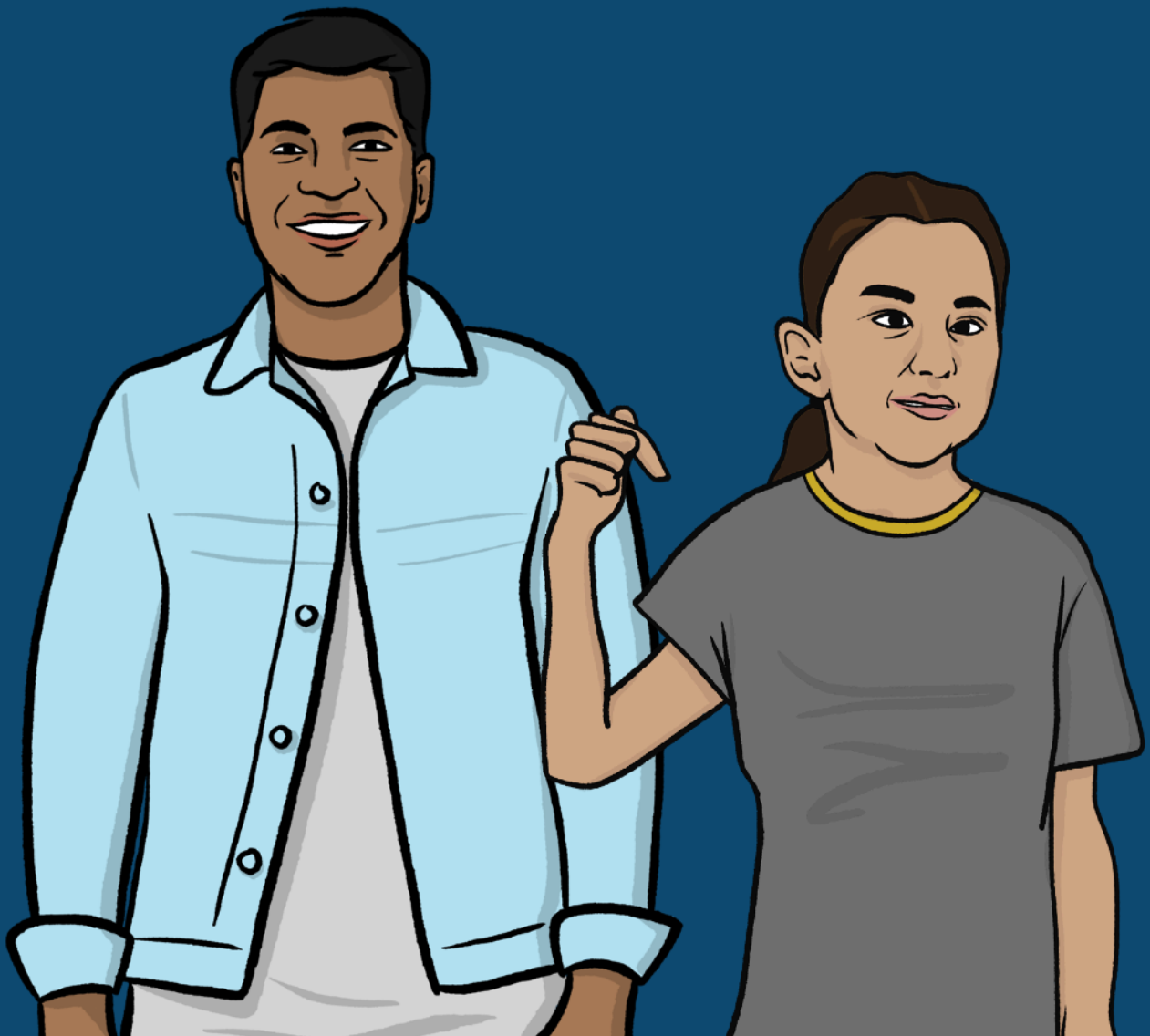
Easy Read

Visit to Colombia



Easy Read



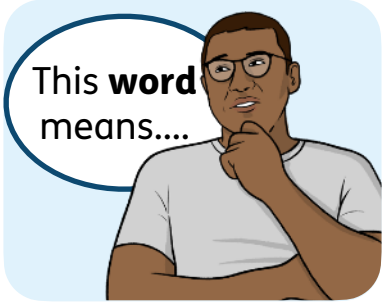
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



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 report



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.



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.

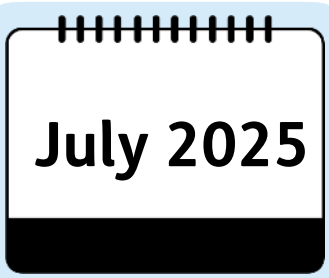


This is a report about the Special Rapporteur's visit to Colombia.

Colombia



Colombia is a country in South America.



The Special Rapporteur visited from 14 July to 25 July 2025.



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



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



She also visited a prison where there were prisoners with disabilities.

The Convention



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

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



Colombia has agreed to the Convention.



The Special Rapporteur thought about how Colombia can get better at following the Convention.

Problems in Colombia



Colombia is a big country with lots of different types of places and people.



