



The rights of people with disabilities around the world.



What is happening in Zambia?



EasyRead version of:
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on her visit to Zambia.



1. About this report

1



2. About Zambia

3



3. People with disabilities in Zambia

7



4. What makes things difficult?

10



5. Human rights and people with disabilities

17



6. What happens next?

32



7. Zambia should work on these things

33

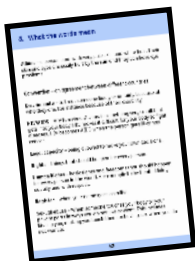


8. What the words mean

42



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



The **United Nations** is a group of countries that work together to make the world a safer and better place for everyone. It is also called the UN.

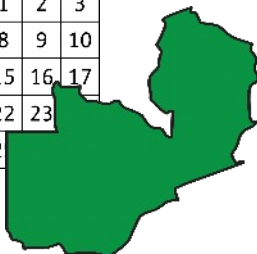


Every year the **Special Rapporteur** writes reports for the **United Nations** about people with disabilities and their **rights**.



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

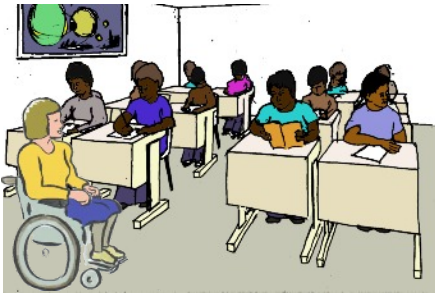
April 2016						
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	
25	26	27	28	29	30	



This is an Easy Read version of the report about her visit to a country called Zambia in April 2016.



The Government invited Catalina to visit their country. She met the President's wife, government officials, people with disabilities and their organisations.



She visited hospitals, schools and services that support people with disabilities.



Catalina says thank you to everyone who helped her understand what life is like for people with disabilities in Zambia.

2. About Zambia



What is Zambia like?

Zambia is a country in Southern Africa.



About 13 million people live there.



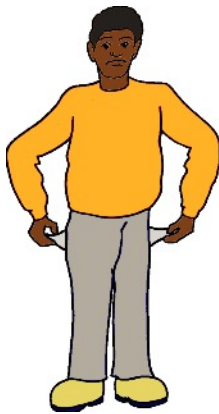
In 2010 the Zambian Government signed the **United Nations Disability Convention**. This is an agreement about the rights of people with disabilities.



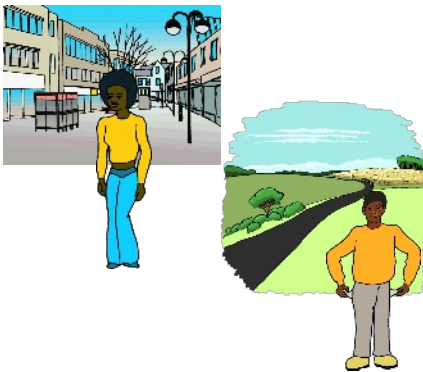
This means the Government must make sure people with disabilities get their **human rights** in Zambia.



Everyone has human rights. Human rights mean you must be treated fairly, equally and with respect.



Almost half the people who live in Zambia are very poor.



People who live in the countryside are poorer than people who live in the towns and cities.



How many people with disabilities live there?

The Government in Zambia does not have good information about people with disabilities.



This makes it difficult to find out how many people with disabilities live there and what life is like for them.

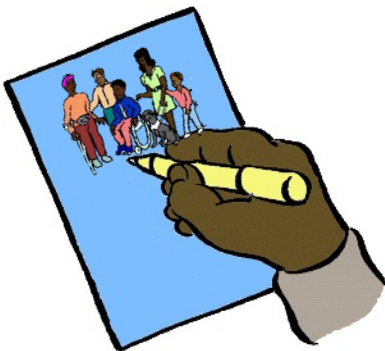
100



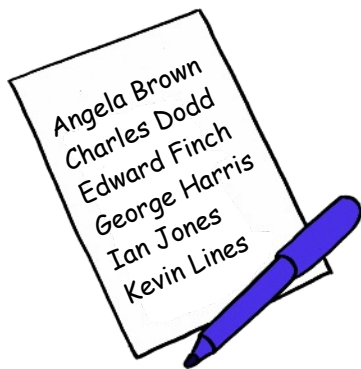
The Government thinks about 7 out of every 100 people have a disability.



