Visit to Kyrgyzstan



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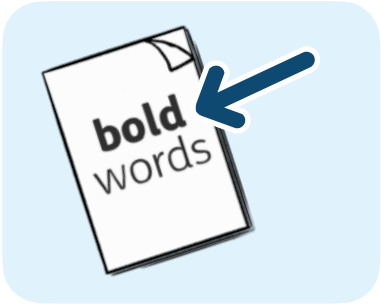
Easy Read



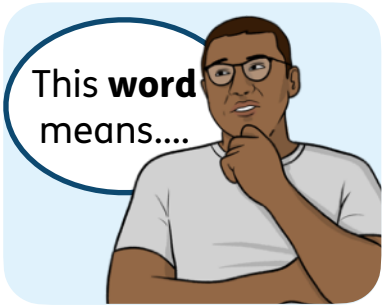
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



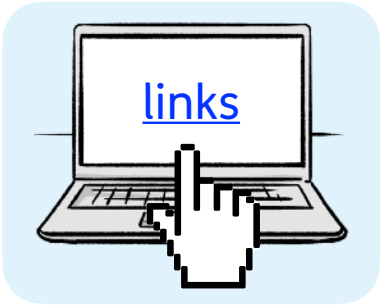
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



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.

What is in this booklet

About this report....4

Kyrgyzstan....5

The Convention....6

Living independently....14

Money....16

Jobs....17

Learning....18

Health....20

Women and girls with disabilities....22

Taking part in politics....25

What should happen....26

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.



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



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.

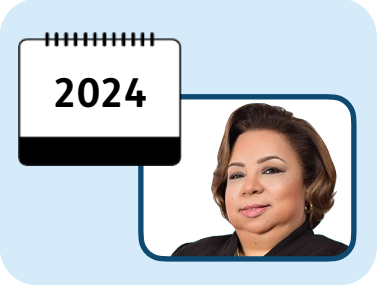


This is a report about the Special Rapporteur's visit to Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan



Kyrgyzstan is a country in Asia.



The Special Rapporteur visited from 23 September to 3 October 2024.



She met with many people. This included people from the government, local leaders and groups that help people.



She visited places where people with disabilities live and places where children with disabilities go to school.

The Convention



The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an agreement to make sure people with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else.

In this report, we will call it **the Convention**.



Kyrgyzstan has agreed to the Convention.



The Special Rapporteur has some ideas for how Kyrgyzstan can follow the Convention.

Treating people differently



The law in Kyrgyzstan says that it is wrong to treat people badly because of a disability.



But the laws are not strong enough.



People often have to go to court to make sure their rights are respected.



But it can be hard for people with disabilities to go to court.



So some people still treat people with disabilities badly.

Laws and plans



The government has made a plan called the "Accessible Country" programme.



This plan is about making sure people with disabilities can get to places and use services.



But the plan does not cover all the rights and rules in the Convention.



Some people in the government have started to make a new law about the rights of people with disabilities.



They should include groups of people with disabilities when they write this law.

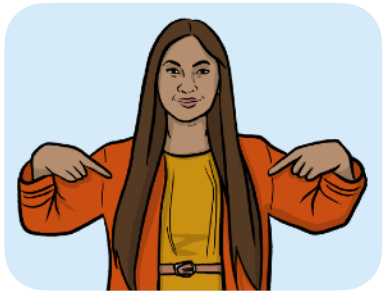
How the government works



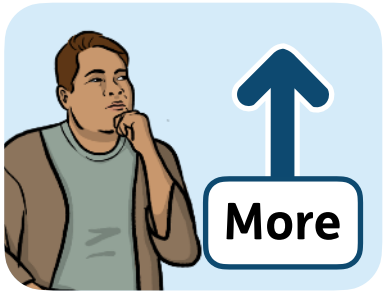
The government has a new group called the Council for Persons with Disabilities.



This group is part of the government and it gives advice on how to help people with disabilities.

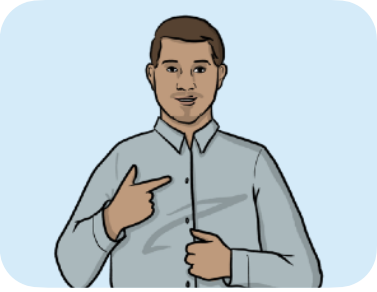


The Council is important because it lets people with disabilities have a say in plans and decisions that concern them.



But the Council needs more help if it is going to make a big difference.

Taking part



People with disabilities have to take part in making choices.