Colombia has some good laws and plans that help persons with disabilities with their rights.



But these laws and plans are not always followed in all parts of Colombia.



This is because it is hard to make laws that work for all the different people and places in Colombia

It is especially hard to make laws and plans that work in:



- **Rural areas** - these are areas in the countryside where not many people live.



- Areas with a lot of violence.



There is a lot of violence in Colombia.

This hurts lots of people, including persons with disabilities.



The violence has also caused more people in Colombia to have disabilities.



There are still many problems in Colombia that make life harder for persons with disabilities.



Many roads, buildings and services in Colombia are not **accessible**.

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



There is not enough information about persons with disabilities in Colombia.

It is harder for persons with disabilities to:



- Take part in making rules and plans that affect them.



- Make choices to do things like get married or open a bank account.

It is also harder for persons with disabilities to:



- Get **justice** - this means being treated fairly by the law, including the police and courts.



- Get good healthcare, support and equipment that they need for their disability.



These problems are made worse because many people have wrong and unfair beliefs about persons with disabilities.

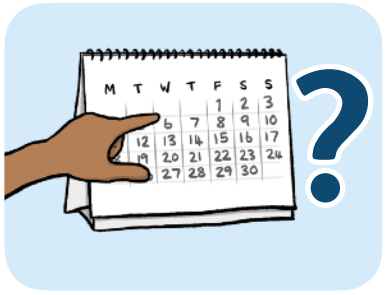


This includes people who work for the police, courts and health services.

How the government works



The **Ministry of Equality and Equity** is a part of the government that makes laws and plans for persons with disabilities.



But it is not clear if the Ministry will still exist in the future.



The government has a group called the **National Disability Council**.

This group gives advice on how to help persons with disabilities.



But when the Special Rapporteur visited, the National Disability Council did not have any members.

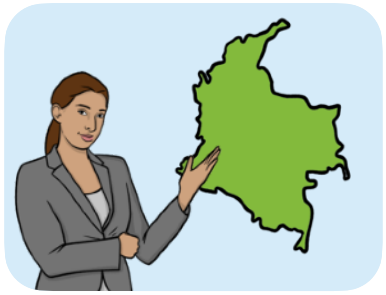


The government did not know when new members would be chosen.



The National Disability Council is part of the **National Disability System**.

This is all the different parts of the government that work together to make life better for persons with disabilities.



The National Disability System includes local councils that help persons with disabilities in different areas of Colombia.



But these local councils do not always work well.

What should happen?



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

Making better laws

The government should:



- Agree to the **Optional Protocol** of the Convention.

  The **Optional Protocol** is an extra part of the convention that gives persons with disabilities more rights.



- Make sure the Ministry of Equality and Equity is strong and works well.



- Make sure the public understands the rights of persons with disabilities.

The government should also:



- Follow new rules about persons with disabilities straight away.



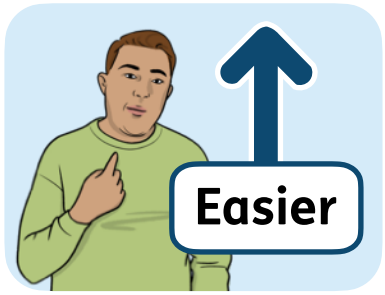
- Write a plan to make sure that Colombia follows the Convention.

Including persons with disabilities

The government should:



- Make it safer and easier to run organizations that support persons with disabilities.



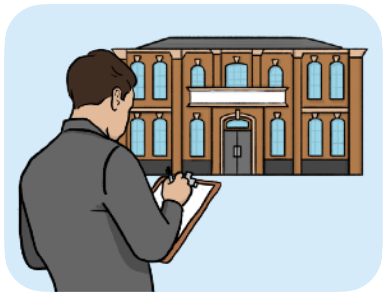
- Make the National Disability System better and easier for persons with disabilities to take part in.



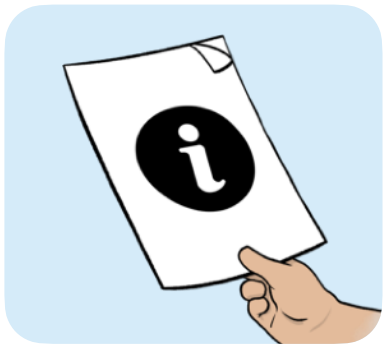
The government should also help the National Disability Council do its job well and include persons with all types of disability.

Making things accessible

The government should:



- Make sure that roads, buildings and public services are accessible enough for persons with disabilities.



- Share information in ways that persons with different disabilities can understand.

  This could include using sign language or Easy Read.

Collecting information



The government should:

- Make and follow a plan for collecting information about disability.



- Make it easier for persons with disabilities in rural areas to get **disability certificates**.

  A **disability certificate** is a document from the government that says you have a disability.



A disability certificate can help persons with disabilities get the right support and services.

Helping people make choices and get justice



Colombia has a law that allows persons with disabilities to make their own choices and get support to do this.



The government should make sure that everyone knows about this law, and that it is followed properly.

