



The rights of people with disabilities around the world.



Involving people in decisions



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



1. About this report

1



2. What the **Special Rapporteur** has done

2



3. Are people with disabilities involved in public life?

3



4. Are people with disabilities involved in decisions that affect everyone?

7



5. What happens next?

17



6. What the words mean

21



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 the report.

1. About this report



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

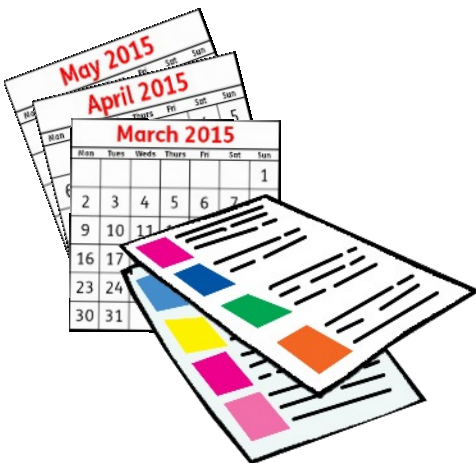


The **United Nations** is a group of different countries that work together to try to make the world a safer place for everyone.



The **Special Rapporteur** is Catalina Devandas-Aguilar.

She helps countries understand what they need to do to make sure people get their rights.



This is an EasyRead version of her report about:

- what she has done since March 2015
- what she has found out about people with disabilities being involved in decisions.





2. What the Special Rapporteur has done

Since March 2015 the **Special Rapporteur**:



- visited 2 countries to find out what life is like for people with disabilities living there



- talked about rights and people with disabilities at conferences and meetings



- wrote letters and reports about rights and what life is like for people with disabilities in different countries.



The **Special Rapporteur** asked governments, organisations and people with disabilities' groups how people with disabilities are involved in decisions.



This report is about what she found out about people with disabilities being involved in decisions.



3. Are people with disabilities involved in public life?



Involving people

The law says being involved is a **human right** and should happen for everyone.



The **United Nations** has an agreement about the rights of people with disabilities.



When we use the word **agreement** in this report we mean the '**United Nations Convention** on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities'.



Countries that sign the agreement promise to do what it says.



This includes involving people with disabilities or their organisations in decisions about everything that affects them.



The **United Nations** involved people with disabilities when they wrote the agreement.



Because of that the agreement talks about things that are important to people with disabilities.

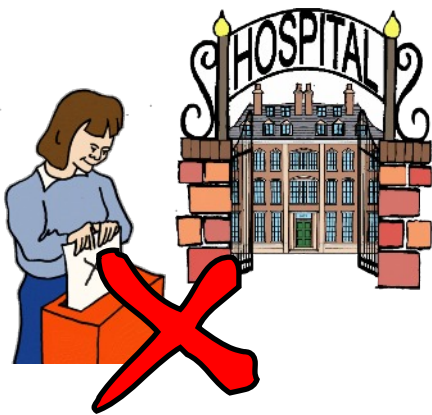


Your rights



The right to vote and be elected

People with disabilities have the same right as everyone else to vote or be **elected**.



They often cannot vote because they live in places like hospitals or because people think they cannot make this decision for themselves.



Countries must make sure people with disabilities have the support they need to understand and take part in elections as other people do.



The right to work in local or national government

Countries must do everything they can to give people with disabilities the same chance to work in local or national government as other people.



This includes the chance to work in local or national governments.



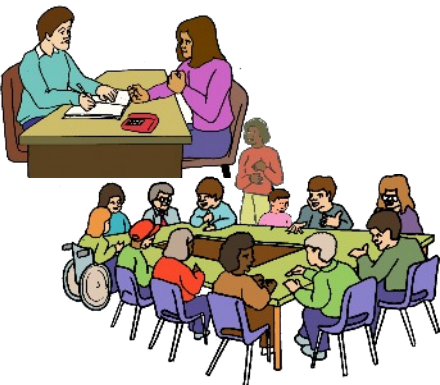
The right to be involved in how your country is run



The agreement says countries must involve people with disabilities when they make laws and plans and when they check if they are working well or not.



This can mean saying what you think about plans and laws when you vote or when the government asks for your ideas.



People might be involved in decisions on their own or as part of a group or organisation of people with disabilities.



4. Are people with disabilities involved in decisions that affect everyone?



Involving people properly



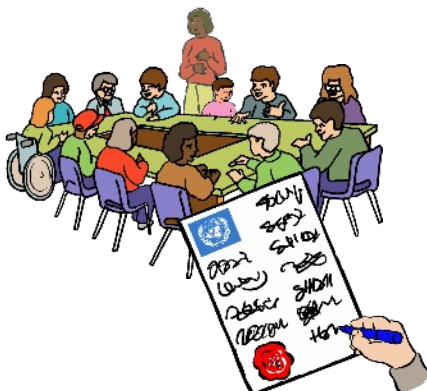
Countries should involve as many different people as possible when they make decisions.



