



Easy

Working with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

Why it is important



Easy Read



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



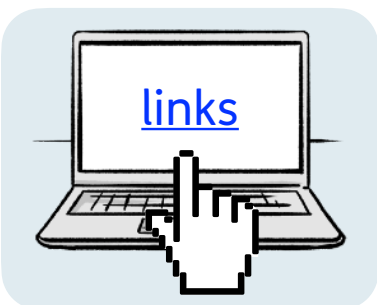
This Easy Read information uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



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.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet



This information is from:

- The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).



- The International Disability Alliance (IDA).



This information was written for the **Global Disability Summit** in 2022.

The **Global Disability Summit** was a meeting of organizations from around the world.



They looked at ways to improve the lives of persons with disabilities.



This information is for countries and organizations that want to support persons with disabilities.



It looks at why it is important to work with **Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)**.



Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) are organizations that speak up for persons with disabilities and:



- Persons with disabilities are in charge.



- Most members are persons with disabilities.

Rights



Rights are things that every person should have by law. Like the right to be safe, the right to education, and the right to be respected.



The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an agreement between countries around the world.



They agreed that persons with disabilities should have the same rights as everyone else.



They also agreed to include OPDs when they made choices affecting persons with disabilities.



Countries have promised to do a lot to include persons with disabilities.



But they often do not ask persons with disabilities what they think.



We think countries and organizations should:

- Remember the rights of persons with disabilities.



- Include OPDs when they make plans that affect persons with disabilities.

Why it is important to work with OPDs



Working with OPDs means that countries can better support persons with disabilities.

This is because:



- Persons with disabilities feel like they have been listened to.



- OPDs can check that countries are giving persons with disabilities their rights.



- Countries can learn what matters to persons with disabilities.



- It helps persons with disabilities to make choices about what affects their lives.

What countries should do



A group called the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities wrote a list of things countries should do to work with OPDs.

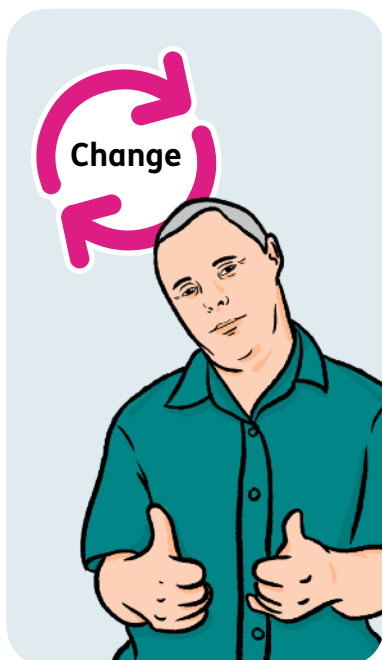


They say countries should:

- Be clear about how they are asking OPDs what they think.

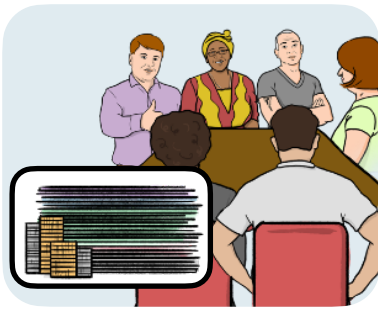


- Make sure that persons with disabilities can take part when countries ask people what they think.



- Provide **reasonable accommodations** to make sure persons with disabilities can take part.

Reasonable accommodations are changes that places and services can make so that persons with disabilities can take part like everybody else.



Countries should also:

- Spend money to make sure OPDs can come to meetings.



- Respect and listen to OPDs.



- Write rules about how to ask OPDs what they think.



- Write laws which say that persons with disabilities have the right to be included.



- Give OPDs money to help them to speak up for persons with disabilities.

Countries should also:

- Listen to OPDs that speak up for different groups of persons with disabilities, like:



- Women.
- Older people.
- Children.
- People who need a lot of support.
- Refugees and asylum seekers - these are people who have had to leave their country and go to live in a new country.
- People with different types of disability.

Countries should also:



- Support OPDs to take part in public affairs - this is work that involves:
- Working with governments.



- Making choices that affect the public.



This support might include providing training and skills.



- Check their rules on how to include OPDs.

What OPDs say



We asked OPDs about what countries were doing to include them.



They told us that:

- Countries ask them what they think more than they used to.



- Countries still do not ask them what they think as often as they should.



- Some groups of persons with disabilities are still left out, like women with disabilities.



- Countries mainly ask OPDs what they think when they are writing plans to do with disability.

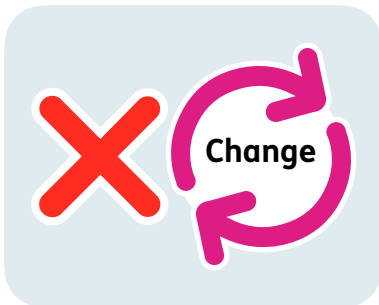


But countries are also starting to ask OPDs when writing plans about other issues.

What stops OPDs from taking part

OPDs told us that some things stop them from taking part, like:

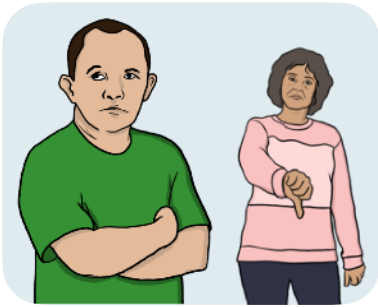
- Not having enough money.



- Countries not providing the right reasonable accommodations.



This can mean that they cannot get to events, understand information, or get the support they need.



OPDs also told us that some things stop them from taking part, like:

- Some people thinking badly about persons with disabilities.



- Countries not understanding OPDs. This can mean that they only listen to certain people.



