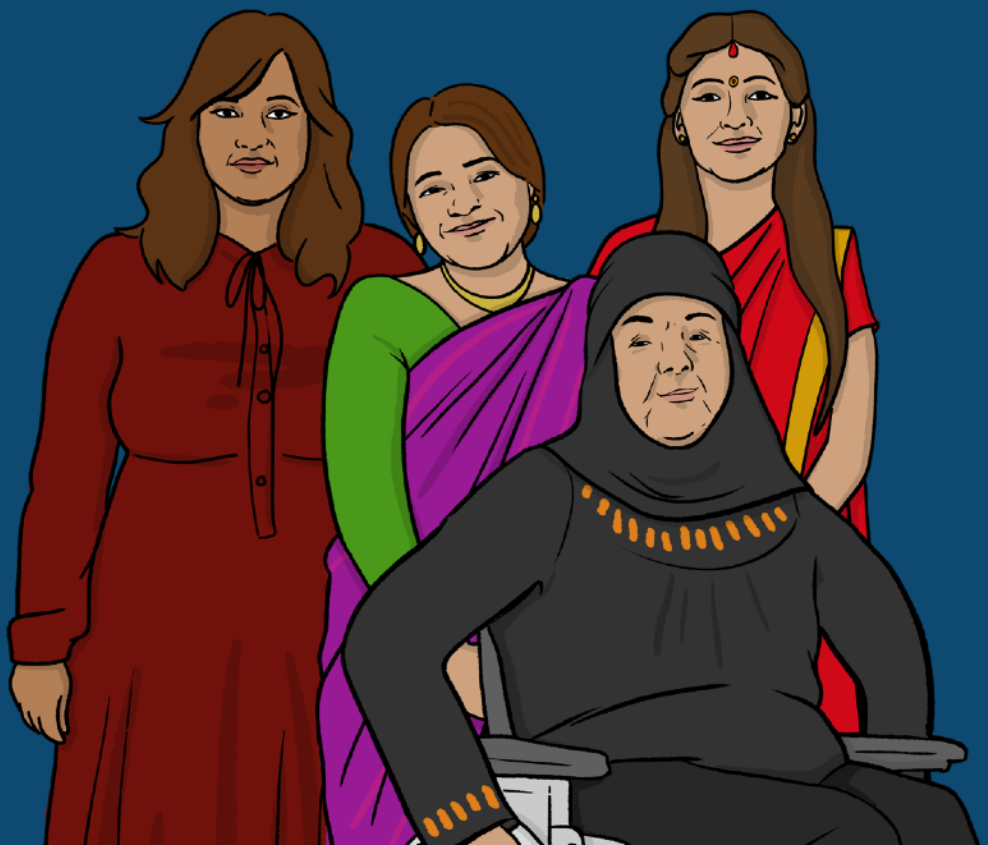
Easy Read

A report from the Special Rapporteur on the rights of people with disabilities

30 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action



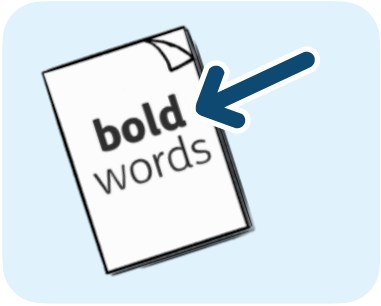
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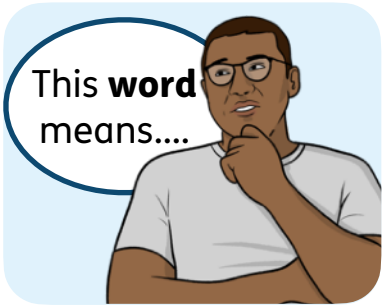
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



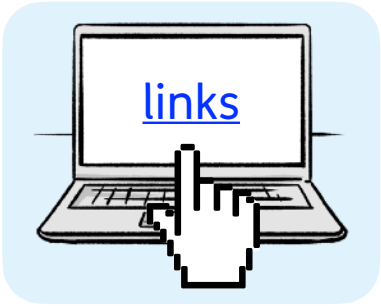
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



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



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



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 report



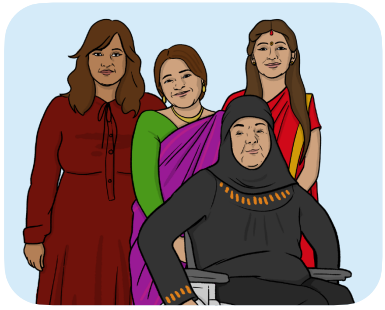
The **United Nations** (UN) is an organisation made up of many countries from all over the world. It works to make the world a safer and better place.



This booklet is an Easy Read copy of a report from **Heba Hagrass**. She is the **Special Rapporteur** on the rights of persons with disabilities.

