Article 8: Illustrative indicators on awareness-raising

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Raising awareness throughout society to respect the rights of persons with disabilities			
Attribute/type of indicator	**Combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices**	**Foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities**	**Promote awareness of the contributions of persons with disabilities**

Structure	8.1: No provision in legislation or policies that perpetuates stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities[a] 8.2: Existence of a comprehensive national disability awareness-raising strategy and/or plan aimed at combating stereotypes against persons with disabilities and promoting awareness about persons with disabilities and their rights[b] 8.3: A specific plan by media regulatory authorities to encourage the adoption by mass media and media outlets of: • Inclusive and accessible guidelines for the workplace and human resource procedures to welcome diversity • Guidelines for journalists on reporting on persons with disabilities[c] • Mechanisms for consultation with persons with disabilities, notably through their representative organizations, in the design, development and monitoring of their policies and practices	
	8.4: Enactment of legal measures that address hate crimes, hate speech and harmful practices[d] against persons with disabilities, including through criminally enforceable sanctions[e] 8.5: Enactment of legal measures that address the use of derogatory language and behaviour through proportionate sanctions	8.6: Human rights education and training programmes that include the rights of persons with disabilities and involve organizations of persons with disabilities representative of diverse constituencies[f]
Process	8.7: Number and type of multimedia awareness-raising activities on the rights of persons with disabilities and their contributions, disaggregated by type, duration and target group; and proportion of people who have gained access to them, disaggregated by age, sex, disability and geographical location[g] 8.8: Number and type of accessible and inclusive outreach activities targeting persons with disabilities[h] and informing them of their rights under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol and the national legal framework, disaggregated by type and geographical coverage of activities; and proportion of persons with disabilities who have gained access to those activities 8.9: Number of persons trained under State-run awareness-raising programmes for different actors[i] to foster respect for, and inform them of the rights of, persons with disabilities, including on combating stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices 8.10: Existence of content specifically addressing the inclusion of persons with disabilities and respect for their human rights as guaranteed under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the existence of gender mainstreaming[j] in the curricula of journalism schools and universities and in the communications industry 8.11: Number and proportion of public and private media companies that have adopted written policies, such as the code of ethics on reporting, addressing persons with disabilities	

	8.12: Number of consultation processes undertaken on the design, implementation and monitoring of laws, regulations, policies and programmes concerning raising awareness throughout society to respect the rights of persons with disabilities, and proportion of persons with disabilities who participated in these processes, disaggregated by age, sex, disability and geographical location[k] 8.13: Proportion of complaints received concerning the portrayal of persons of disabilities that have been investigated and adjudicated; proportion of those found in favour of the complainant; and proportion of the latter that have been complied with by the Government and/or duty bearer; each disaggregated by type of mechanism	
	8.14: Proportion of justice, administration and law enforcement personnel having received training on disability hate crimes and on combating harmful practices and disability stereotypes 8.15: Number and proportion of hate crime and hate speech incidents reported, investigated and resulting in a conviction, disaggregated by the victim's sex, age and disability, where applicable 8.16: Proportion of incidents of harmful practices reported and prosecuted and the proportion that led to a conviction, disaggregated by the victim's sex, age and disability	8.17: Proportion of human rights education and training programmes that include the rights of persons with disabilities, disaggregated by general programme or disability-specific programme
Outcome	8.18: Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 10.3.1), disaggregated by sex, age and disability 8.19: Percentage of students experiencing bullying, corporal punishment, harassment, violence, sexual discrimination and abuse, by sex, age, disability, type of educational institution (public/private, primary/secondary/tertiary/vocational) (based on an indicator of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO))	
	8.20: Proportion of persons within the general population reporting a negative perception of persons with disabilities, disaggregated by disability[l] (see also indicator 30.27 on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)	8.21: Number and proportion of persons with disabilities in the media appearing as news anchors, spokespersons, experts and "ordinary" citizens in news and current affairs content, disaggregated by sex, age and disability

[a] This requires repealing provisions with derogatory language, concepts and premises based on ableism, including eugenics, or any other discourse that diminishes the equal dignity and value of life of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and/or maintains inequality, exclusion and the justification of discriminatory practices against them, such as provisions allowing for forced treatment, forced sterilization, institutionalization and medical experimentation on persons with disabilities. See report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the impact of ableism in medical and scientific practice (A/HRC/43/41); and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on awareness-raising under article 8 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (A/HRC/43/27).