This can help make plans or laws that work for everyone.



What really happened is many people with disabilities do not get the chance to say what they think about things that affect them.



People with disabilities helped the **United Nations** write a better agreement about rights.



Being involved can also help people learn to speak up and do things that are important to them.



It can show that people with disabilities have their own ideas about things, and that these ideas are good for them and for everybody.



It helps other people to understand that people with disabilities are important and valuable in their communities.



It can show what needs to change to make sure everyone is treated fairly.



Involving organisations of people with disabilities

Everyone with a disability has a right to be involved in decisions, even if they need lots of support to do this.



The agreement says countries must involve people with disabilities. They should help them set up and run their own organisations to speak for them.



This includes making sure they have the information, money and support they need to run the organisation well.



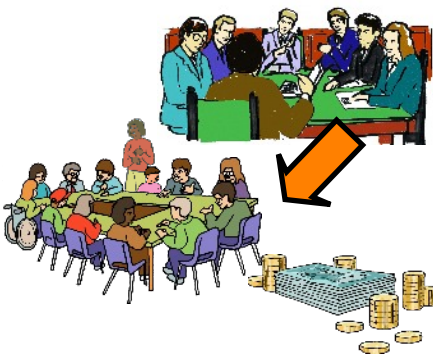
People with disabilities must lead these organisations. Families or support staff might not say what is important to people with disabilities, but let them speak for themselves.



Governments should not interfere in what these organisations do.



They should encourage them to link with other organisations that fight for the rights of people with disabilities.



Countries should tell organisations of persons with disabilities how to get involved and make it easy for them to collect money to do their work.



In many countries women and girls are treated less fairly than men and boys. Governments and organisations must support women and girls to speak up safely.



It can be hard for people with disabilities to be involved if they are also treated unfairly because they are:



- from a different race



- poor



- gay, lesbian or bisexual



- young or old.



People with disabilities and their organisations will be much stronger if they work together with as many different people as possible.



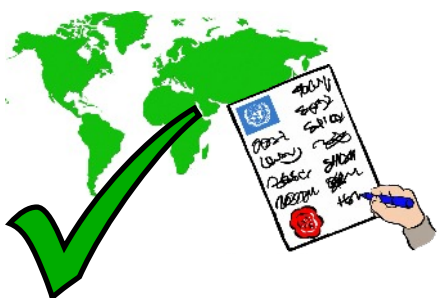
Helping people to get involved



Governments must do everything they can to involve people with disabilities and their organisations in local and national decisions.



They must treat them fairly and check they can get involved in making decisions.



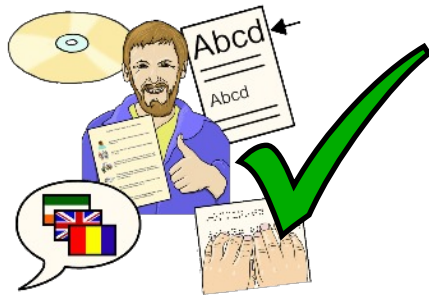
The agreement says countries must change things that make it difficult for people with disabilities to get involved.



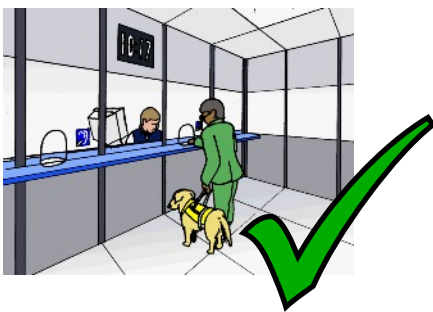
They must make sure everyone has the same chance to speak up, even if they need lots of support to do this.



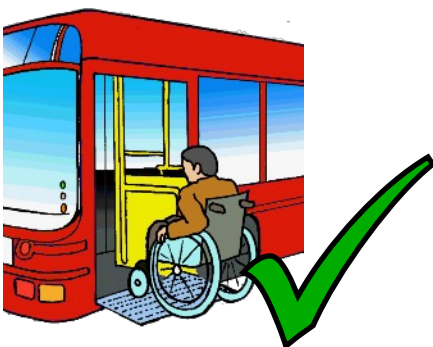
This means countries must make sure people with disabilities:



- have information and can understand it



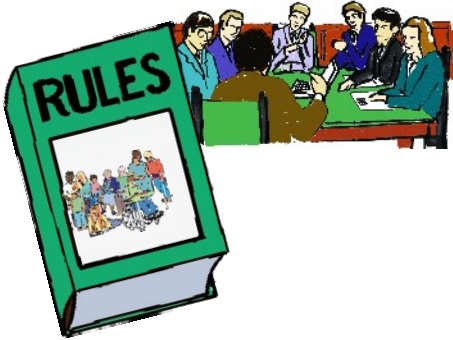
- can get into buildings or places where people make decisions



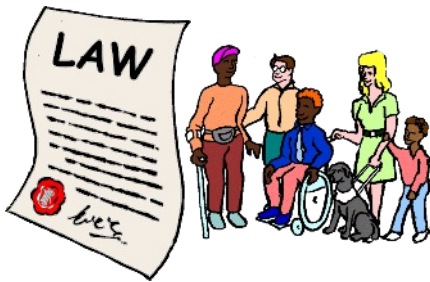
- have transport to get to these places.