OPDs are affected by the same things that affect everyone else.

These things can make it easier or harder to take part.



During the **COVID-19 pandemic**, countries often did not listen to OPDs.

The **COVID-19 pandemic** was an illness that spread around the world.

What OPDs around the world have done



We looked at what OPDs have done around the world.



We learned 12 important things about how countries should work with OPDs:

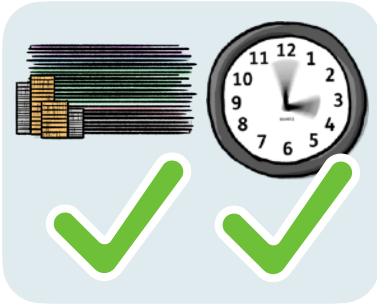
1. Countries should support OPDs to get organised.



When OPDs are well organised, they can better speak up for themselves.



2. Providing training to OPDs can help the OPD and help the country to better support people.



3. Providing training and skills takes time and money.

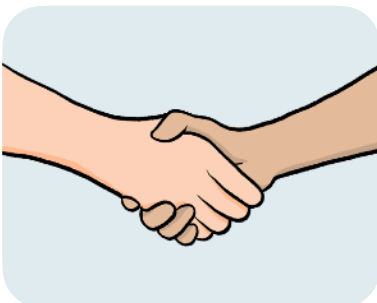


But it can mean that OPDs can do a lot to support people.

4. To support different OPDs to work together to speak up for persons with disabilities, countries should:



- Make sure to include groups of persons with disabilities that are not always listened to.



- Give different groups the chance to work together.



5. When OPDs work together, they need to make sure that all groups of persons with disabilities can speak up.



6. Countries must work to listen to groups of persons with disabilities who are often not listened to.

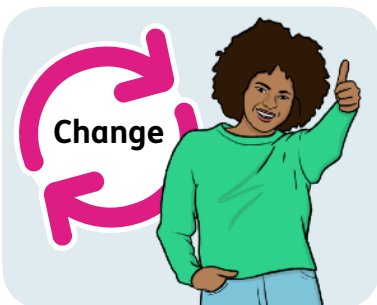


Otherwise, some groups, like persons with **intellectual disabilities**, will get left out.

Intellectual disabilities affect how you think, learn and understand things.



7. Organizations should work with OPDs during every part of their projects.



By doing this, they can change and improve how they include and involve persons with disabilities.



8. It is helpful to have people or groups who will support OPDs to be involved in projects.



This will make sure that OPDs can be involved in big projects where lots of different organizations work together.



9. By listening to OPDs, countries can find out how their laws and projects affect persons with disabilities.



10. OPDs can get more people to speak up and get governments to change laws that affect them.



11. When OPDs work with larger organizations, like the **United Nations**, they can do more to improve the lives 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.



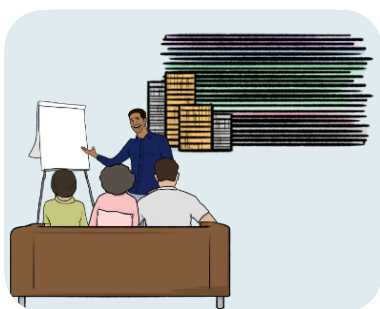
12. When OPDs work together, they can help projects to make more of a difference for people who are not getting their rights.

What countries should do



When we looked at what OPDs around the world had done, we thought about what countries should do.

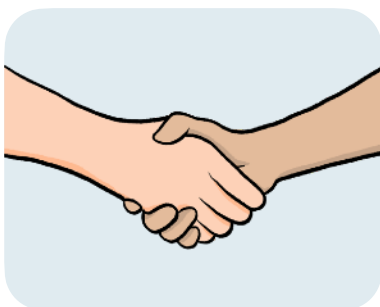
We think countries should:



- Give OPDs the money, training and skills to speak up for persons with disabilities.



- Pay attention to groups of persons with disabilities who are usually not listened to.



- Support different OPDs to work together to improve the lives of persons with disabilities.

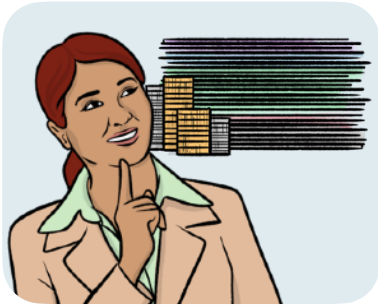


- Think about what OPDs might need to help them take part in each stage of a project.



Countries should also:

- Listen to OPDs, and tell them how their ideas will be used.



- Think about the needs of each OPD when giving them money.

Ideas for the Global Disability Summit



We have some ideas to make sure OPDs are included in the Global Disability Summit 2022.

They are:

Help the Disability Rights Movement to be stronger



The Disability Rights Movement works to make sure that persons with disabilities around the world get their rights.

Countries and organizations should:



- Listen to groups of persons with disabilities who are not usually listened to.



- Support OPDs to work with other organizations that improve people's lives.

Give money to OPDs

Countries and organizations should:



- Make sure OPDs have enough money to support and speak up for persons with disabilities.



- Make it easier for OPDs to apply to get money.



- Make sure that money from the Government supports the rights of persons with disabilities.

Provide training and skills

Countries and organizations should provide skills and training to OPDs.

This will support them to take part in public affairs.



Help OPDs to take part

Countries and organizations should:



- Get rid of laws that stop persons with disabilities from getting their rights.



- Involve OPDs when writing laws that affect persons with disabilities.



- Listen to local persons with disabilities and their families when making choices.



- Write rules to make sure that OPDs are asked about laws and decisions.



- Speak up about treating persons with disabilities the same as everyone else.



If countries use these ideas, OPDs can do more to improve the lives of persons with disabilities.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:

www.globaldisabilitysummit.org



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