endnote-2) Girls and young women with disabilities face unique and increased barriers when exercising their human rights due to intersectional and multiple discrimination, structural inequalities, and marginalization,[[3]](#endnote-3) including their right to participation and activism in political and public life. The barriers they face related to accessibility, lack of political education and empowerment, sexism, and ageism reduce their likelihood of pursuing activism. As the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) emphasizes, power imbalances and multiple discrimination against women and girls with disabilities lead to fewer opportunities to participate in political and public life.[[4]](#endnote-4)

As a result, women and girls with disabilities are disproportionately underrepresented in public decision-making, which also leads to the silencing of their voices in public life and activism.[[5]](#endnote-5) Many of the barriers they face to engage in activism are common to all girls and young women, while others are particular to girls and young women with disabilities, based on both gender and disability. In addition, the lack of data on the political participation and activism of women and girls with disabilities prevents the possibility of using data to formulate and implement policies to increase their participation. A disability-inclusive response is needed to change this situation, as a response to the underrepresentation of girls, young women, and marginalized genders in activism that overlooks disability is insufficient to ensure their participation. Fulfilling the right to participation in political and public life is crucial to ensure their voices are heard and the issues on their agenda are prioritized, as well as to guarantee that they have the opportunity to become leaders.[[6]](#endnote-6)

This submission presents an overview of the challenges faced by girls and young women with disabilities in activism and participation, outlining existing human rights standards in this regard. This submission also includes good practices to advance the engagement of women with disabilities in activism, as well as recommendations that we hope will help inform the forthcoming thematic report on girls' and young women's activism.

Note that, while it is essential to recognize the activism of marginalized genders with disabilities, there is a significant gap in information about this group. We hope that the WGDAWG may also use this report to call on actors to include young marginalized genders with disabilities in data collection on this important topic.

1. **Challenges and good practices related to activism**

Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) ensures the right to participation in political and public life, to guarantee that persons with disabilities—including girls and young women with disabilities—can participate fully and effectively in political and public life on an equal basis with others.[[7]](#endnote-7) In Article 6, dedicated to women with disabilities, the CRPD establishes that States "shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women"[[8]](#endnote-8) when guaranteeing their human rights, which must include making specific efforts to ensure the participation of women with disabilities in political and public life.

In spite of that, women and girls with disabilities face unique and increased barriers when exercising their right to participation in political and public life. In its 2018 strategy, UN Women highlighted that the systemic marginalization they face leads to lower economic and social status; increased risk of violence; discrimination, harmful gender-based discriminatory practices; and barriers to accessing education, health care, and justice.[[9]](#endnote-9) These obstacles intersect with each other and hinder the participation of women and girls with disabilities in political and public life on an equal basis with others.[[10]](#endnote-10)

This section will explore the barriers that women and girls with disabilities face in the exercise of the right to participation in political and public life and will present some good practices that have been implemented to overcome them, as well as human rights standards related to this issue.

1. **Lack of intersectionality in the feminist and disability movements**

The obstacles women with disabilities face in activism are multiple and intersecting. That is, there are obstacles that they face on the basis of their gender—which they share with women without disabilities—, such as poverty and lack of opportunity[[11]](#endnote-11), and there are barriers relating to disability specifically, including for instance, lack of accessibility.[[12]](#endnote-12) These obstacles compound and impact the exercise of their rights.

1. *Lack of Disability Perspective in Feminist Movements*

*"We cannot have a transformative feminist movement without women with disabilities, who are 1 in 5 women worldwide."*

Stephanie Ortoleva - Founder and Former Executive Director of Women Enabled International

The understanding of intersecting identities and needs is oftentimes absent from activism, particularly when it comes to the identities and needs of women and girls with disabilities. The lack of an intersectional approach in feminist movements has tended to leave women with disabilities relegated to the margins of movements[[13]](#endnote-13) that should advocate for their rights. For instance, a female advocate with a physical disability from Sri Lanka who was consulted about activism, gender, youth, and disability reported that women with disabilities are often not recognized under the gender rights movement, as their needs and priorities are deemed different.[[14]](#endnote-14) In the same line, a young activist with a visual disability from Colombia shared that there is a misguided idea in the feminist movement that women with disabilities are only interested in discussing disability-specific issues.[[15]](#endnote-15) Another participant, a woman with a visual disability, shared that, even when women with disabilities are invited to join forums that claim to be inclusive, they often feel as if the invitation was merely an act of tokenism.[[16]](#endnote-16)