The internet is a really good way to involve people.



Governments must have rules that say decisions are not good unless everyone has a chance to be involved.



They must remember that all laws and plans affect people with disabilities.



They should ask them about things like housing, education or money, not just about disability.



This will help everyone understand that people with disabilities have the same rights as other people.



The most important ways to involve people



Countries that are part of the agreement must:



- make sure their laws support people with disabilities to get involved in decisions



- check that people with disabilities are treated fairly and have the same chances to speak up and change things as other people



- make sure their laws give people with disabilities and their organisations the right to be involved in planning and decisions.



This includes decisions about budgets and money



- have planned ways to collect information from people with disabilities and check they are keeping to the agreement



- support people with disabilities and their organisations to get involved in work for the United Nations and in decisions that affect many countries



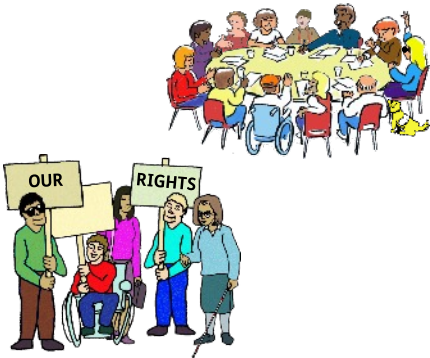
- ask governments that give money to help other countries to involve people with disabilities.



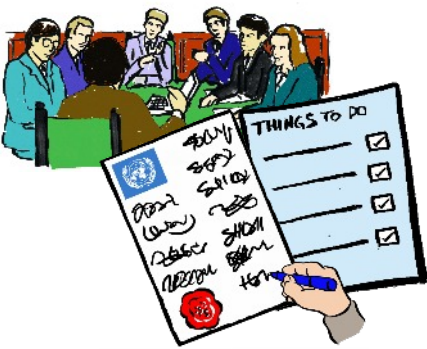
This means asking them what they think are the most important things to do to help people with disabilities.



5. What happens next?



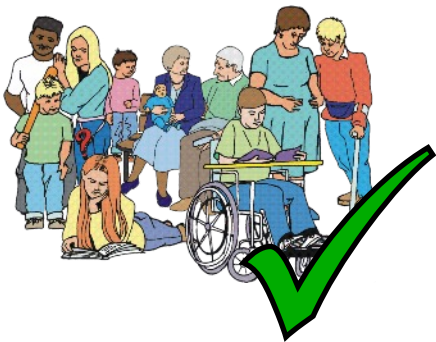
People with disabilities have the same right as other people to be involved in decisions about things that affect them.



The **United Nations** agreement says what governments must do to help people with disabilities and their organisations speak up and use this **right**.



The **Special Rapporteur** thinks governments should:



- understand that people with disabilities have the same right as other people to be involved in decisions that affect everyone



- have laws, plans, money, and support to help people and organisations speak up



- have laws that say local and national governments must involve all people with disabilities (including children and women) when they decide about laws or plans



- make sure women and girls with disabilities can speak up safely about things that affect them



- involve people with disabilities and their organisations in making sure they keep to the **United Nations** agreement



- involve people with disabilities in decisions about how the country spends money



- make changes to make it easier to use services, buildings, transport or information



- give people with disabilities the support they need to get involved



- support people to be involved who are also treated unfairly because of things like their race, religion, age or being poor



- support people with disabilities to get involved in decisions that affect people in lots of countries.



The **Special Rapporteur** thinks international organisations should work with and support organisations run by people with disabilities.



This is really important when they decide where to spend money.



The **United Nations** must keep involving people with disabilities in all its decisions.



6. What the words mean

Convention – an agreement between different countries.

Elected – someone is elected when other people vote and choose them to act or speak for them.

Rights – things that should happen for every person

Human Rights – basic rights and freedoms that should happen for every person in the world

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

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.



Credits

This paper has been designed and produced for the United Nations by the EasyRead service at Inspired Services Publishing Ltd.

Ref ISL 100 15. February 2016.

www.inspiredservices.org.uk



It meets the European EasyRead Standard.



It has been user-checked by the **Making It Easier Group** of people with learning disabilities in the UK.



Artwork includes material from the Inspired EasyRead Collection and cannot be used anywhere else without written permission from Inspired Services.

www.inspired.pics