Easy Read

The right of persons with disabilities to take part in politics



Easy Read



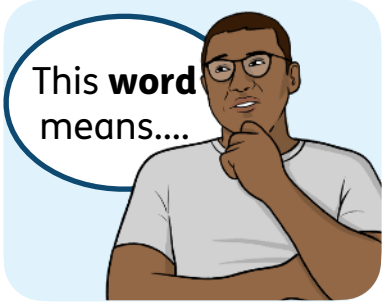
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. 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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You can fill in a quick survey to say what you think about this Easy Read booklet: https://www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey

About this booklet



The **United Nations** (UN) is an organization made up of many countries from all over the world.

It works to make the world a safer and better place.



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

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



The report is about how persons with disabilities should be able to take part in **politics** just like everyone else.

Politics is about how a country is run and the decisions that are made in that country.

What the Special Rapporteur did in 2025



Heba Hegrass has been the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities since November 2023.



She did lots of work in 2025 to make sure that persons with disabilities are included in all parts of life.



She gave talks about the rights of persons with disabilities at lots of different events.



She also shared reports she has written with other parts of the United Nations (UN).

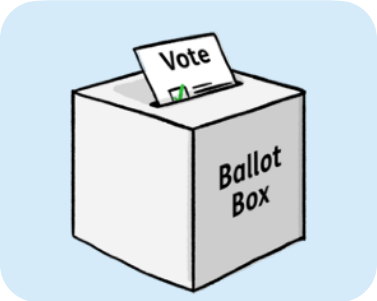
The right to take part in politics



Persons with disabilities have the **right** to take part in politics.

Rights are things that every person should have by law, like the right to be safe.

This includes:



- The right to vote in **elections**.

  An **election** is when the public votes for who should help make decisions about their country.



- The right to be a **candidate** in elections.

  A **candidate** is someone who has put themselves forward to be voted for in an election.



- The right to work as a **politician**.

  A **politician** is a person the public chooses to help make decisions about a country.

Taking part in politics can help persons with disabilities to:



- Share their ideas and have their say in things that matter to them.



- Teach other people about what persons with disabilities need.



- Stop other people from treating persons with disabilities badly or believing wrong and unfair things about them.



- Show that persons with disabilities can be leaders too.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

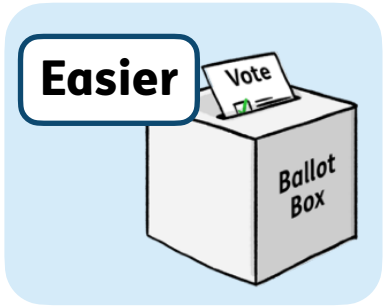


The **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is an agreement that countries will respect the rights of persons with disabilities.

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



The Convention says that countries must help persons with disabilities to take part in politics.

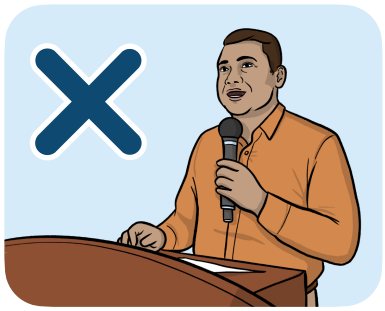


So far, most of this work has been about making it easier for persons with disabilities to vote.



But countries need to do more to help persons with disabilities become candidates and politicians.

Problems that persons with disabilities face

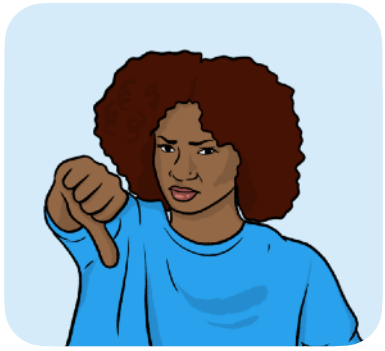


Persons with disabilities do not take part in politics as much as other people.



This is because they face lots of problems that make it harder to take part in politics.

These problems include:



- People having wrong and unfair beliefs about persons with disabilities.

  They may think that persons with disabilities cannot take part in politics or be leaders.

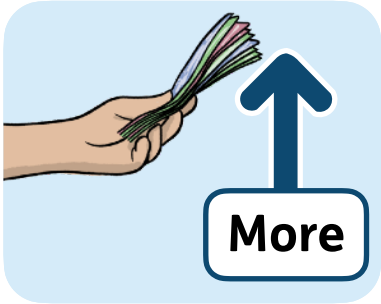


- Laws that stop some persons with disabilities from taking part in politics.

Persons with disabilities may also find it harder to take part in politics because of problems like:



- Not enough money to take part in politics.