In the face of these obstacles, efforts have been made to ensure the full and effective participation of women and feminists with disabilities in the movement. For instance, in early 2021 and in preparation for the Generation Equality Forum, several feminists with disabilities, many of them young persons, came together to form the Inclusive Generation Equality Collective. This is a global group advocating for rights and justice at the intersection of gender and disability and for the inclusion of a disability perspective in the most important gender equality effort of the century so far. The Collective worked collaboratively on advocacy strategies and communications campaigns to ensure the inclusion of feminists with disabilities in the fight for gender equality, and its creation is a good practice to replicate to ensure activism is intersectional and inclusive.

In line with such efforts, the CEDAW Committee, in concluding observations to States parties, called attention to the slow progress in ensuring the equal participation of certain groups of women, such as women with disabilities, in leadership and decision-making positions, in public and political life. To tackle this issue, the Committee recommends that States implement measures to ensure that the representation of women in political and public bodies reflects the full diversity of the population.[[17]](#endnote-17) Specifically regarding measures to increase inclusion and diversity in the feminist movement, a woman with a visual disability from Sri Lanka affirms that both an attitudinal change in society and the empowerment of women with disabilities are needed to ensure the voices of feminists with disabilities are heard.[[18]](#endnote-18) A young activist from Colombia added that the feminist movement must widen its perspective, and recommended that women with disabilities be consulted in the process[[19]](#endnote-19).

1. *Lack of Feminist Perspective in Disability Rights Movements*

*"Men and male concerns have dominated the disability movement."[[20]](#endnote-20)*

Anita Ghait

*"Disabled women are nearly invisible elements […] in the general disability movement."[[21]](#endnote-21)*

Asha Hans and Annie Patri

Likewise, the movement of persons with disabilities lacks intersectionality and a gender perspective. Historically, the disability movement has been run by male leaders, and issues that only or disproportionately affect girls and young women with disabilities—such as sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender-based violence (GBV)—have not been prioritized. On the contrary, the disability rights movement has focused on an agenda that overlooks intersectionality, even though persons with disabilities are not a homogenous group.[[22]](#endnote-22) This prevented many girls and young women from engaging or feeling represented in the disability movement.

Discrimination on the grounds of disability, gender, and age prevents the full and effective participation of girls and young women with disabilities in activism, including in the disability and feminist movements. Even when they have the opportunity to engage in activism, they often participate in movements that do not fully represent them, as gaps in alliances among women's rights organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities, and, as UN Women has found, organizations of women and girls with disabilities commonly lead to the rights of women and girls with disabilities being overlooked.[[23]](#endnote-23)

In recent years, some progress has been made in terms of applying an intersectional perspective to the disability movement, as well as efforts to encourage activism and movement-building among young women with disabilities. For instance, the U.S. Alliance project, which started in 2021 aiming at advancing human rights at the intersection of gender and disability in the United States of America, has a goal to build a strong national alliance of women and marginalized genders with disabilities who take collective action on issues of importance to them and advocate for their rights. Although the Alliance is open to women and marginalized genders with disabilities of all ages, the majority of the participants are young women. The initiative, supported by WEI, conducted consultations to identify what issues were most critical to them, and the results were sexual and reproductive rights and justice, cultural norms that privilege ability, employment, and educational rights and justice. Many of the participants expressed the need to educate the younger generations about disability, including the social and cultural dimensions of disability. Based on these results, the Alliance is currently designing its actions on activism and advocacy.

1. **Lack of accessibility in activism**

Springing from the overarching issue of the lack of an intersectional and disability-inclusive approach in movements, the lack of accessibility in activism and advocacy spaces to advance gender equality continues to be one of the main barriers women and girls with disabilities face when intending to exercise their right to participate in political and public life. A fitting example that illustrates how inaccessibility hinders the participation of women with disabilities is the second Generation Equality Forum, held virtually and in-person in Paris from June 30 to July 2, 2021.

