



# Making peace

Why it is important to include persons with disabilities



Easy  
Read

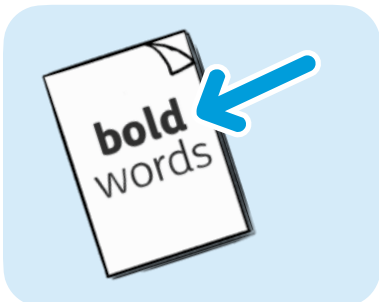
# Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker.



These are words that some people will find hard. When you see a bold word, we will explain it in the next sentence.

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# About this report



This report is from Gerard Quinn, who is the **Special Rapporteur** on the rights of persons with disabilities.



He helps countries understand how to make sure the rights of persons with disabilities are respected.



A **Special Rapporteur** writes reports for the **United Nations**. Every year he writes reports about the **human rights** of persons with disabilities.



The **United Nations** (UN) is an organization made up of many countries working together. It works to make the world a safer and better place.



**Human rights** are the things that every person should have or be able to do, by law.



This is an Easy Read version of the Special Rapporteur's report of 2023 (A/78/174) on involving persons with disabilities in making peace.

This report explains:



- Why it is important to include persons with disabilities when making peace after there has been a war.

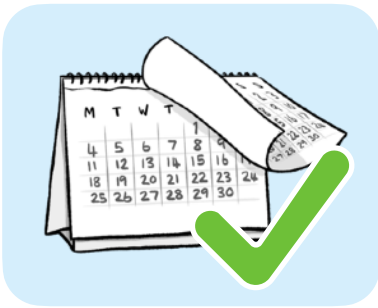


- What countries can do to involve persons with disabilities when making peace after there has been a war.

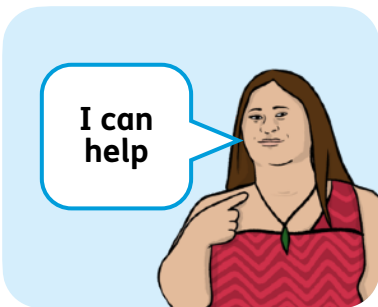
# Peacebuilding



Making peace after a war is called 'peacebuilding'.



Peacebuilding can take a long time. This is to make sure peace lasts for a long time.



Persons with disabilities can do a lot to help with peacebuilding.



But often countries do not listen to and do not involve persons with disabilities when they are making peace.



One way of making sure peace lasts for a long time is to include everyone.



This means that there are no groups of people who are still unhappy.



Persons with disabilities are often very good at thinking about how to include people.



By involving persons with disabilities, countries can help make peace in a way that includes everybody.



Often countries that make peace do not mention disability.

This should change.

# Moral repair



**Moral repair** means:

- Telling the truth about bad things that happened in the past.



- Making sure that people who have done bad things are made responsible.



- Creating ways of making sure that bad things do not happen again.



Moral repair can help to:



- Find out who has done bad things during a war.



- Say that things that happened were bad and should not have happened.



- Set new rules for everyone to follow, about treating people well and not doing these bad things.



- Make people trust each other.



- Find ways for people to work together in the future to make peace.

To have moral repair, countries must make sure 3 things happen:

## Telling the truth



After something bad has happened, it is very important to find out what really happened.



Then, people, organizations and countries can tell the truth and say sorry for things they did wrong.



But often people do not find out about bad things that happened to persons with disabilities.

# Keeping people safe from violence



It is important to keep people safe from violence during peacebuilding.



Otherwise, people might be scared to speak up about bad things that have happened.



This means that nobody will find out about bad things that happened.



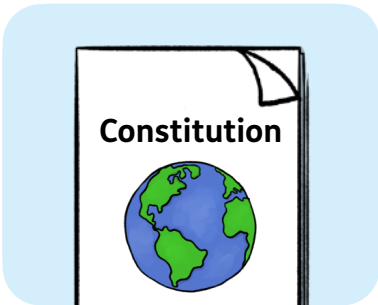
Persons with disabilities need to feel safe to join in with peacebuilding.

# New political institutions

**Political institutions** decide how a country is run. They include:



- Governments and services run by the Government.



- Documents called constitutions, which explain how a country should be run.



Countries should look at making new political institutions when they are peacebuilding which include persons with disabilities.



This will help them fix problems that caused the war, and help persons with disabilities to be more involved.

# Reports we have already written



This is the third report the Special Rapporteur has written about persons with disabilities and war.



The first one looked at whether countries thought about persons with disabilities before, during and after war.



It found that the needs of persons with disabilities are mostly ignored before, during and after war.



The second report looked at how countries keep persons with disabilities safe during war.



It found ways for countries to respect the human rights of persons with disabilities during war.

