



# The rights of people with disabilities.



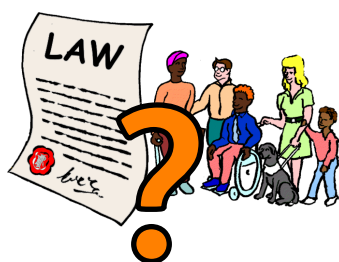
## Using laws and policies to include people with disabilities



EasyRead version of:  
**Report of the Special Rapporteur  
on the rights of persons with disabilities.**



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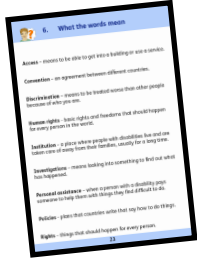
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Sometimes we need to use new or difficult words



These words are in **bold** and there is a list of what they mean at the end of this report.

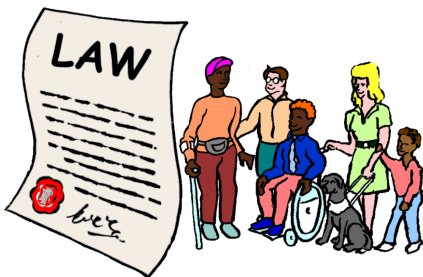
# 1. About this report



Every year the **Special Rapporteur** writes reports for the **United Nations** about **rights** and people with disabilities.



The **Special Rapporteur** is Catalina Devandas-Aguilar. She helps countries understand what they need to do to make sure people with disabilities get their **rights**.



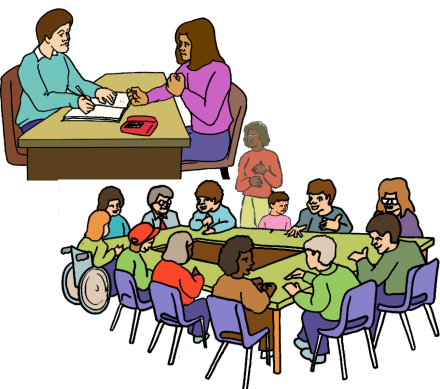
This is an EasyRead version of her report about laws and **policies** that include people with disabilities.



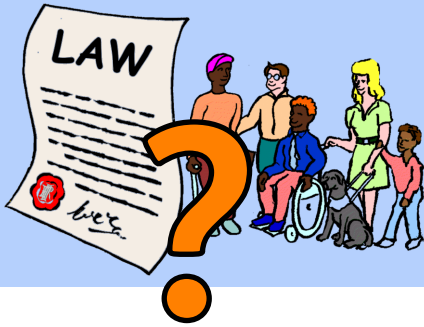
It is to help countries that have signed an agreement, called the United Nations **Convention** on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to make good laws and policies.



This agreement sets out what countries have to do to make sure that people with disabilities have the same **rights** as everyone else.



The Special Rapporteur asked governments, organisations and people with disabilities' groups how people with disabilities are included in their laws and policies.



## 2. Why we need laws and policies that include people with disabilities



### Rights

The **Convention** says people with disabilities have the same **right** to be included in society as everyone else.



Countries should do as much as they can to give to people with disabilities the same chance as everyone else to have things like:



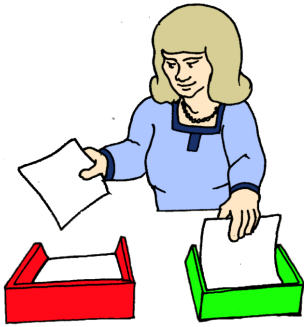
- housing



- education



- health care



- jobs.



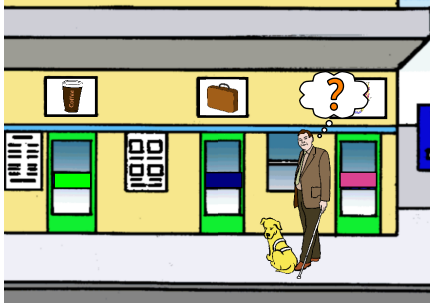
Laws and **policies** tell people how to make this happen and how to check that people with disabilities have these **rights**.