But there could be many people with disabilities that the Government does not know about.



The Government **registers** people with disabilities.



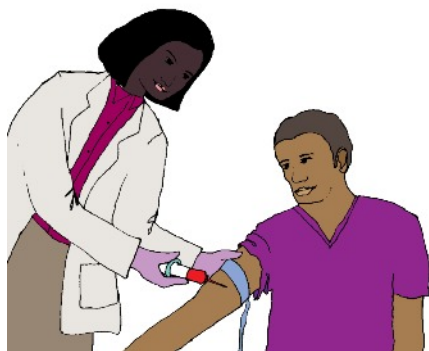
This means their names go on a list.



A doctor sees them and then the Government gives them a certificate (paper) to say they have a disability.

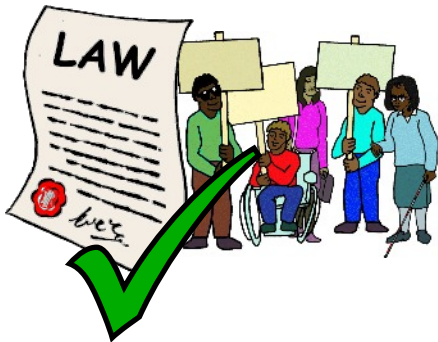


Catalina thinks the test should think about human rights as well.



The certificate helps you get things like healthcare.

3. People with disabilities in Zambia



Since Zambia signed the **United Nations Disability Convention**, the Government made new laws to protect the rights of everyone, including people with disabilities.



For example:

- **Persons with Disabilities Act:** a new law to protect people with disabilities if they are **discriminated** or treated unfairly.



- **Policy on disability:** a Government plan to make things better for people with disabilities.



- Policy on **social protection**: a plan to help people with disabilities have the same chances in life as other people. For example, enough food, basic healthcare, going to school or money to help pay for things.



But the laws only cover some things.



People with disabilities still do not get some rights.



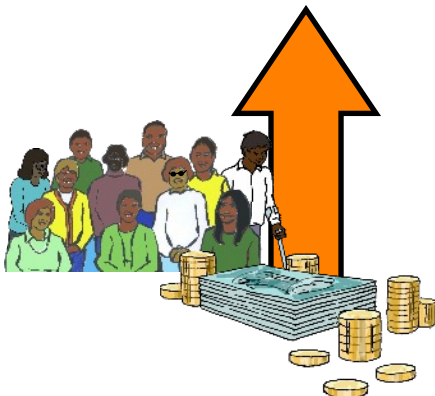
Catalina thinks Zambia should do more to make sure women and children with disabilities get their rights.



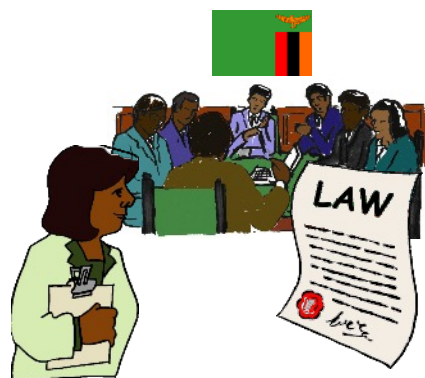
A Governmental organisation called **ZAPD** helps people with disabilities and tells everyone about their rights.



ZAPD also helps other parts of the Government to understand how to give people with disabilities their rights.