Before the start of the Generation Equality Forums and throughout the entire process, WEI and the Inclusive Generation Equality Collective — a group of feminists with disabilities and organizations that advocate for rights and justice at the intersection of gender and disability — made several requests to UN Women and the Government of France to ensure the accessibility of the platform and the full participation of the audience, including those with disabilities. However, as shown by the results of surveys conducted by the Collective, the voices of women with disabilities were not prioritized, which highlighted that:

The accessibility barriers preventing the participation of women with disabilities were related to the great difficulty of navigating the site. Many attendees needed outside help to register and log in, and there were problems accessing the chat boxes, but no contact information was provided in case of experiencing accessibility issues. Women with hearing disabilities were one of the most impacted due to the absence of captions and the lack of interpretation in sign language. In some events, there was no interpretation into spoken languages, and it was not possible to participate through the microphone. Oftentimes in spoken interpretations, the language interpreter and the speaker were heard at the same time, which made it difficult to understand what was being said. Documents in PDF format were also not accessible to blind participants.[[24]](#endnote-24)

To overcome the accessibility barriers that hinder participation, the CRPD Committee determined in the General Comment No. 2 on accessibility that political meetings and materials related to political participation and voting must be accessible. Otherwise, girls and young women with disabilities will remain deprived of their right to participate in the political process in an equal manner.[[25]](#endnote-25)

1. **Barriers and good practices as related to budgeting and funding**

Closely related to the issue of lack of accessibility is lack of budgeting and funding. Oftentimes, in activism, disability is treated as an afterthought. As the Global Resilience Fund (GRF) points out, “funds are launched and programmes designed before any consideration is given to inclusivity. Disability inclusion is not mainstreamed into core budgets.”[[26]](#endnote-26) The lack of accessibility at the Paris Generation Equality Forum experienced by women and girls with disabilities illustrates how accessibility accommodations are seen as as expense, rather than as an investment in inclusion and equality. Itzel Moreno, a Mexican activist with a hearing disability and member of the Inclusive Generation Equality Collective highlights the importance of budgeting for accessibility as a prerequisite to ensure the full and equal participation of women with disabilities:

We know that paying for captions, for sign language interpreters, and for a platform that allows for accessibility requirements is expensive. However, it is a priority because I believe that the lack of equal opportunities in the Forums hinders the work done to empower us as feminists with disabilities. For centuries, women with disabilities have been marginalized, seen as a punishment, loved (sometimes) but not wanted. Remember [the] "Leave No One Behind" from the Operational Guide for Sustainable Development of the United Nations working groups. [[27]](#endnote-27)

Not mainstreaming disability inclusion into budgets is part of a wider funding issue, as women and girls with disabilities are often excluded from funding calls or priorities,[[28]](#endnote-28) which hinders their opportunities to pursue activism. Nevertheless, that is not the experience of all women with disabilities: a Deaf activist from South Sudan reported that non-profit organizations played an important role in funding the work of various women-led organizations and networks fighting for gender equality in her country. Thanks to that, she adds, she has seen a number of women and girls with disabilities achieving their desired goals in life.[[29]](#endnote-29)

In the same vein, some good practices have been implemented, including, for instance, the creation of the GRF, a partnership between social justice funders committed to resourcing girls' and young women's activism through the COVID-19 crisis, which has provided small grants to organizations led by young women and girls throughout the pandemic to fund their actions and compensate them for their time and expertise. To ensure the participation of women with disabilities in their grants, GRF sought input from their partners working at the intersection of disability and gender to ensure a participatory process, with simple and accessible grant applications, the prioritization of the expertise of young activists, and an inclusive process for the selection of grantees. In its two rounds of funding, GRF has made over 30 grants to organizations working on issues at the intersection of gender and disability from around the world.[[30]](#endnote-30)

1. **Barriers to the full exercise of legal capacity and autonomy as barriers to participation**

Article 12 of the CRPD guarantees the right to equality before the law, which ensures full legal capacity to adults with disabilities and is a precondition to the exercise of many other human rights, including the right to participation in political and public life.[[31]](#endnote-31) This right guarantees the capacity to both be a holder of rights—which entitles a person to full protection of his or her rights by the legal system—and to be an actor under the law, which recognizes that person as an agent with the power to establish legal relationships.[[32]](#endnote-32)