Groups of people with disabilities need support to get their right to take part.



It is important to listen to many different groups of people with disabilities.



There is a new law, called the **Law on Foreign Representatives**. It affects groups that are not out to make money, like groups of people with disabilities.



This law might stop groups of people with disabilities from speaking up about problems faced by people with disabilities.

Collecting information



The government has information that says 217,000 people in Kyrgyzstan have a disability.



But the real number is probably much more.



This means that the government does not know about many people with disabilities, and what they need.



The government should collect information about people with disabilities.

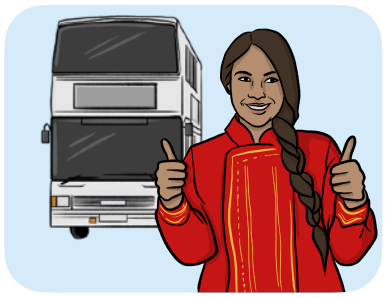


They should find out what stops people with disabilities from taking part.

Accessibility



Accessibility means how easy it is for people with disabilities to do things like get around and understand information.



The government has worked to make buildings, buses and trains easier for people with disabilities to use.



But they need to make sure that all new buildings, buses and trains follow these rules.

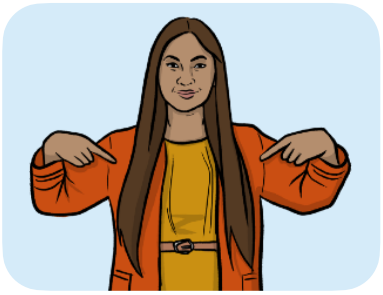


The government is planning to use the internet to make it easier for people with disabilities to use services.

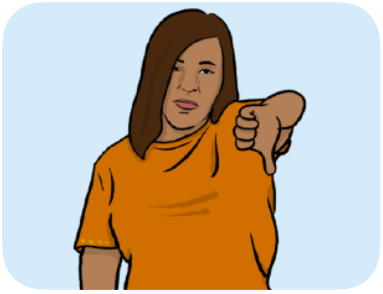


But they need to make sure that people with disabilities can use the internet.

Making choices



It is very important for people with disabilities to be able to make their own choices.



But in Kyrgyzstan, people with disabilities cannot always make choices for themselves.



People with disabilities are more likely to be hurt or treated badly when they cannot make their own choices.



People with disabilities also have trouble getting help from the police and courts.



There should be better rules to help them.

Living independently



It can be hard for people with disabilities to live independently in Kyrgyzstan.



Many people with disabilities, including children, live in places called **institutions**.



People who live in institutions are not allowed to leave and have to follow a strict routine every day.



The care and services provided at these places focus on basic needs like food and staying clean and healthy.



But there are not many chances to have fun or learn.



Having people living in institutions is unfair.



Kyrgyzstan does not have a plan to move people out of these places.

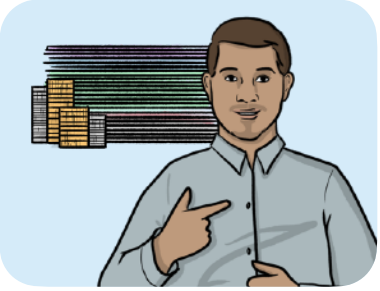


With support, people can live independently.

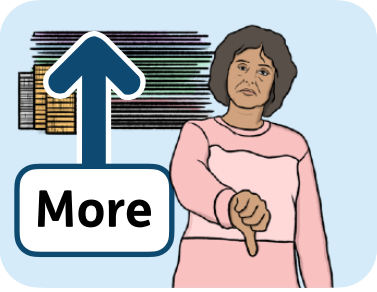


The government should spend money on this.

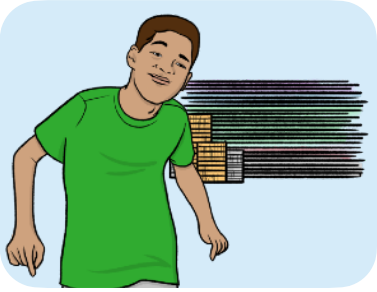
Money



Some people with disabilities get money from the government to help them.



The government has increased the money, but for many people, it is still not enough to live on.



To help poor families with children with disabilities, the government gives them money, which is called **child allowance**.

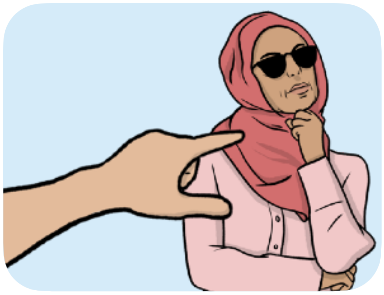


But the allowance is not enough to pay for all the extra costs of disabilities.