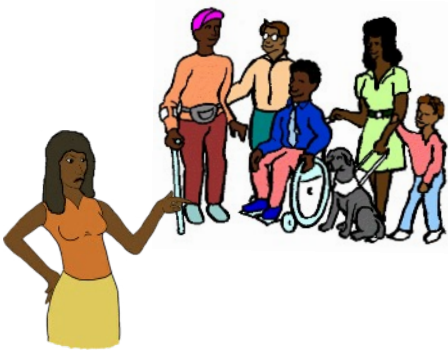
Catalina thinks **ZAPD** could work better if it had more people, skills and money.



ZAPD should have the right to check services and take action if the Zambian Government does not keep to the law on disability.

4. What makes things difficult?

What many people in Zambia believe about people with disabilities



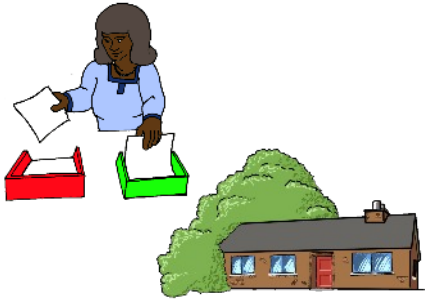
Many people in Zambia believe a disability is a punishment that happens because of witchcraft or evil spirits.



Many children and adults with disabilities are kept at home and away from other people.



Their families feel ashamed and people are afraid to go near them.



This makes it very difficult for them to live where they want, work or get good healthcare.



Things are worse in the countryside, because people with disabilities cannot get good services.



Things are also bad for:

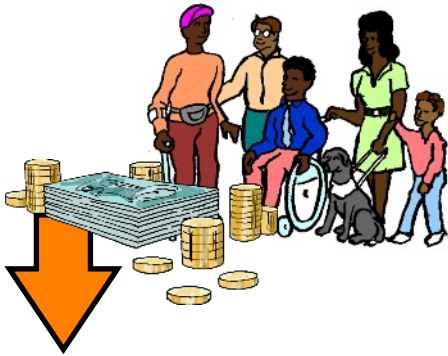
- many women and girls with disabilities who can be hurt or **sexually abused**



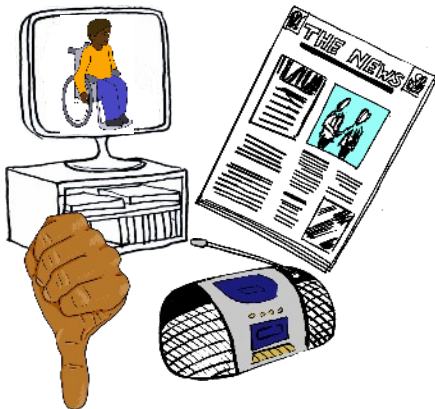
- people with **HIV/AIDS**



- albinos



- people with disabilities who are very poor.



Catalina thinks TV, radio and newspapers sometimes make things worse.



They should show that people with disabilities are not different to other people.



They should say it is unfair to treat them badly.



Chiefs and community leaders can also help people understand about the rights of people with disabilities. They can help change the way people with disabilities are seen and treated.



How the law talks about people with disabilities

Some laws use words that describe people with disabilities as ill or not as clever as other people.



An old mental health law in Zambia says that:

- Doctors can treat people with mental disabilities even if they say no.



- People with learning disabilities or mental disabilities can be taken to hospital or put in prison because they have a disability.



Catalina thinks this law is very bad and the Zambian Government must change it right away.



She is worried about other laws that **discriminate** against people with disabilities.



For example, one law says people with mental disabilities cannot vote.

Not being able to do the same things as other people



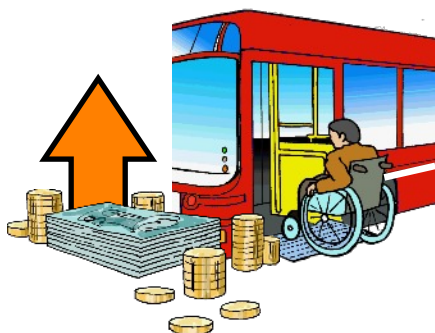
The **Persons with Disabilities Act**: says that national and local governments in Zambia must make streets, buildings and transport better for people with disabilities.