In practice, many adults with disabilities—including young women—are formally deprived of legal capacity and the ability to make important life decisions. In some cases, this deprivation of legal capacity has also meant that these individuals cannot vote or otherwise engage in political life. As the CRPD Committee has recognized, denial or restriction of legal capacity has been used to deny political participation in particular to persons with certain types of disabilities,[[33]](#endnote-33) such as persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. For instance, in India, restrictions on legal capacity on the basis of disability are legal,[[34]](#endnote-34) although India ratified the CRPD in 2007. Concerned about that situation, the CRPD Committee recommended the introduction of supported decision-making systems that are respectful of the autonomy, will, and preferences of all persons with disabilities and provide information to persons with disabilities about these systems.[[35]](#endnote-35) In addition, the Committee recommended that India ensures the full and effective participation of women with disabilities in decisions and policymaking at all levels, which is key to their activism.[[36]](#endnote-36)

Even when women with disabilities are not formally denied their legal capacity, other barriers to their full participation in political and public life may lead to dependency, infantilization, and other factors that prevent their activism. As professionals from HYPE Sri Lanka have observed, the lack of empowerment of some women with disabilities and dependency on family members may lead to family influence on their political beliefs and decisions, as well as the lack of possibility to exercise their autonomy. In the view of some participants of the consultations in Sri Lanka, women with disabilities should be empowered to get involved in decision-making and be given the guidance and encouragement to be active participants in the social and political spaces. In line with this, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action recommends providing leadership and self-esteem training to assist women and girls, particularly women with disabilities, to strengthen their self-esteem and encourage them to take decision-making positions.[[37]](#endnote-37)

1. **Barriers to education as barriers to activism**

As the CRPD Committee has stated, "full participation in political and public life is enhanced through the realization of the right to inclusive education."[[38]](#endnote-38) Fulfilling the right to education increases the access to quality political information and civic engagement,[[39]](#endnote-39) whereas denial of educational opportunities could negatively impact on the ability of a person to stand for office or, if elected, to succeed in that role.[[40]](#endnote-40) Education also contributes to developing valuable skills for an activist, such as public speaking, persuasive writing, negotiation, and tolerance.

Notwithstanding, girls and young women with disabilities are often denied their right to education, even at the primary level. Despite having the same rights to education as others, girls with disabilities are the most excluded group of children from all educational settings, from primary school to higher education setting, when compared to both other girls and boys with disabilities. Global estimates indicate that only 41.7% of girls with disabilities have completed primary school, compared to 50.6% of boys with disabilities and 52.9% of girls without disabilities.[[41]](#endnote-41) In addition, the global literacy rate for women with disabilities may be as low as 1%.[[42]](#endnote-42) In Ghana, Kenya, and Mali, education for women and girls with disabilities was described as poor or non-existent, due to inaccessibility, lack of support to their specific needs and discouragement of continuing in school.[[43]](#endnote-43)

As many girls and young women with disabilities are denied access to the most basic components of the right do education, the opportunity to have an education more focused on empowerment and participation seems unlikely to most girls with disabilities, which further reduce their chances to engage in activism.[[44]](#endnote-44)

Even when girls and young women with disabilities overcome these barriers and receive information about activism and political action, they are often discouraged from participating in movements.[[45]](#endnote-45) They are also are often seen as uninterested or unable to participate in political life, which hinders their access to political education and, therefore, activism.[[46]](#endnote-46) In the same line, a young activist with a visual disability from Colombia mentions that young girls—with and without disabilities—are given "toy tea sets to play with" pointing to the idea that they are not interested in public life, and she emphasizes the need to discuss activism and political participation from an early age and at schools.[[47]](#endnote-47)

According to data from 19 European countries, on average, women with disabilities are less likely to be lawmakers, senior officials, or executives than their peers without disabilities and men with or without disabilities. [[48]](#endnote-48) The underrepresentation of girls and young women with disabilities in political and public life reflects the barriers women with disabilities face to access education,[[49]](#endnote-49) and more political information and empowerment is needed in order to increase the number of girls and young women with disabilities in activism.