Jobs



People with disabilities have a hard time finding jobs.



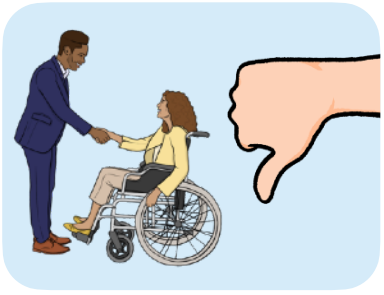
People with disabilities said that they are treated unfairly at work.



For example, they might not get a job if the company sees that they have a disability.



There are laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities to have a job.



But there are no rules to help people with disabilities get a job.

Learning



There is a new law in Kyrgyzstan.



The law says that children with disabilities should be able to go to school with other children.

This is called **inclusive education**.



The law also says that schools should have things like ramps for children who use wheelchairs.



But some children with disabilities are still not able to go to school with other children.



The government runs schools for children with disabilities.



When the Special Rapporteur visited 2 of these schools, the children wanted to learn and play.



But they did not have good books or things to learn with.

Health



People with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan can get free help to stay healthy.



The government are planning to build new hospitals across the country.



But people with disabilities say that they cannot always get the health care they need.



Health workers do not always understand disabilities, which means that they do not treat people well.



The services to help people with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan are not good enough and need to get better.



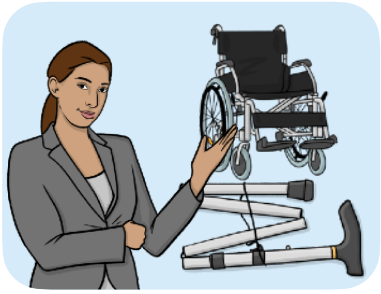
The government is trying to make health services better. They opened one new centre for children with disabilities.



The centre helps children learn skills they can use at home.



But more services like this are needed all across Kyrgyzstan, and also for adults with disabilities.



People with disabilities need things to help them live independently.

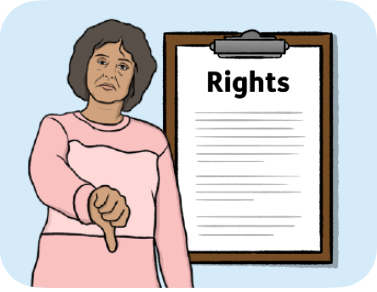


But these things are hard to get, and often not very good.

Women and girls with disabilities



There are many things that make life harder for women and girls with disabilities.



Women and girls with disabilities often have more problems with their rights than men and boys with disabilities.

Feeling safe



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



Some reports show that only a small number of women and girls with disabilities feel safe when they are out in public.



Women and girls with disabilities often do not tell the police if they have been hurt.



This is because the police do not always help them.

Health



Many women and girls with disabilities have not seen a **gynaecologist** in years.

A **gynaecologist** is a doctor who works in women's health.



This is because they cannot get to the doctor or because the doctor is not nice to them.



Women and girls with disabilities have the right to choose if and when they want to have children.

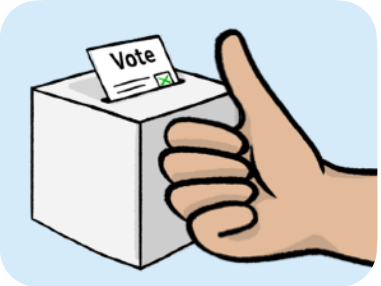


But, people often try to stop women and girls with disabilities from having children.

Taking part in politics



The law in Kyrgyzstan says that information about voting must be easy to understand.



The government says that voting places have got easier for people with disabilities to use.



The law says that political parties must have at least 2 people with disabilities on their list of people to vote for.



But people with disabilities are often asked to leave space for other people.



This means that not many people with disabilities are in politics.

What should happen



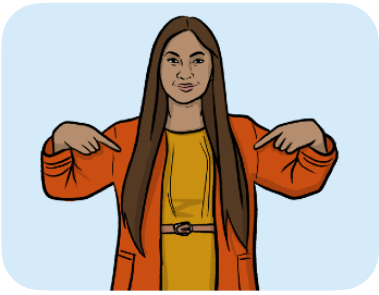
The Special Rapporteur has some ideas for what the government should do.

Making better laws

The government should:



- Make sure their laws follow the Convention.



- Tell the public about the rights of people with disabilities.



