

FACTSHEET – UPR 2017, GHANA

3rd CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS UPR CYCLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

During the 2012 cycle, recommendations were made to Ghana to undertake effective policy measures and develop the necessary infrastructure to address issues concerning the rights of persons with disabilities.

In addition, Ghana was to improve its domestic legal framework on the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the provisions of the relevant international convention.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Article 29(1) (8) of the 1992 constitution of Ghana makes provision for the inclusion, protection and participation of persons with disabilities in the socio-cultural and economic activities of Ghana. Ghana adopted a national disability policy in 2000, which provided the framework for the drafting of the national Disability Law, Act 715 and passed in 2006. In 2012, the Parliament of Ghana ratified the UN convention on the rights of persons with disability with its optional protocol.

The Persons with Disability Act 2006, (Act 715), gave a moratorium of ten (10) years for all public buildings to be made accessible and available to persons with disabilities. Eleven (11) years later public buildings and places are still not accessible. The government has embarked on a few interventions such as recruiting over 80 persons with disabilities to operate tollbooths and increased the Common Fund for Persons with Disability from 2% to 3%. There is also a special concession of 30% of all local contracts to be given to persons with disability in Ghana.

CHALLENGES

IMPACT

1. Legal framework

The Persons with Disability Act 2006, (Act 715) has no provisions for women, children, right to information, and the conditions of persons with disabilities in disaster situations as well political participation.

2. Lack of access to public facilities.

The ten (10) year moratorium granted in the Persons with Disability Act 2006, (Act 715) for all public buildings to be made accessible to persons with disabilities elapsed last year but some public buildings and facilities remain inaccessible

3. Lack of empowerment programs for persons with disabilities.

The absence of these provisions in the law continues to contribute to the neglect of a number of issues affecting persons with disabilities. Even though Ghana passed the Persons with Disability Act in 2006, the implementation of the law has not received the needed attention by government.

Children with disabilities are unable to go to school due to inaccessible school environment. Children with cerebral palsy, autism, down syndrome, persons with albinism and little people face huge discrimination and marginalisation.

Persons with disabilities are under represented in employment and the job market as well as in political participation. There is no legislation ensuring that employers include persons with disabilities in their labour force. The number of disabled unemployed graduates is increasing and a number of them commit suicide as a result of pressure from families for being a burden.

Persons with Disability constitute about 15% of Ghana's population hence the lack of access to the public facilities denies a large number of the population the right to participate in various human endeavours including employment and education.





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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Amend the Persons with Disability Act 2006, (Act 715) to conform to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Enforce the 10 year moratorium on public buildings.
- Provide resources for the full implementation of the inclusive education policy to ensure education for all.
- Implement a national employment policy for persons with disabilities.

ABOUT THIS FACT SHEET

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Even though Ghana is implementing inclusive education policy, gaps exist between theory and practice. The school infrastructure is not accessible, teaching and learning materials are not in an accessible format.

Lack of access to public space has also resulted in the underrepresentation of persons with disabilities in the socio-political and economic arenas. A lot remains to be done to ensure that no one is left behind.

A huge number of persons with disabilities live in poverty, unable to make ends meet, driving a number of them to beg on the streets for money. What is most disheartening is that parents go to the streets with their children who assist them by pushing their wheelchairs or holding their white canes.

Lack of empowerment programs for persons with disabilities which results in their inability to earn their own income makes them a permanent burden on their families and friends which is a social liability.

Inaccessible school buildings has contributed to the increase in the illiteracy rate among persons with disabilities in Ghana. The uneducated persons with disability find it difficult to participate in the informal sector because their opportunities are limited. Apart from becoming a cobbler or a musician, the illiterate person with disability cannot engage in transport business, construction, hawking in traffic, truck pusher and head porter popularly known as kayayo

REFERENCES:

1. The Ghana disability policy of 2000
2. 2011 world report on disability
3. Ghana Persons with disability Act of 2006, Act 715