# Involving different groups



It is important to involve women, children and young people in peacebuilding.

These groups are getting more involved in peacebuilding.



It is also important to involve persons with disabilities.

Even when persons with disabilities are involved in peacebuilding, some groups get left out, like:



- People with psychosocial disabilities - these are people who have mental health issue that makes it hard for them to take part in life.



- People with intellectual disabilities - these are people who find it hard to learn or understand new information.

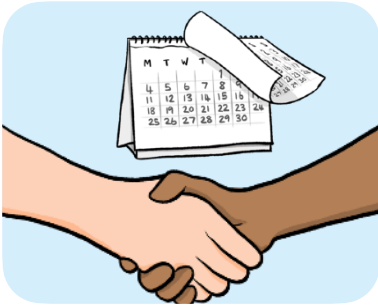


Often, soldiers who get a disability during war get listened to the most.



But nobody should be listened to more than any other group.

# What the UN can do



The UN supports countries to make peace that lasts for a long time.



To do this, the UN tries to help countries fix the problems that might have caused war in the first place.



This includes making sure that countries:

- Respect people's human rights.



- Support them to live better lives.





New wars might start when:

- People's rights are not respected.



- People do not get the chance to live a good life.



In 2019, the UN wrote a plan to do more to include persons with disabilities in its activities, including peacebuilding.



But the UN is still not doing enough to include persons with disabilities in peacebuilding.

# Women and children



The UN works to support women, young people and children to take part in peacebuilding.



But often women, young people and children with disabilities are left out of this.



Different UN organizations are working more on including women, young people and children with disabilities.

# Supporting moral repair



The UN supports some countries with moral repair.



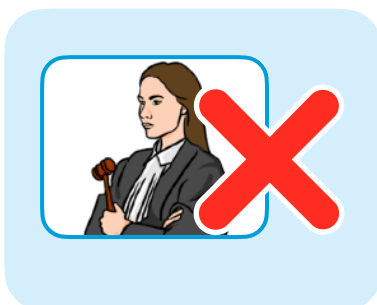
It is important to listen to persons with disabilities when they do this.



Often, people do not respect the human rights of persons with disabilities during war.



But countries often forget about this during peacebuilding.



This can mean that people who have done bad things are not made responsible.



There are international laws against treating people badly during a war.



But these laws do not mention persons with disabilities.

## Keeping persons with disabilities safe



For people to speak up about bad things that have happened, it is important that they feel safe.



If they do not feel safe to speak up, then moral repair cannot happen.



But it is hard for persons with disabilities who escape from war to stay safe.

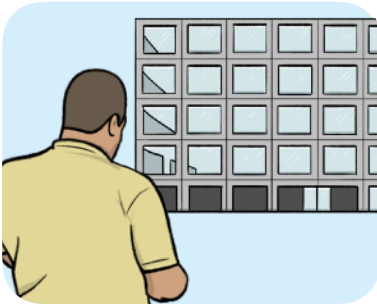


This is because the people who help others leave a country do not always think about persons with disabilities.



Sometimes, persons with disabilities escape a war and go to a country that does not respect their **human rights**.

Remember, **human rights** are the things that every person should have or be able to do, by law.



The new country might put them in an institution - this is a place like a hospital which they cannot leave.



It is important to make sure that countries respect the human rights of persons with disabilities who have had to escape from war.

# Making new political institutions

Part of moral repair is making new political institutions, if the old ones did not:



- Treat people fairly.



- Stop a war from happening.



But persons with disabilities are often not involved in making new political institutions.

Persons with disabilities should be involved more in lots of political institutions, like:



- Ceasefires - this is when two sides in a war agree to stop fighting for a certain amount of time so that people can get help.



Persons with disabilities have to be included in ceasefire agreements.



- Elections - this is when people in a country decide who should be in charge.

The UN can help on projects like:



- Supporting persons with disabilities who used to be soldiers.



- Helping persons with disabilities to get new homes, or fix their old homes.



- Supporting people who have become disabled because of a 'mine' - this is a bomb that explodes when you step on it.



- Helping people whose jobs or homes have been destroyed by war.



- Helping people to trust that the law will stop crime. This is important after a war.



# Listening to people



The Special Rapporteur listened to lots of people about this topic.

Here are some of the things they said:

## Medical model of disability

The **medical model of disability** says that:



- People are disabled because of their **impairments** or differences.

An **impairment** is when something does not work as well as it should, like a person's body or mind.



- Doctors should try to 'fix' the impairment or difference, even if the person is not ill or in pain.



But this is wrong. The Special Rapporteur believes in the '**Social Model of Disability**'.



The **Social Model of Disability** says that the way the world works can stop persons with disabilities from doing things that everyone does.