- Work with groups of people with disabilities to write a law about their rights.

The government should:



- Spend more money on the “Accessible Country” programme.



- Think about the rights of people with disabilities when they make new laws and invest money to make the country better.



- Make a way to check that people are getting their rights.



- Have more staff who can check that people with disabilities are getting their rights.

Treating people fairly

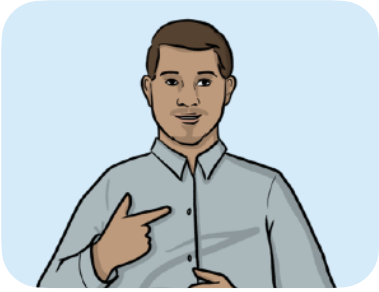
The government should:



- Write laws to stop people being treated unfairly.



- Get rid of laws that stop people with disabilities from making choices for themselves.



- Write laws saying that people with disabilities have the right to make choices for themselves.



- Support people to make choices for themselves.



- Make courts easier for people with disabilities to use.

Taking part

The government should:



- Support groups of people with disabilities to speak up for people's rights.



- Get rid of the Law on Foreign Representatives.



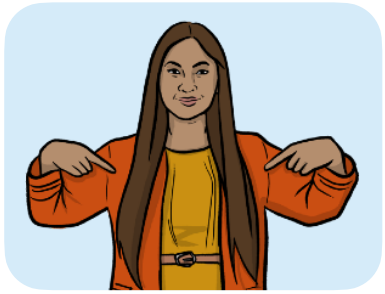
- Make the rules stronger to make political parties choose people with disabilities to run in elections.

Collecting information

The government should:



- Look at the information they have, to find out how many people with disabilities are in Kyrgyzstan.



- Learn more about the lives of people with disabilities.

Accessibility

The government should:



- Make new buildings easier for people with disabilities to use.



- Write a plan to make older buildings easier for people to use.



- Write information for services, explaining how to make them easier for people with disabilities to use.



- Make sure that all services follow accessibility rules.



- Do more to make sure people with disabilities can understand information.

Living independently

The government should:



- Write a plan to stop using institutions.



- Help people with disabilities who have been treated badly and hurt in institutions and punish those responsible.



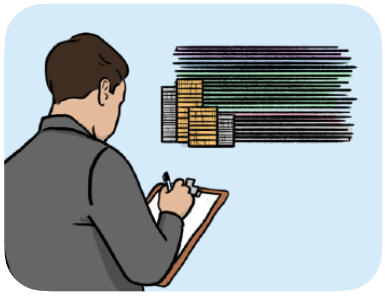
- Change the rules about living independently, to make them follow the Convention.



- Make it easier to get items that help people with disabilities to live independently.

Money

The government should:



- Look at the extra costs of disabilities, and support people with these costs.



- Work on better ways to decide what support people with disabilities need.

Learning

The government should:



- Write a plan for making sure all children with disabilities can learn in schools with other children.



- Make sure that schools are accessible for children with disabilities.



- Make sure that children who find it hard to hear can get a good education and get the items they need to join schools.



- Make universities more accessible.

Jobs

The government should:



- Look at rules that make companies and organisations hire some people with disabilities.



- Write plans to help more people with disabilities get jobs.



- Work with private businesses to include people with disabilities at work and in society.

Health

The government should:



- Pay for more health services across the country for people with disabilities.



- Make sure that all people with disabilities can get help in an emergency.



- Train health workers about the rights of people with disabilities.



- Get rid of laws that say that people with disabilities can get treatments that they do not want.

Women and girls with disabilities

The government should:



- Work with groups of women with disabilities to make sure they are included in plans to treat women and girls fairly.



- Make sure that women and girls with disabilities can get help from the police and courts.



- Give women and girls with disabilities accessible information about their bodies and their rights.



- Make sure that women and girls with disabilities can make the choice to have children for themselves.

The UN

The UN should:



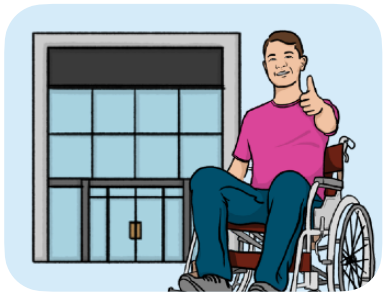
- Work with groups of people with disabilities.



- Support people with disabilities who are most likely to be treated badly.



- Make sure that they respect people's rights when they support them.



- Make sure that UN offices are easy for people with disabilities to use.

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