The government should also:

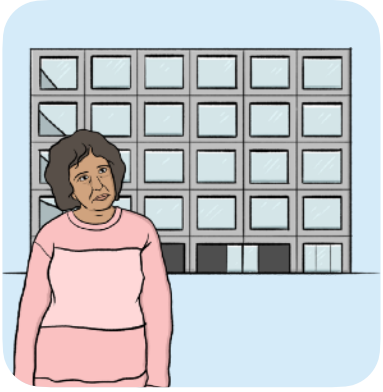


- Make sure that the police, courts and the public understand how to support persons with disabilities.



- Make sure that persons with disabilities can get justice.

Independent living



Some persons with learning disabilities and mental health issues are forced to live in **institutions.**

Institutions are places where some people stay to get care, instead of getting care in their community.



The government should:

- Make a new plan to close institutions and give better care in local areas.



- Share information about how many persons with disabilities live in institutions.



- Make sure that persons with disabilities can make their own choices about their care.



The government should also support and pay for **personal assistants**.

Personal assistants are professionals who help persons with disabilities live on their own in their local area.

Jobs

The government should:



- Make sure that persons with disabilities can get jobs.



- Run training courses to help persons with disabilities get jobs.



- Work with businesses and organizations to stop persons with disabilities from being treated unfairly.

Education

The government should:



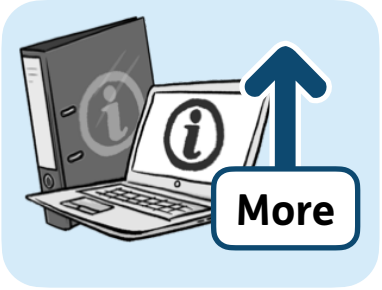
- Make sure that laws about including everyone in education are followed properly.



- Give more support to schools in rural areas and areas with lots of violence.



- Make it easier for young persons with disabilities to go to university.



- Collect more information about persons with disabilities who are in schools.

Emergencies and violence



An **emergency** is when something very bad happens, and you have to deal with it straight away.

This could include things like floods.

The government should:



- Make sure that persons with disabilities hurt by violence get the right support and treatment.



- Make sure that different hospitals and health services work together to support these persons.



- Include persons with disabilities in plans to deal with emergencies when they happen.

Women and girls

The government should:



- Help women and girls with disabilities look after their **sexual and reproductive health**.

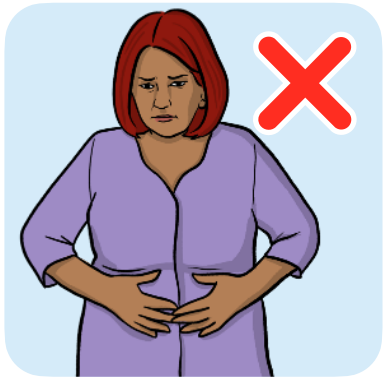
  Sexual and reproductive health is about looking after your body when you have sex or have children.



- Think about how disability affects violence against women and girls.



- Make sure that women and girls with disabilities have a fair chance to get justice.

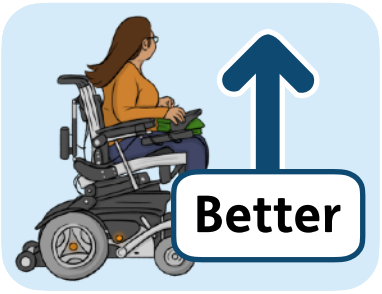


The government should also stop **forced sterilization and contraception**, and make this a crime.

This is when you are forced to have an operation or take medicine to stop you from having children.

Improving services

The government should:



- Make it easier for persons with disabilities to get good equipment and use public services.



- Give health staff training on the rights of persons with disabilities.



- Give people support with their mental health conditions in their local area.



- Collect information about persons with autism.



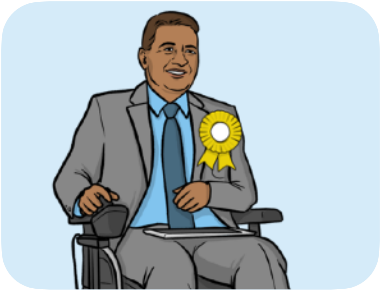
- Find out how much more money it costs for persons with disabilities to live.

Politics

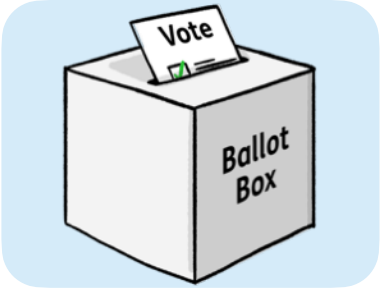


Politics is about how a country is run and the decisions that are made in that country.

The government should:



- Make sure that persons with disabilities in Colombia can take part in politics and work as politicians.



- Make sure that it is easy for persons with disabilities to get information about elections and vote in elections.



- Think about making rules about how many persons with disabilities should work in politics.

United Nations organizations

United Nations organisations should:



- Make sure that persons with disabilities can use United Nations offices and buildings in Colombia.



- Include persons with disabilities and their needs in their work and plans.



This is especially important for United Nations organizations that help people in emergencies.

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