But countries that are peacebuilding often think about persons with disabilities using the medical model of disability.



This can mean that they do not listen to persons with disabilities.

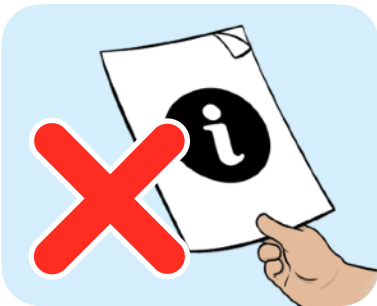


Even if they do listen to persons with disabilities, they often only think about people who became disabled because of the war.



Often soldiers who become disabled during a war do not want to call themselves 'disabled'.

This makes people think that being a person with a disability is a bad thing.

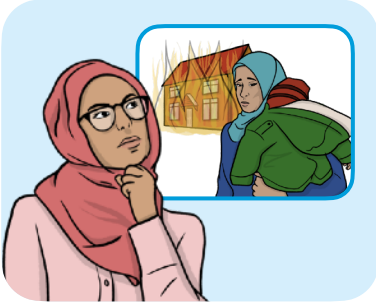


There was not much information about some groups of persons with disabilities during, or after wars.



People said that this meant that services did not give the right support that people needed.

# The past



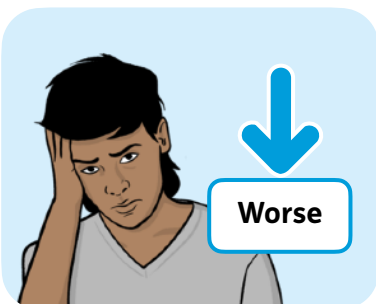
Countries that are peacebuilding often only think about what has happened during war time.



They can ignore problems from the past that still affect people now.



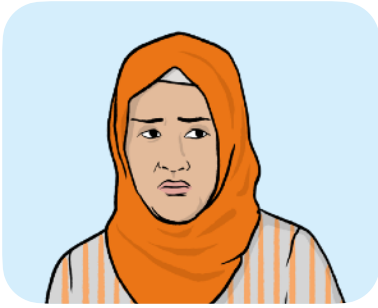
Often, persons with disabilities are poorer than other people.



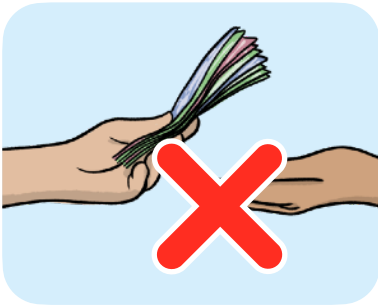
But being poorer than others can also make people disabled, or make their disabilities worse.



This can mean that they do not get the help they need to live a better life.



Sometimes, support is given to people in ways that mean persons with disabilities miss out on help.



Support with money is not often given to local organizations of persons with disabilities.

Some persons with disabilities get more support than others, like:



- If they were a soldier in an army that 'won' the war.



- If they were a top soldier during the war.

# Different groups



Countries and organizations try to listen to different groups, like women and children.



But often, they do not listen to persons with disabilities, even if they are women or children with disabilities.



Even people with disabilities who were soldiers and got support after the war, felt left out after a while



Organizations should find out more about what happens to persons with disabilities a long time after wars have ended.



People also said that it was hard for persons with disabilities to speak up about bad things that had happened during the war.

# What should happen

## Including persons with disabilities



When countries or the UN talk about moral repair, they should include persons with disabilities.

## Rights



The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an agreement that countries will respect the rights of persons with disabilities.

In this document, it will be called 'the Convention'.



The UN should think about the Convention when they support persons with disabilities to take part in moral repair.

The Convention also says that:



- Persons with disabilities should be included in peacebuilding.



- Governments should learn more about the persons with disabilities who live in their country.



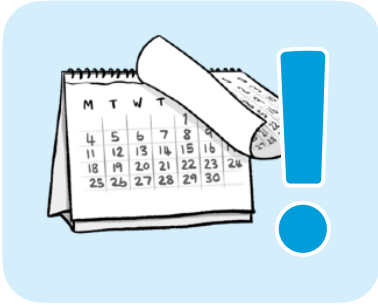
The UN and other organizations must support persons with disabilities to take part in peacebuilding.



Governments should listen to what persons with disabilities have to say after a war has ended.



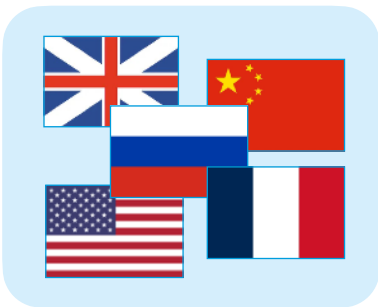
# Listening to persons with disabilities and their organizations



Persons with disabilities and their organizations must be involved in peacebuilding as early as possible.