But Catalina found this only happens with some new buildings and shops in Zambia.



The Government has rules to make things better but needs more people to check this is happening.



The Government should spend money on public transport that people with disabilities can use all over the country.



When she looked at information and communication Catalina found that
Zambian money is easy for blind people
to use.



Some news and some public information
have sign language for deaf people.



But there is no official sign language
service to help deaf people communicate
with people in hospitals, police stations
and other public buildings.



There are no braille labels for blind people
on medicine or other important things.

5. Human rights and people with disabilities

Being involved in politics



Politics means being involved in the way a country is governed. For example, voting or being part of local or national government.



The **United Nations Disability Convention** says people with disabilities have the right to be involved in public life and decisions that affect everyone.



In 2011 a court in Zambia said it was difficult for many people with disabilities to vote.



The court said the Government had to make things better in the next election.



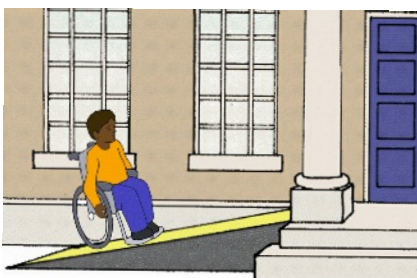
When Catalina visited Zambia they were getting ready for an election. She saw lots of changes to make it easier for people with disabilities to:



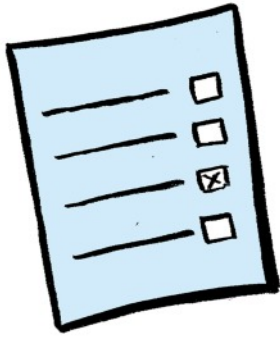
- find out about elections



- understand about voting



- get into buildings to vote



- use the voting paper.



But the Zambian law still makes it difficult for some people with disabilities to be involved in running the country.



Being involved in decisions

The disability agreement says governments must ask what people with disabilities think about laws and plans that affect everyone.



About half the people who run **ZAPD** are people with disabilities.



Catalina was pleased that people with disabilities were involved in laws and plans about disability and rights.



But people with disabilities and their organisations should also be involved in laws and plans that affect everyone.



The Zambian Government must make sure all people with disabilities can understand and get involved. This includes women and girls with disabilities.

Going to school or college



People with disabilities have the right to go to school or college with people who do not have disabilities.



70 out of every 100 people in Zambia can read and write. People in towns and cities do better than people in the countryside and men have better chances to learn than women.



But just over half of all people with disabilities can read and write. Most of them only go to primary school.



There are not enough secondary schools for all the children in Zambia.



This affects children with disabilities more than other children.



Catalina is pleased that some things are getting better.



But she is worried schools do not have the staff or equipment to support children with disabilities properly. Many are left out of school.



Having a job

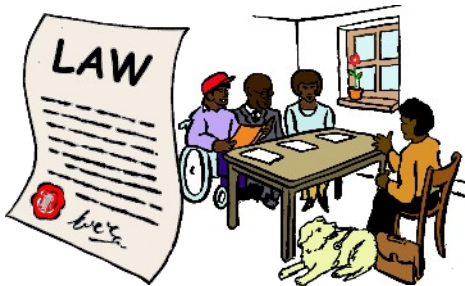
People with disabilities must not be treated worse than other people and must have the same chance to work.



This is difficult in Zambia because many people do not expect people with disabilities to work.



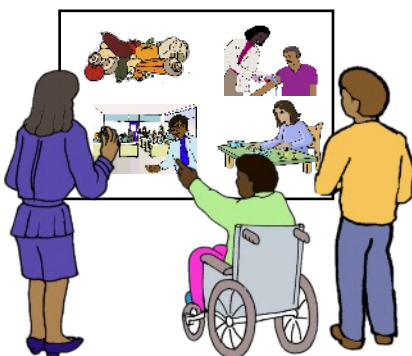
They also miss out on school, college and training for work.