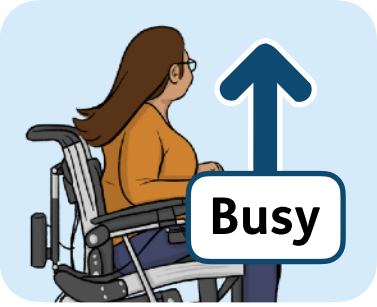


A **Special Rapporteur** writes reports for the United Nations.



In this report, the Special Rapporteur talks about what countries can do to support women and girls with disabilities.

What the Special Rapporteur has been doing



The Special Rapporteur has been very busy.



In September 2024, Heba Hagrass went to a country called Kyrgyzstan.

She has written a report about this visit.



The Special Rapporteur has been to lots of meetings around the world.



She has spoken at many events about the rights of people with disabilities.

The Beijing Declaration



In 1995, 189 countries had a big meeting in Beijing, in China.



They talked about how to make things better and easier for all women and girls.



They wrote a big plan called the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**.

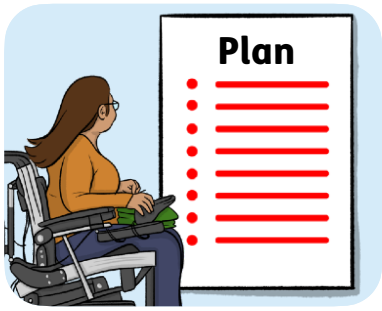
This plan is a list of things that governments and other groups need to do to make life better for women and girls.



It is also about helping women and girls to gain more power in the world.



This year, the Beijing Declaration is 30 years old.



The Special Rapporteur is looking at how well the Beijing Declaration works for women and girls with disabilities.



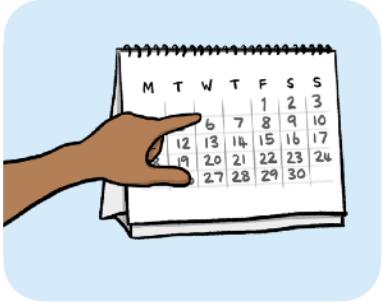
She has some ideas to make it stronger and work better for women and girls with disabilities.

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women



The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women is a group that helps women to be treated fairly and get more power.

In this booklet, we will call it **the Commission**.



They meet every year.



They talk about how countries can support women and girls around the world.



For this year's meeting, the Commission will look at how countries are doing with the Beijing Declaration.



The Commission asked countries around the world to look at how they were doing with the Beijing Declaration.



In **Africa**, some countries are not doing well at giving women and girls the same rights as men and boys.



But other countries have made new laws to help women and girls who are in danger.



In **Europe**, countries said that women with disabilities need more help.



For example, women often care for children with disabilities.

But they do not get enough money to help them.



In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, some things have got better for women with disabilities.



But women and girls with disabilities still have problems with:

- Getting support.
- Getting more power.



In **Asia and the Pacific**, countries said that women and girls with disabilities still have many problems.



They said that countries should work quickly to protect the human rights of women and girls with disabilities.



In **Western Asia**, some countries are helping women with disabilities more.



The Special Rapporteur wants to keep helping with this work.



She wants to make sure that women and girls with disabilities get the rights they deserve.

Rights



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

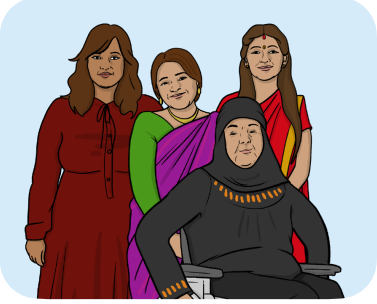


Countries around the world have agreed that people with disabilities should have the same rights as everyone else.

This agreement is called the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



People with disabilities should also have extra help if they need it.



Countries should think about how life might be different for women and girls with disabilities.

2030 goals



In 2015, countries around the world agreed on goals for making the world a better place by the year 2030.



An important part of this is making sure that nobody is left behind.



Some of the goals in the plan are about making sure women and girls with disabilities are treated fairly.



So it is important that countries work on ways to be fair to women and girls with disabilities.

Being a woman with a disability



Women and girls with disabilities have a hard time in many parts of their lives.



They might find it hard to go to school, find a job, stay healthy, or stay safe from being hurt.

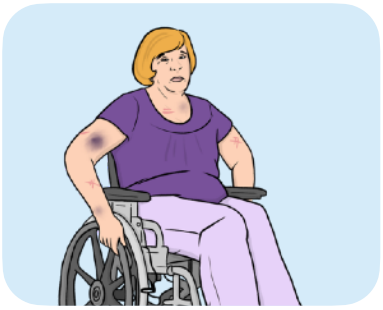
They are less likely to have enough money than:



- Men with disabilities.



- Women who do not have disabilities.