This is because persons with disabilities have to spend more money on things they need for their disability.



- Not enough chances to learn about politics and become leaders.



- Not enough support to join or take part in **political parties**.

  A **political party** is an official group of people who have the same ideas about how a country should be run.



Politics is often not **accessible** enough for persons with disabilities.

Accessible means it is easy to use and suitable for people with different needs.



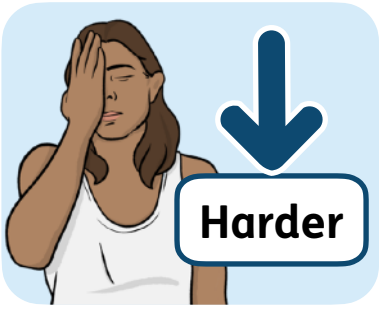
This makes it harder for persons with disabilities to start working in politics and stay in politics.



There is also not enough information about persons with disabilities who are politicians or candidates in elections.



This means that countries do not understand how to help persons with disabilities take part in politics more.

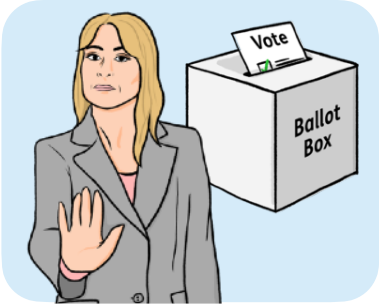


It is even harder for some persons with disabilities to take part in politics.

This may be because of things like their race, age or where they live.



Women with disabilities may be more likely to get harassed or attacked when they take part in politics.



Some countries will stop people from voting in elections if they cannot make decisions on their own.



This makes it harder for some people with learning disabilities to take part in making decisions that affect them.

What should happen next?

What countries should do

To help persons with disabilities take part in politics like everyone else, countries should:



- Help people understand that persons with disabilities can be leaders and take part in politics.

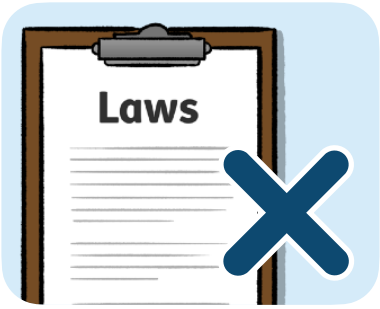


- Try to get people to stop saying unfair things about persons with disabilities when they talk about politics.



- Use surveys to collect more information about how many persons with disabilities are politicians or candidates.

Countries should also:



- Get rid of laws that stop persons with disabilities from becoming politicians.



- Talk to persons with disabilities to help make fairer rules about taking part in politics.



- Make **reasonable accommodations** for persons with disabilities who want to work in politics.

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

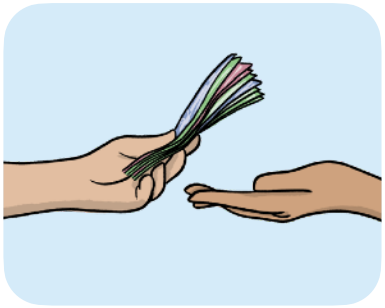


- Give political parties information on how to include persons with disabilities.

Countries should also:



- Share information about politics in ways that everyone can understand, like in Easy Read or braille.



- Give money to candidates with disabilities to help them pay for extra costs.



- Think about having rules to make sure enough persons with disabilities are working in politics.



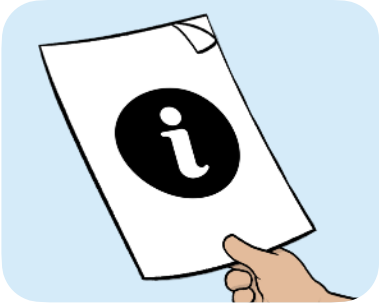
These rules should include persons with disabilities from different groups.

For example, women, young people and people from different races with disabilities.

Countries should also:



- Check the rules about elections to make sure that they are not unfair to persons with disabilities.



- Make sure that persons with disabilities can get information about politics and how to take part.



- Give people who work in politics training on disability rights and how to include persons with disabilities.

What other people and organizations should do

To help persons with disabilities take part in politics like everyone else, other people and organizations should:



- Make laws and rules that treat persons with disabilities fairly when they take part in politics.



- Include the rights of persons with disabilities in plans about how countries should be run.



- Work with other organizations to share ideas about helping persons with disabilities take part in politics.

Other people and organizations should also:



- Help organizations of persons with disabilities share information about politics and how to be a leader.



- Find and share good ways for countries to include persons with disabilities in politics.



- Help politicians with disabilities meet with each other and work together.

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