The Government has new laws and plans to make sure public and private companies employ enough people with disabilities.



But Catalina said companies are not supporting people who become disabled while they are working for them.



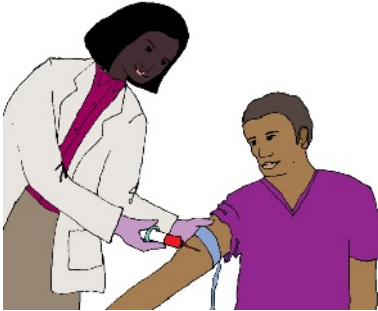
Social protection

Social protection is things that give everyone the same chances in life.

For example:



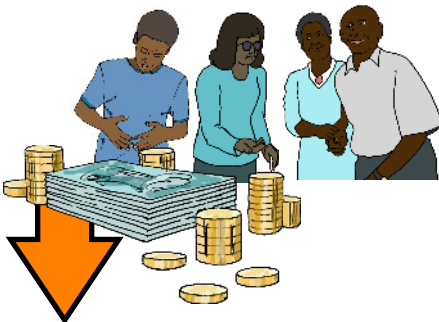
- having enough food



- basic healthcare



- money to help pay for things if you cannot work or earn enough.



Most people in Zambia do not have enough money to live if they cannot work because they are ill, disabled or too old.



The Government is trying to include people with disabilities in its plans to support people who cannot work.





There are other ways that people with disabilities who are at risk can get money, food, healthcare or other support.



But not everyone can get these.

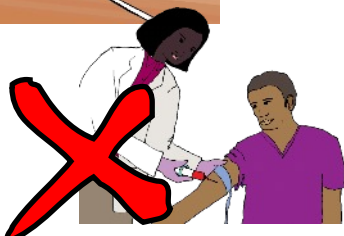


Catalina asked the Government to make sure all people with disabilities know how to get these things and to give help more quickly.



Health

People with disabilities can get free healthcare, but often it is far away from their homes.





Zambia does not have enough services, staff or equipment to run good health services everywhere.



Many people with disabilities do not get information they understand about health services.



They are not usually involved in decisions about healthcare. Doctors treat them even if they do not agree to it.



The Government is working on a new law to make health services better for everyone.

Legal capacity and taking away your freedom



Legal capacity means being able to make a decision for yourself.



In Zambia the law says people with mental disabilities do not have **legal capacity**.



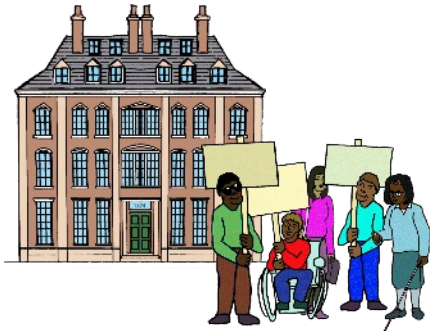
This breaks the **United Nations** disability agreement.



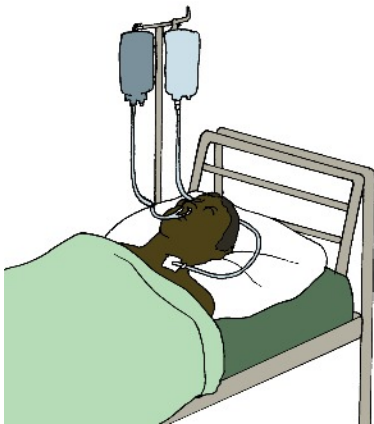
The law also says it is ok to take away a person's freedom and put them in a hospital if they have a mental disability.



Catalina visited two hospitals in Zambia for people with mental disabilities.



She said the big hospital in Lusaka was working hard to give people their human rights.



But people are put in hospital, given treatment or kept away from other patients when they do not agree to it.