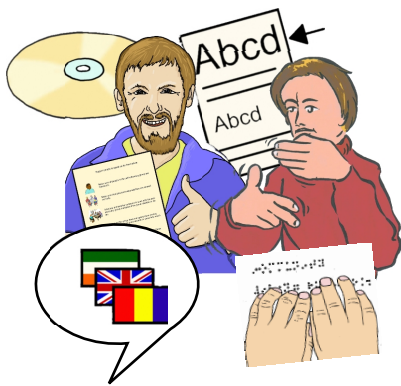
## Barriers

There are lots of barriers that stop people with disabilities doing the same things or having the same chances as other people.

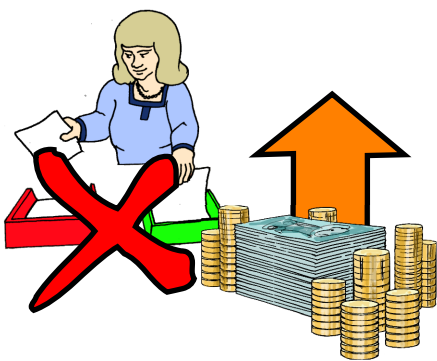
These barriers include things like:



- **Physical barriers**– things that stop people with disabilities using and enjoying public places, buildings or transport



- **Information and communication** – when people with disabilities cannot use and enjoy things because they do not have information in the ways they need. This might be in sign language, braille or EasyRead. It can also mean not having the technology or support to communicate their ideas.

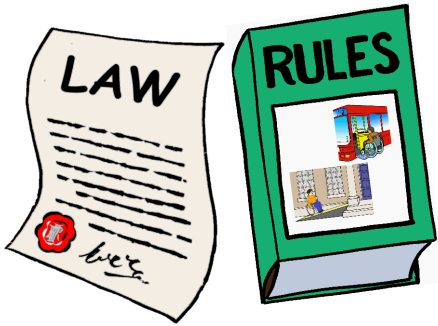


- The way things are planned or designed. For example, only getting disability benefits if you cannot work.

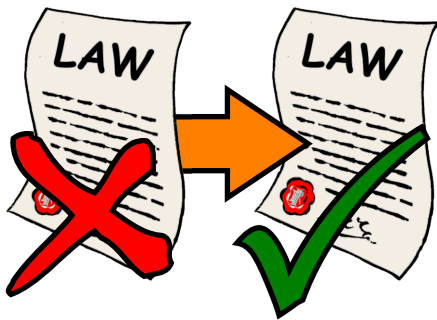


- Attitudes or the way other people think about or understand people with disabilities and their rights.





Countries should make rules and laws to take away these barriers and give people with disabilities their rights.

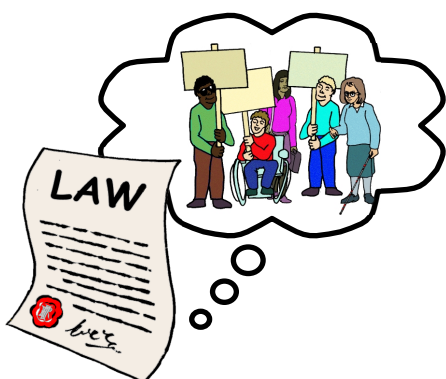


They should:

- change laws that are not fair



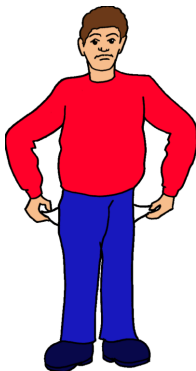
- make sure all their **policies** include the needs of people with disabilities and their **right** to be treated equally