1. **Emerging issue: Activism during the COVID-19 pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated the barriers and discrimination girls and young women face in activism and political participation, especially those who face multiple forms of oppression, such as girls and young women with disabilities. As the CEDAW Committee stated, particularly in times of crisis, women's voices are silenced, and their contributions and experiences are made invisible,[[50]](#endnote-50) including for women with disabilities.

As COVID-19 has spread and social distancing measures have been imposed, girls and young women with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, facing barriers to access sexual and reproductive health (SRH), education and employment, and facing a higher risk of experiencing GBV.[[51]](#endnote-51)

In spite of that, an interesting form of activism among young women with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic arose through art. *Artivism*[[52]](#endnote-52) as a form of advocacy has been steadily gaining traction across movements and causes, and the movement of women with disabilities has not been the exception, particularly in Latin America, where women with disabilities have been organizing and using art to express their opinions, denounce rights violations and uplift their own experiences around gender and disability. For instance, the regional collective *La Luz de Frida*, together with the Inter-American Institute on Disability and Inclusive Development, hosted workshops in which young women with disabilities explored their lived experiences through drawing, painting, and creative writing. The deliverable of the workshops is a book that delves into their experiences as related to their own bodies, the concept of beauty, stereotypes, barriers, hopes and dreams for their futures through a feminist and disability-inclusive approach.[[53]](#endnote-53)

In Guatemala, the collective *Mujeres con Capacidad de Soñar a Colores—*which began in 2018 as a space for young women with disabilities to support each other—has been using artivism since its inception. The collective has staged plays using the Theater of the Oppressed model[[54]](#endnote-54) to bring about change in their communities and to empower themselves. They have also created a comic series *"Guardianas de la Diversidad"[[55]](#endnote-55)* to explore their lived experiences in a way that captivates the audience and raises awareness around the barriers faced by women with disabilities, with the hopes that more people will join them in their fight for inclusion.

1. **Recommendations**

Girls and young women with disabilities must have their rights fulfilled—including those related to accessibility, autonomy, education, and non-discrimination—in order to experience equal conditions to engage in activism. In line with this, in concluding observations to States parties, the CRPD Committee has highlighted the need to ensure representation and accelerate the participation of women with disabilities in political and public life at all levels.[[56]](#endnote-56) In other concluding observations, the Committee has highlighted the importance of promoting the participation of women with disabilities in public decision-making with measurable targets and indicators.[[57]](#endnote-57)

With this in mind, we hope that the WGDAWG will consider including the following recommendations in its preparation of a thematic report on girls' and young women's activism:

* Ensure that all laws developed to guarantee the right to political participation of girls and young women include a disability perspective, guaranteeing accessibility and easonable accommodations, and addressing the issues at the intersection of gender, young age and disability.
* Ensure that all policies designed and implemented to encourage the engagement of girls and young women in activism are accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities.
* Disseminate information on participation and activism in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language, and Easy Read.
* Include girls and young women with all types of disabilities, as well as their representative organizations,[[58]](#endnote-58) in the development and implementation of laws and policies on activism, ensuring that their needs and rights are reflected in these laws and policies, with corresponding budget allocations and government representation.
* Ensure programmes and initiatives are designed with an intersectional, disability-inclusive approach from the start, including budgeting, which must take accessibility into account to ensure the political participation of women and girls with disabilities.
* Ensure funding initiatives and grants to activism are designed and launched with a gender and disability perspective, so that they reach women, girls and marginalized genders with disabilities and fund the inclusion of these activists in broader feminist and disability rights movements.
* Ensure that the legal capacity of young women with disabilities is guaranteed on an equal basis with others by repealing laws and policies that limit legal capacity or impede them from exercising their political rights.
* Guarantee the access of girls and young women with disabilities to education, which will contribute to increase their participation and activism.
* Disaggregate data on activism and participation by sex, gender, age, and type of disability and increase the research available on girls, young women and marginalized genders with disabilities in activism, analyzing data and its impact accordingly, conducting intersectional analysis of such data.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission. If you have any questions or would like further clarification on any point outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact Alana Carvalho, ([a.carvalho@womenenabled.org](mailto:a.carvalho@womenenabled.org)), Virginia Ossana ([v.ossana@womenenabled.org](mailto:v.ossana@womenenabled.org)), and Amanda McRae ([a.mcrae@womenenabled.org](mailto:a.mcrae@womenenabled.org)).