In another hospital, women with disabilities have operations to stop them having babies but do not agree to this.



There are some general hospitals and centres in the countryside that give people with mental disabilities very poor services and are very dirty.



Catalina thinks the Government must close these centres and set up more community services to support people instead.



Using the courts and justice system

The law says people with disabilities in Zambia have the right to go to the police and to court to complain.



But this is difficult because:

- people sometimes cannot get into police or court buildings



- the law says that a person cannot use the courts if their disability means they cannot make decisions



- many people cannot afford to pay a lawyer or travel to court



- women and girls with disabilities are not listened to if they complain about abuse



- people do not get information they understand or support to communicate.



Working with the United Nations and other countries

- other countries and big organisations should support Zambia to keep to the disability agreement and give rights to all people with disabilities



- the United Nations should make sure all its plans link together to include people with disabilities

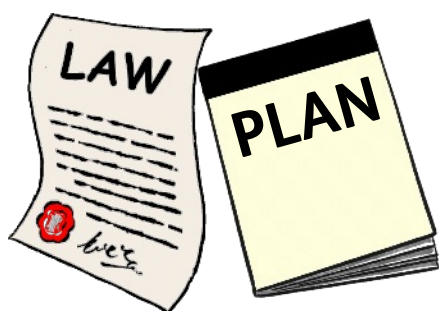


- the United Nations should share good ideas and help Zambia have better information about people with disabilities.

6. What happens next?



The Zambian Government has done lots of things to help people with disabilities get their rights.



Now the Government must make sure:

- they use their plans and laws



- they check that people with disabilities get the same rights as everyone else



- people with disabilities are included in education and work so they have money and are involved in society.

7. Zambia should work on these things



Better information

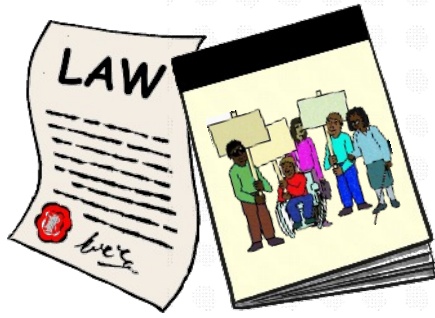
- get better at knowing how many people there are with different types of disability



- train people who work in national and local Government about the disability agreement and rights of people with disabilities

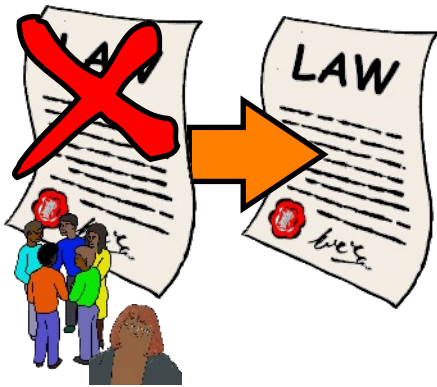


- get quicker at giving people in the countryside a certificate (paper) so they get help for their disability.

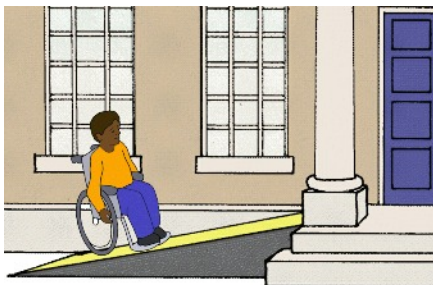


Better laws

- make sure laws and new plans link to the disability agreement and rights for people with disabilities



- change laws that **discriminate** against people with disabilities and make sure the new mental health law sticks to the disability agreement

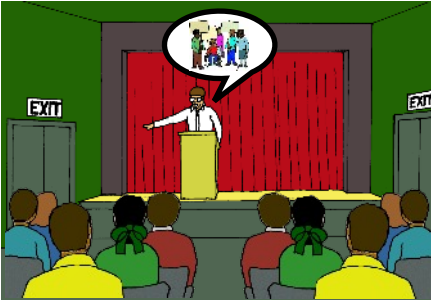


- make sure people with disabilities can work and use public services and buildings and can take legal action if someone **discriminates** against them



- spend money to make sure the disability agreement works for things like education, health, work and **social protection**

How other people think about people with disabilities



- tell the public about people with disabilities and their rights



- make sure TV, radio and newspapers show that people with disabilities are not different from other people



- take action against anyone who **discriminates** against people with disabilities.