[b] The plan or strategy should include provisions on:

- Combating stigmatization and exclusion based on negative beliefs or attitudes concerning persons with disabilities, including those based on customary, religious or medical world views
- Training and education for communication and media professionals on the human rights-based approach to disability
- Media coverage to raise the visibility of persons with disabilities in society that fosters their positive image and capabilities in inclusive settings

- Media coverage to raise awareness about systemic or pervasive human rights violations against persons with disabilities
- Securing the support of public officials, including from the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government with regard to raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities concerning and in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, including refraining from supporting and funding campaigns, publicly or privately run, based on the charity or medical models of disability
- Making the Convention available in national languages, including sign language and indigenous and minority languages, and in a variety of formats, such as Easy Read and child friendly versions

[c] With the objective of preventing the perpetuation of negative stereotypes, debunking myths, combating attitudes of intolerance and discrimination against persons with disabilities, ensuring respect for the equal dignity and value of life of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity, and seeking a multiplicity of sources and voices of persons with disabilities.

[d] Harmful practices are those that are persistent practices and forms of behaviour that are grounded in discrimination on the basis of, among other things, sex, gender and age, in addition to multiple and/or intersecting forms of discrimination that often involve violence and cause physical and/or psychological harm or suffering (Joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on harmful practices (2014), para. 15). Harmful practices against persons with disabilities can be based on disability, as well as other factors. See the 2009 interim report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment (A/63/175).

[e] The legislation should specifically include:

- Provisions on disability hate crimes, including disability-based violence, bullying, harassment and harmful practices, by public or private actors, to be applicable under criminal law
- Sanctions against inciting discrimination against persons with disabilities in the media, including by promoting and/or inciting harmful practices
- Provisions abolishing harmful practices against persons with disabilities, including women and children, in particular invasive and irreversible involuntary treatments, and practices linked to witchcraft accusations
- Provisions to abolish and eliminate derogatory language about persons with disabilities within laws, policies and government discourse

[f] For more information on human rights education and training and specific indicators, see *Human Rights Education Indicator Framework* of the Global Coalition for Human Rights Education (2020).

[g] Including the general public, public officials, media outlets, journalists, the private sector, community and religious leaders, women and girls with disabilities, and marginalized groups of persons with disabilities.

[h] Including women with disabilities, children and youth with disabilities, and persons with disabilities from marginalized and excluded communities and those living in rural areas.

[i] Such as the general public, public officials, members of media monitoring bodies, media outlets, journalists, the private sector, community and religious leaders, women and girls with disabilities, and marginalized groups of persons with disabilities.

[j] Information on gender sensitivity can be found in United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), *Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media: Framework of Indicators to Gauge Gender Sensitivity in Media Operations and Content* (Paris, 2012).

[k] This indicator requires verifying concrete activities undertaken by public authorities to involve persons with disabilities in decision-making processes related to issues that directly or indirectly affect them in line with article 4 (3) of the Convention and general comment No. 7 (2018) of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including consultation meetings, technical briefings, online consultation surveys, and calls for comments on draft legislation and policies, among other methods and mechanisms of participation. In this regard, States must:

- Ensure that consultation processes are transparent and accessible

- Ensure the provision of appropriate and accessible information
- Not withhold information or condition or prevent representatives of persons with disabilities from freely expressing their opinions
- Include both registered and unregistered organizations
- Ensure early and continuous involvement of persons with disabilities
- Cover related expenses of participants

[l] This could be assessed through the use of specific perception surveys, such as those based on the Social Distance Scale. See, for instance, Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations Development Programme, "Study on equality perceptions and attitudes in the Republic of Moldova" (2015).