- think about **human rights** when they decide laws and **policies**

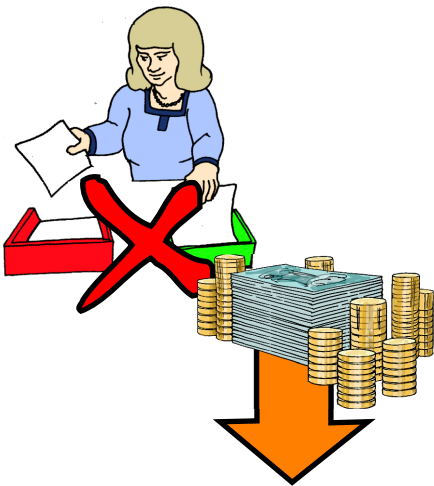


- involve people with disabilities when they write laws and **policies**.



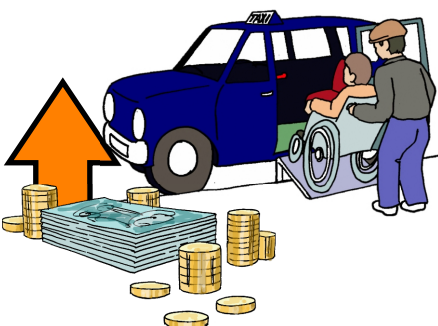
## Money

People with disabilities are often poorer than other people and are treated unfairly.

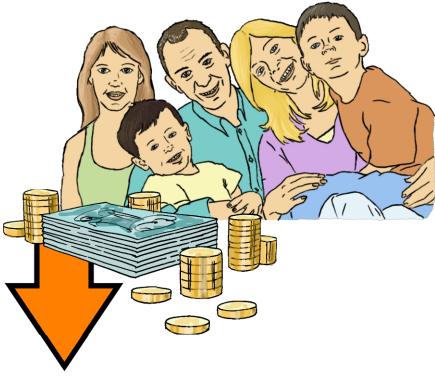


People with disabilities often have less money than other people because:

- they cannot work or they earn less money



- they have to spend more of their money on things like support, transport or health care.



Their families and carers often have less money too because they cannot work or have to spend money caring for people with disabilities.



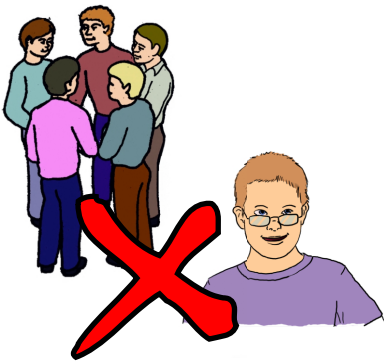
Countries lose money if people with disabilities do not go to school, use their skills, earn money and get involved in society.



### 3. How to include people with disabilities in all laws and policies

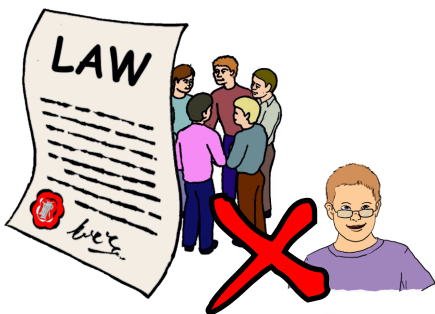


It takes time to change things for people with disabilities.



Countries should think about 3 important things to make good laws and policies:

1. Do not **discriminate** against people with disabilities. This means, for example:



- Have laws that protect people with disabilities from discrimination and take action when these laws are broken.



- Look at whether people with disabilities are **discriminated** against for more than one thing. For example, because they are also a woman, older, gay or black.



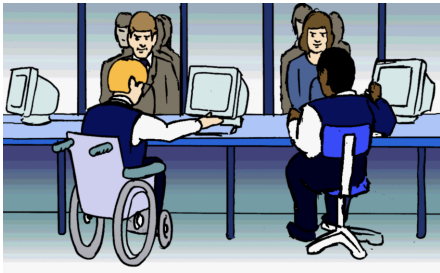
- Make changes to places and services to meet the specific needs of a person with disabilities. For example, a blind person gets a special computer which reads all the text out loud. When countries do not do these things, it is discrimination.