Groups of persons with disabilities should work with groups of persons who used to be soldiers and are now disabled.



## The Security Council

The **Security Council** is a group of powerful countries in the UN.



They agreed to think about the Convention during peacebuilding.



They should use this agreement to:

- Think about disability, peace and security when they work together.



- Make sure that persons with disabilities are included along with other groups, like women and children.



- Look at writing a set of guidelines about persons with disabilities during war and peacebuilding.

## Moral repair



To achieve moral repair, organizations should tell the truth about what happened.

This should include what happened to persons with disabilities in the past.



They should work with groups of persons with disabilities to find ways to remember the people who were treated badly in the past.



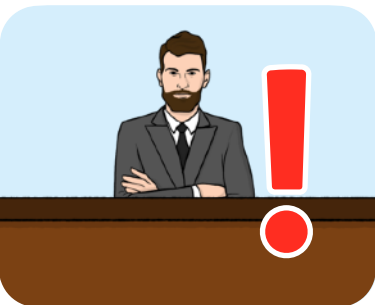
People who have done bad things to persons with disabilities should be made responsible.



Persons with disabilities should get support to help them take part in this.



The **International Criminal Court** should think about writing guidelines about making responsible people who have done bad things to persons with disabilities during war.



The **International Criminal Court** is a court that holds people who have done very bad things responsible.



A new UN agreement about very bad crimes, called 'crimes against humanity', should include crimes against persons with disabilities.



A group called the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will write about involving persons with disabilities in peacebuilding.



An office of the United Nations called the Peacebuilding Commission should write a plan for including persons with disabilities in peacebuilding.



The Peacebuilding Fund of the United Nations gives money to people and groups for peacebuilding activities.

The Peacebuilding Fund should:



- Give money to support groups of persons with disabilities to take part in peacebuilding.



- Find out the best ways to make sure persons with disabilities are included in peacebuilding.



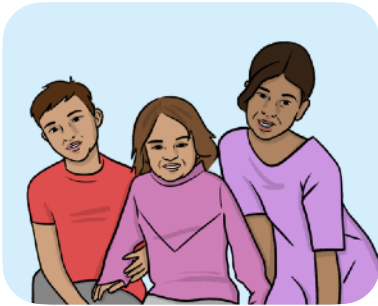
Organizations should look at the **Global Network of Women Peacebuilders** to help them think about how to include persons with disabilities.



The **Global Network of Women Peacebuilders** is an organisation that makes sure that women are included in peacebuilding.



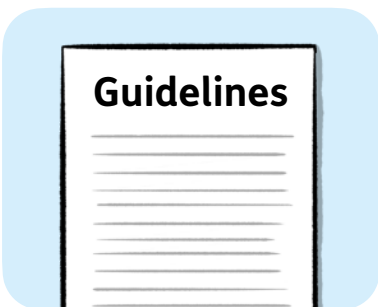
A person called the 'United Nations Special Representative on Children in Armed Conflict' has been doing good work.



She is going to look at what happens to children with disabilities in wars.



When organizations look at children being treated badly during war, they should make sure they mention children with disabilities.



There should be guidelines about how to support persons with disabilities who have escaped to another country.



UN organizations should support persons with disabilities to take part in elections.



An organisation called the 'World Bank' should speak up about its work on peacebuilding.



There should be new rules for supporting people who have become disabled because of a mine.

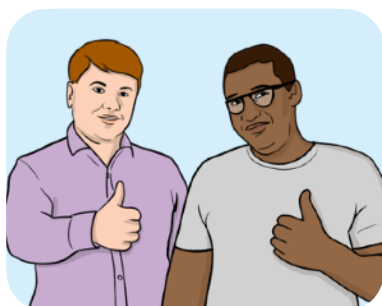


When UN organizations help people to trust in the law, they should make sure this includes respecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

When UN organizations support countries after a war, they should:

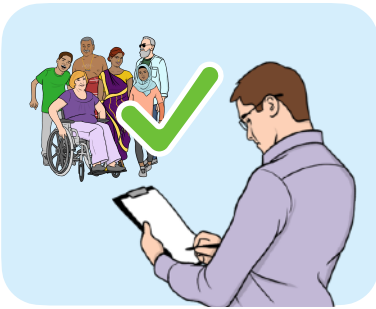


- Remember that persons with disabilities often have not been treated fairly for a long time.



- Try to support persons with disabilities to be treated fairly.

## Other organizations



When organizations look into peacebuilding, they should look at how it could help persons with disabilities.



When organizations give money to support people after a war, they should make sure persons with disabilities are involved in peacebuilding.

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