Doing the same things as other people



- have a plan that says when national and local Governments will make streets, buildings and transport better for people with disabilities



- train inspectors from **ZAPD** more quickly to check these things



- have rules to make sure people with disabilities get information in the way they need it.

2016						
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				



Being involved

- find out if people with disabilities could vote and be involved in the 2016 elections



- make sure all people with disabilities can understand and get involved in laws and plans that affect everyone.



School and college

- write a plan that says when all school and colleges will have the buildings, staff and equipment to support children with disabilities properly



- make special schools into centres where teachers can get equipment and other help to support children with disabilities.



Social protection

- spend enough money to make sure **social protection** plans work for people with disabilities



- make sure all plans that give money and support to different groups also include people with disabilities.

Health



- have health services that think about rights and do not just treat people with disabilities as if they are ill



- have enough specialised health services for people with disabilities wherever they live.



Legal capacity

- change the law so people cannot just decide for a person with a disability



- train staff about **legal capacity** and involving people with disabilities in their own decisions



- stop keeping people with mental disabilities in hospitals and treating them when they do not agree to it

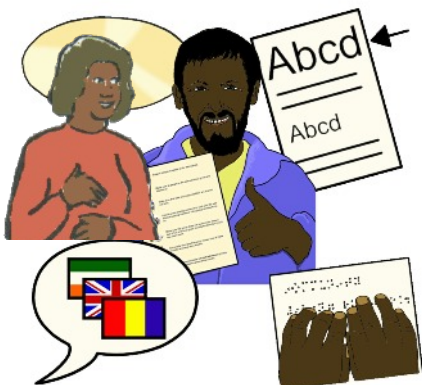


- do not take any more people into hospitals that give poor care to people with mental disabilities. Plan to support people in their own homes in the community.



Using the courts and justice system

- change laws that stop people with learning or mental disabilities using the courts



- have information in ways people with different disabilities can understand and sign language services to help them communicate.



Working with other countries

The **United Nations** and organisations in other countries should:



- talk about rights and people with disabilities in all their plans and projects and do this in a way that people with disabilities can understand



- support Zambia to keep to the disability agreement and make changes it needs to.

8. What the words mean

Albino – a person born with very pale skin and white hair. Their skin and eyes are easily hurt by the sun and they can have eye problems.

Discriminate – to treat someone badly or unfairly because of who they are. For instance because of their disability.

HIV/AIDS – HIV is a virus. A virus is something very small that gets into your body. HIV makes it difficult for your body to fight diseases. HIV becomes AIDS when the person gets ill or has cancer.

Human Rights – basic rights and freedoms that should happen for every person in the world. For example to be treated fairly, equally and with respect.

Legal capacity – being allowed to make your own decisions and act upon them.

Rights – things that should happen for every person.

Register – when your name goes on a list.

Sexual abuse - When someone touches your body or your private parts in ways you do not like or want. This includes kissing you, making you touch them or having sex when you do not want to.

Social protection – things that give everyone the same chances in life. For example, having enough food, basic healthcare, going to school or money to help pay for things.

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.

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

United Nations Disability Convention – an agreement between different countries.

ZAPD (Zambian Agency for Persons with Disabilities) – a governmental organisation that helps people with disabilities.



Credits

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

Ref ISL160 16. November 2016.

www.inspiredservices.org.uk

It meets the European EasyRead Standard.

The **Making it Easier Group** making EasyRead information with **Leading Lives**.

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

www.inspired.pics