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3. Asian Indigenous Women’s Network (AIWN), Indigenous women: Powerful partners in transforming our world 2016-2017 4 (2017), <https://www.asianindigenouswomen.org/index.php/publications-and-multimedia/magazines-and-newsletters/183-aiwn-2016-2017/file>. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. General Comment No. 3, *supra* note 2. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. *Id*. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), *Guidelines on Promoting the Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities* 17 (2019), <https://www.osce.org/odihr/414344> (*hereinafter* Guidelines) [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, *adopted*Dec. 13, 2006, art. 29, G.A.  Res. A/RES/61/106, U.N. GAOR, 61stSess., U.N. Doc. A/61/611, (*entered into force*May 3, 2008) [hereinafter *CRPD*]. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. *Id.*, at art. 6 [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
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10. *Id.*  [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Janet Price, *The Seeds of a Movement— Disabled Women and their Struggle to Organize* 3 (2011), <https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/changing_their_world_2_-_disabled_women_and_their_struggle_to_organize.pdf> [hereinafter *Janet Price.*]. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. UN Women*, supra* note 9, 11 [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. Janet Price, *supra* note 11, 3 [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. HYPE Sri Lanka held consultations with women with disabilities in September and October 2021 to discuss activism, gender, youth and disability for this submission. The full report will be published on their website: <https://hypesl.org/> (*Hereinafter* Consultations) [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. Online interview conducted by Women Enabled International, held in October 2021, for this submission. (*Hereinafter* Online interview) [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
16. Consultations, *supra* note 14. [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
17. CEDAW Committee, *Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to Australia*, ¶¶ 26, 27, U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/AUL/CO/7 (2010) [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
18. Consultations *supra* note 14. [↑](#endnote-ref-18)
19. Online interview, *supra* note 15 [↑](#endnote-ref-19)
20. Janet Price, *supra* note 11, 6 [↑](#endnote-ref-20)
21. Janet Price, *supra* note 11, 7 [↑](#endnote-ref-21)
22. Agustina Palacios, *Género, discapacidad y acceso a la justicia* 43 (2012) In: Pablo Rosales. Discapacidad, justicia y Estado: acceso a la justicia de personas con discapacidad, <http://www.bibliotecadigital.gob.ar/items/show/1538> [↑](#endnote-ref-22)
23. UN Women, *supra* note 9, 12 [↑](#endnote-ref-23)
24. Estefanía Cubillos Nova. & Cristina Dueñas Díaz-Tendero. *Generation Equality Forums: Leaving Feminists with Disabilities Behind.* Medium (September 16, 2021), <https://medium.com/@WomenEnabled/generation-equality-forums-leaving-feminists-with-disabilities-behind-c6dd9318bc3b> *(hereinafter* Generation Equality Forums) [↑](#endnote-ref-24)
25. CRPD Committee, *General Recommendation No. 2: Article 9: accessibility*, ¶ 43, U.N. Doc. CRPD/C/GC/2 (2014). [↑](#endnote-ref-25)
26. Global Resilience Fund, *Weathering the Storm – Resourcing Girls and Young Activists through a pandemic* 48 (May 2021), <https://globalfundcommunityfoundations.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/WTS-Report-FINAL.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-26)
27. Generation Equality Forums, *supra* note 24 [↑](#endnote-ref-27)
28. Global Resilience Fund, *Weathering the Storm – Resourcing Girls and Young Activists through a pandemic* 48 (May 2021), <https://globalfundcommunityfoundations.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/WTS-Report-FINAL.pdf> (Hereinafter Global Resilience Fund) [↑](#endnote-ref-28)
29. Written interview conducted by Women Enabled International in October 2021 for this submission. [↑](#endnote-ref-29)
30. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) & Women Enabled International (WEI), Compendium of Good Practices during the COVID-19 Pandemic 20 (2021), <https://womenenabled.org/wei-unfpa/UNPRPD%2C%20UNFPA%2C%20WEI%20-%20Compendium%20of%20Good%20Practices%20during%20the%20COVID-19%20Pandemic.pdf>; Global Resilience Fund, *supra* note 28 [↑](#endnote-ref-30)
31. CRPD Committee, *General Comment No. 1: Article 12 (Equal Recognition Before the Law)*, ¶ 48, U.N. Doc. CRPD/C/GC/1 (2014). [↑](#endnote-ref-31)
32. *Id.* at¶ 12. [↑](#endnote-ref-32)
33. *Id.* at ¶ 48. [↑](#endnote-ref-33)
34. *Id.* at ¶ 26. [↑](#endnote-ref-34)
35. *Id.* at ¶ 27. [↑](#endnote-ref-35)
36. *Id.* at ¶ 15. [↑](#endnote-ref-36)
37. UN Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action - Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome* 125 (1995), <https://beijing20.unwomen.org/~/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/pfa_e_final_web.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-37)
38. CRPD Committee, *General Comment No. 4: Right to inclusive education*, ¶ 57 U.N. Doc. CRPD/C/GC/4 (2016). [↑](#endnote-ref-38)
39. United Nations Division for Social Policy Development (DSPD) and Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), *Toolkit on Disability for Africa – participation in political and public life* 7 (2016), <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/disability/Toolkit/Participationin-Political-Publiclife.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-39)
40. *Id.* at 4 [↑](#endnote-ref-40)
41. World Report on Disability, *supra* note 1, at 206. [↑](#endnote-ref-41)
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43. Global Call to Action Against Poverty, *Leave No Woman Behind – Africa Report on the situation of women with disabilities* 17 (2021), <https://gcap.global/news/leave-no-woman-behind-woman-with-disabilities-in-africa/> [↑](#endnote-ref-43)
44. OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), *Persons with Disabilities and Ensuring their Right to Participate in Political and Public Life* 7 (2017), <https://www.osce.org/odihr/340246> [↑](#endnote-ref-44)
45. *Id.* at 35 [↑](#endnote-ref-45)
46. *Id.* at 35 [↑](#endnote-ref-46)
47. Online interview, *supra* note 14. [↑](#endnote-ref-47)
48. Council of Europe, *Participation of young women and girls from disadvantaged groups in political and public decision-making processes at local level* 22 (2020), https://rm.coe.int/participation-young-women-en/1680a01873 [↑](#endnote-ref-48)
49. CRPD Committee, *supra* note 2, ¶ ¶ 56, 58.. [↑](#endnote-ref-49)
50. CEDAW Committee, *General Recommendation No. 23: Article 7 (political and public life)*, ¶ 9, U.N. Doc. A/52/38 (1997). [↑](#endnote-ref-50)
51. *See* United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) & Women Enabled International (WEI), *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 (2021), <https://womenenabled.org/wei-unfpa/UNPRPD%2C%20UNFPA%2C%20WEI%20-%20The%20Impact%20of%20COVID-19%20on%20Women%20and%20Girls%20with%20Disabilities.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-51)
52. “Artivism” is a neologism created through the combination of the words “activism” and “art”- refers to the practice of advocating for a cause through the use of art. *See* Chela Sandoval & Guisela Latorre, *Chicana/o Artivism: Judy Baca’s Digital Work with Youth of Color* (2008), <https://www.issuelab.org/resources/826/826.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-52)
53. La Luz de Frida & Inter-American Institute on Disability and Inclusive Development. *Taller-laboratorio sobre género y discapacidad* (2021), <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1NhVxlLmdA_Z8mW0antSCEqLA2_v6QX3a> [↑](#endnote-ref-53)
54. Augusto Boal, Theater of the Oppressed (Pluto Press 2000) [↑](#endnote-ref-54)
55. Mujeres con Capacidad de Soñar a Colores. Guardianas de la Diversidad (2020), <https://mujeresconcapacidad.wordpress.com/guardianas-de-la-diversidad/> [↑](#endnote-ref-55)
56. CRPD Committee, *Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Australia*,¶ 54, U.N. Doc. CRPD/C/AUS/CO/2-3 (2019). [↑](#endnote-ref-56)
57. CRPD Committee, *Concluding observations on the initial report of Norway*,¶ 46, U.N. Doc. CRPD/C/NOR/CO/1 (2019). [↑](#endnote-ref-57)
58. *See* CRPD Committee, *General Comment No. 7:* *the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities,through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention,* U.N. Doc. CRPD/C/GC/3 (2016). [↑](#endnote-ref-58)