Women and girls with disabilities are more likely to be hurt than other people.



They often cannot get to places that help women who have been hurt.



They also often have a difficult time getting **sexual health services**.

Sexual health services support women to make choices about their own bodies.



It can be difficult for women and girls with disabilities to get **justice** in court.

Justice means making a decision that is fair to everyone.



Often, people do not take them seriously.



Not all women with disabilities have the same problems.

For example, older women with disabilities may have issues that are different to younger women with disabilities.

What the Beijing Declaration says

The Beijing Declaration says that women and girls with disabilities should be:



- Treated fairly.



- Able to get the help they need.



- Able to get jobs and make choices for themselves.



- Safe from being hurt.



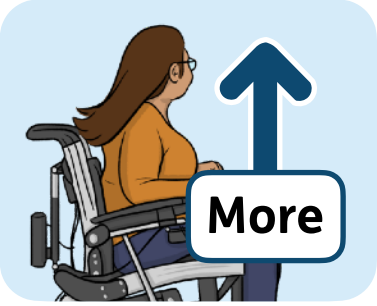
It also says that women should be able to get information about their rights, in ways they can understand.

Making the Beijing Declaration stronger



In the last 30 years, we have got better at understanding the rights of people with disabilities.

This is mainly because of the Convention.



The Special Rapporteur thinks that the Beijing Declaration can use more ideas from the Convention.



This will help to make life better for women and girls with disabilities around the world.

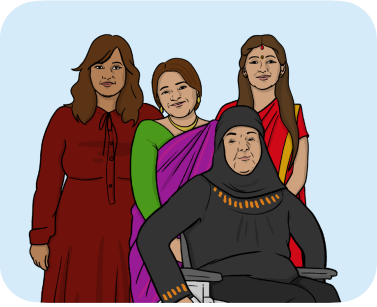


This part of the report explains how the Convention and the Beijing Declaration can work together.

Making choices for themselves



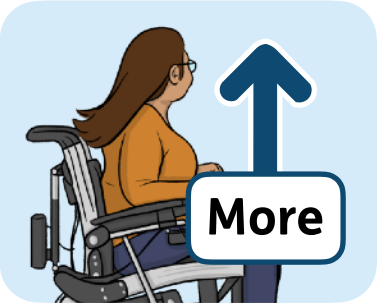
The Convention says that people with disabilities should be able to make choices for themselves.



This is important for women and girls with disabilities.



People do not always think that women and girls with disabilities can make their own decisions.



The Special Rapporteur thinks that the Beijing Declaration should say more about this.

Accessibility

The rules in the Convention also say that people with disabilities should be able to:



- Get around.



- Use buildings.



- Get information in ways that they can understand.



This is called **accessibility**.

The Beijing Declaration should say more about accessibility.

Sexual health and rights



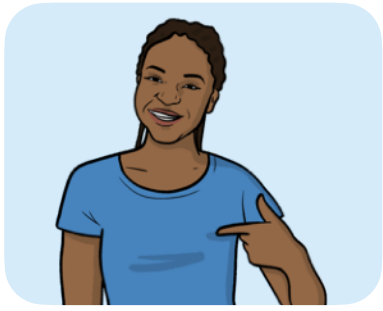
The Beijing Declaration says that countries should think about the health needs of all women and girls.



But, it does not talk about **sexual health and rights** for women and girls with disabilities.



Sexual rights are about being able to make choices about your body and your sex life.



We need to make sure that women and girls with disabilities can make choices about their bodies.



The Beijing Declaration should say more about this.

Learning and working



The Beijing Declaration says that we need to make sure women and girls with disabilities can:

- Go to school.
- Get a job.



This is important because it means that they can make their own money.

But it should also talk about:



- Giving women and girls with disabilities the chance to go to schools with everyone else.



- Making sure that women and girls with disabilities can get the help they need at work.

Living independently



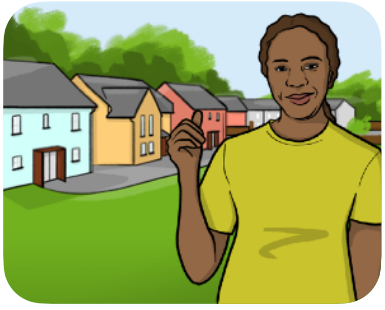
The Convention says that people with disabilities have the right to live independently.



Women and girls with disabilities are often left out of their local communities.



Sometimes, they have to live away from other people, in places called **institutions**.



The Beijing Declaration should say that women and girls with disabilities should have the chance to live independently.

Supporting families



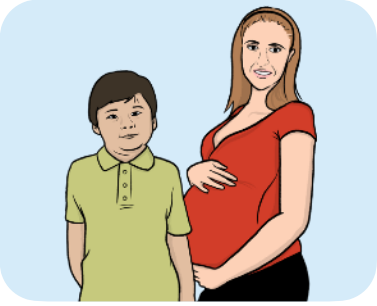
Women and girls often have to care and support family members with disabilities.