- Set aside money so that countries can make these changes straight away.



- Make sure private companies also make changes so people with disabilities can use their services.

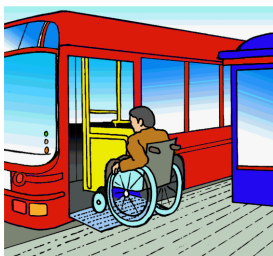


- Take positive measures to help people with disabilities in the workplace.

2. Make things accessible for people with disabilities, for example:

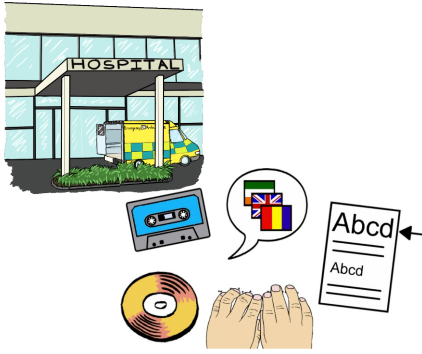


- Have laws that say that public places must be accessible and that things and services must be built in a way that they can be used by everyone easily.



- Take away **physical barriers** and other things that stop people with disabilities using and enjoying public places, buildings or transport. For example build ramps to access schools, shops and other buildings that only have steps.



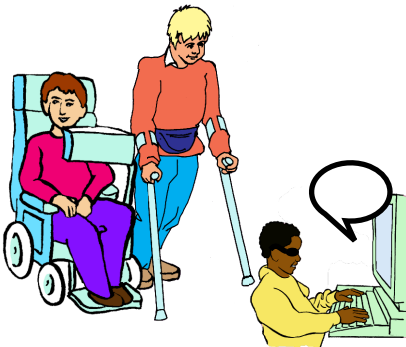


- Design new things - like new buses, hospitals, information and services so everyone can use them easily.



3. Take action to have good quality services and support for people with disabilities to be included in society and have an independent life.

Some example are:



- Wheelchairs, crutches, hearing aids, computer readers for people who are blind.



- Information people with disabilities can understand about new technology and things that will help them in their life.



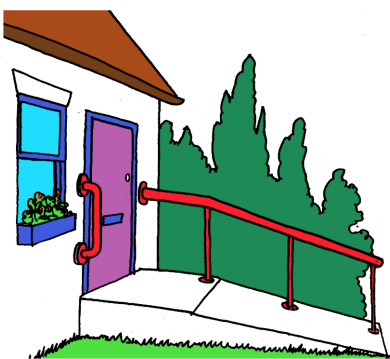
- Support to make decisions.



- Sign language interpreters.



- Personal assistance.



- Making changes to houses so they meet the needs of people with disabilities.



- Services in the community.



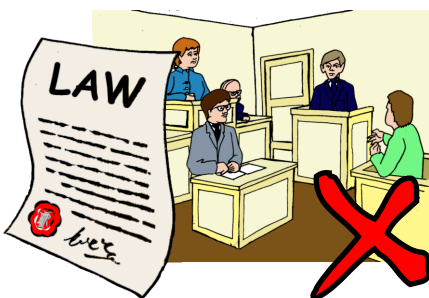


People with disabilities should be able to choose the services and support they want. The best way to do this is to give them money to choose and pay for what they need.



Even poor countries should put aside some money to change things for people with disabilities.

Countries must also think about:



- How to make it easier for people with disabilities and their families to use the law and courts if they are **discriminated** against



## 4. Making laws and policies work in practice



Countries should think about people with disabilities and human rights from the beginning in all their plans. Not just plans about disability.



They need plans for the whole government and the whole country. Not just in the capital and big cities.



They can work with other countries and with organisations of people with disabilities to change things.

## Thinking about all services



Anyone providing services should plan for good access for people with disabilities. Sometimes people with disabilities need a special service to meet their needs. But countries should first try to include them in services that everyone can use.