The Beijing Declaration says that both men and women should care for people in their families.



The Beijing Declaration also says that countries need to support families of people with disabilities.



The Beijing Declaration should say that these support services should be right for different groups, like mothers of children with disabilities.

Supporting people in a crisis



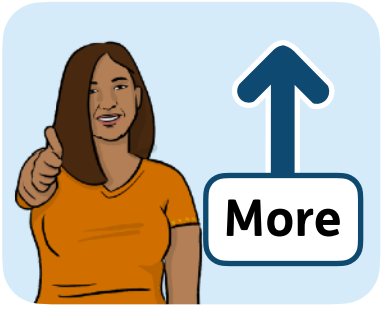
A **crisis** is when something goes very badly wrong in a country. It might be a war, or a very bad storm.



People with disabilities may be more likely to be hurt or killed in a crisis.



This is because it is hard for them to get the help they need.



The Beijing Declaration should say that countries will do more to protect women and girls with disabilities in a crisis.

What should happen next

What the Commission should do

When they talk about the Beijing Declaration, the Commission should:



- Find out more about what women and girls with disabilities need.



- Think about using the information in this booklet.

What countries should do

When they work on the Beijing Declaration, countries should:



- Make their laws better for women and girls with disabilities.



- Give women and girls with disabilities the chance to make choices for themselves.

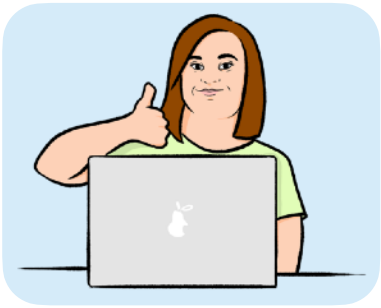


- Learn more about the lives of women and girls with disabilities in their country.



- Make sure that women and girls with disabilities can take part in schools with everyone else.

When they work on the Beijing Declaration, countries should also:



- Support women and girls with disabilities to work.



- Help women with disabilities to become leaders.



- Respect the sexual rights of women and girls with disabilities.



- Write new laws to protect women and girls with disabilities from being hurt by others.



When they work on the Beijing Declaration, countries should also:

- Support women who care for people with disabilities.



- Protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities during a crisis.

What the UN should do

The UN should:



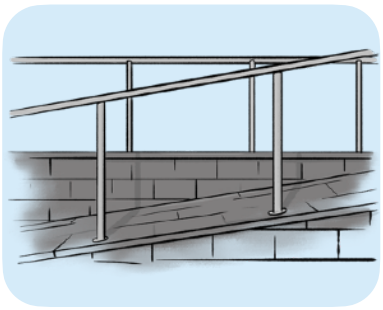
- Make sure that all plans for **gender equality** include the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

  Gender equality means treating men and women fairly.

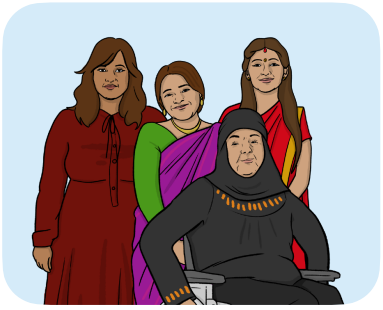


- Help countries and organizations to write plans to care and support women and girls with disabilities.

The UN should also:



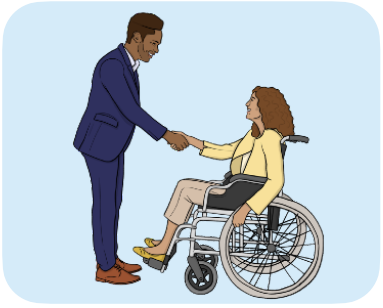
- Make sure that all UN meetings about gender equality are accessible.



- Check if women and girls with disabilities are part of plans for gender equality.



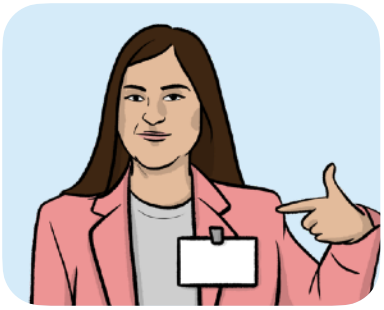
- Think about following a set of rules called the **Feminist Accessibility Protocol**.



This is about making sure that all meetings and activities are easy for women and girls with disabilities to join in with.

What other organizations should do

Other groups and organizations should:



- Help women with disabilities to become leaders.



- Ask governments to think about the different types of support that women and girls with disabilities might need.



- Support women and girls with disabilities during a crisis.



- Speak up about the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

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