## Working with people with disabilities



People with disabilities are the experts. They know what stops them getting involved.

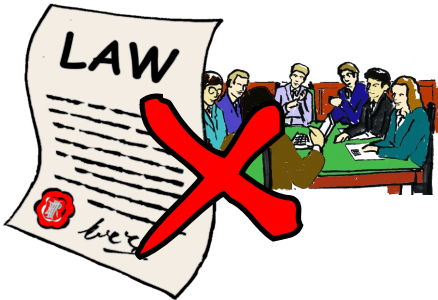


Countries must involve people with disabilities and their organisations in all plans, policies, and services. Not just those about disability.

## Checking what is happening



Governments should say who will check if the laws and policies are followed and how they will do this.



If government offices or people who provide services do not stick to the law or policies:



- The government must do investigations and take action. This means things like giving fines.



- The government must make it easy for people to complain. People with disabilities must know how to complain or use the law to get their **rights**.



## Planning how to spend money

Countries must set aside money to include people with disabilities in all their plans, and check how this money is spent.



They cannot spend money on services or plans that **discriminate** against people with disabilities. For example, building large **institutions** where people with disabilities live away from their families and friends.



## Collecting information

Governments should collect information about how many people with disabilities there are in their countries, and what types of support they need.



This will help them plan the best services and support for adults and children with disabilities.

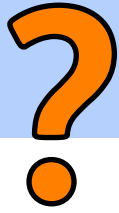


## Respecting people with disabilities for who they are

Everyone must understand that people with disabilities have the same **rights** to be included in society as anybody else.



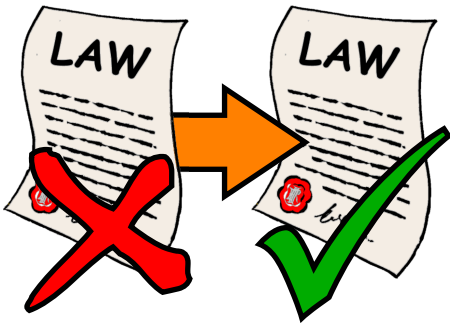
Countries must organise training about **rights** and the **Convention**, so that people with disabilities are treated like everyone else



## 5. What happens next?



Countries have done some things to help people with disabilities get their **rights**.



But things will only change when countries make sure all their laws and **policies**:



- say all types of **discrimination** are wrong



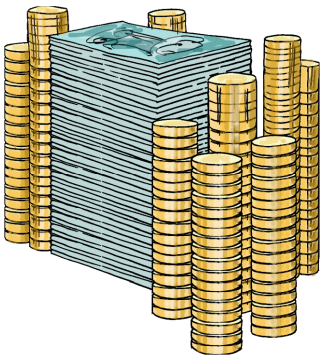
- think about the **human rights** of people with disabilities



- involve people with disabilities when they write them



- are checked to see if they make things better for people with disabilities



- there is enough money to make sure they work



- help them work with other countries to stop **discrimination** against people with disabilities.





The Special Rapporteur says the United Nations should think about the rights of people with disabilities in everything it does.



The United Nations should help countries work together to make laws and policies that include people with disabilities.





## 6. What the words mean

**Access** – means to be able to get into a building or use a service.

**Convention** – an agreement between different countries.

**Discrimination** – means to be treated worse than other people because of who you are.

**Human rights** - basic rights and freedoms that should happen for every person in the world.

**Institution** – a place where people with disabilities live and are taken care of away from their families, usually for a long time.

**Investigations** – means looking into something to find out what has happened.

**Personal assistance** – when a person with a disability pays someone to help them with things they find difficult to do.

**Policies** - plans that countries write that say how to do things.

**Rights** – things that should happen for every person.

**United Nations (UN)** – a group of 193 different countries that work together to try to make the world a better and safer place for everyone.

**Special Rapporteur** – a person working for the UN who helps countries understand what they need to do to make sure people with disabilities get their rights



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