

## **International Disability Alliance (IDA)**

Member Organizations:

Disabled Peoples' International, Down Syndrome International,  
Inclusion International, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People,  
World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf,  
World Federation of the DeafBlind,  
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry,  
Arab Organization of Disabled People, European Disability Forum,  
Red Latinoamericana de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales de Personas con  
Discapacidad y sus familias (RIADIS), Pacific Disability Forum

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### **Suggestions for disability-relevant recommendations to be included in the Concluding Observations of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women 48th Session (17 January -4 February 2011)**

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) has prepared the following suggestions for the Concluding Observations, based on references to persons with disabilities to be found in the state report and list of issues.

#### **LIECHTENSTEIN**

Liechtenstein has not ratified nor signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

#### **Select references to persons with disabilities in the State report and list of issues:**

##### **[State Report](#)**

#### **Equality Act for People with Disabilities**

On 1 January 2007, the **Equality Act for People with Disabilities** entered into force. The law is an important precondition for efficient measures against multiple discrimination of **women with disabilities**. To ensure implementation of the law, an **Office for the Equality of People with Disabilities** has been established at the **Liechtenstein Association of People with Disabilities**. In collaboration with the **Office for the Equality of People with Disabilities**, the Office of Equal Opportunity has launched several projects, including a study on the **“Social Situation of People with Disabilities in Liechtenstein”** and guidance entitled **“Accessible Liechtenstein”**. The guidance provides information on the accessibility of public buildings in Liechtenstein. Since September 2006, the Office of Equal Opportunity has accompanied an editorial team composed primarily of **people with disabilities**, most of whom are women. Each year, the editorial team designs and publishes five to eight newspaper pages in both national newspapers under the heading “mittendrin”. With their newspaper contribution, the “mittendrin” editorial team aims to raise awareness of the concerns and needs of **people with disabilities**.

#### **Measures against multiple discrimination**

Participatory cooperation and dialogue with foreigners' organizations, organizations working in the field of **disability**, and FLay – the Association for Gays and Lesbians in Liechtenstein and the Rhine Valley were cultivated more intensively in Liechtenstein. This approach helps combat multiple discrimination...

#### **Development cooperation**

The principle of solidarity with people who are disadvantaged with respect to their circumstances and quality of life and the protection and preservation of the interests of these people are the starting point and goal of Liechtenstein's engagement within the framework of

International Humanitarian Development and Cooperation (IHDC). The principles, goals, and core responsibilities of Liechtenstein IHDC are set out in the International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development Act (IHDC Act), which entered into force on 29 June 2007. Article 1, paragraph 4 of the IHDC Act expressly emphasizes the promotion and protection of vulnerable groups, such as women: “Cooperation is carried out on a broad basis and according to the principle of non-discrimination. The promotion and protection of vulnerable groups, in particular women, children, **people with disabilities**, and older persons, shall be taken specially into account.” As an overarching topic, the area of gender plays a very important role in development cooperation projects. Additionally, Liechtenstein makes voluntary contributions to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and other projects for the protection and promotion of women that are conducted by international organizations such as the Council of Europe and the OSCE (see Contributions by Liechtenstein to Women’s Projects, Appendix 2).

### **Equal Opportunity Prize**

In addition to legal and institutional measures, awareness-raising measures and the promotion of private initiatives are key tools of Liechtenstein equality policy. For instance, the Equal Opportunity Prize offered by the Government each year since 2000 recognizes activities relating to the advancement of women and since 2008 also activities relating to **disabilities**, migration/integration, age, social disadvantages, and sexual orientation. To take account of the promotion of gender equality, project applicants are called upon to apply the gender mainstreaming strategy in the development and implementation of their projects. The 2008 prize was awarded to the **Liechtenstein Association for People With Disabilities** and its “Talent Swap Meet” project, the 2009 prize to the Gutenberg Education House for its “Intercultural Competence Course”. The call for applications for the Equal Opportunity Prize is sent directly to about 600 businesses, administrative offices, and organizations in Liechtenstein.

### [List of Issues](#)

#### **Disadvantaged groups of women**

30. The report indicates that one of the objectives of the State Employees Act is support for integration and employment of **people with disabilities** (p. 12). Please provide information on measures taken to improve the employability of **women with disabilities** and on results achieved through their implementation, as well as on the impact of the entering into force of the **Equality Act for People with Disabilities** in January 2007 (p. 13) on the improvement of the situation of **women with disabilities** in all relevant areas covered by the Convention.

### [Reply to List of Issues](#)

5. ...

#### Gender mainstreaming

No additional projects in gender mainstreaming have been launched since submission of the periodic report in 2009. It should be noted, however, that the Equal Opportunity Prize has for several years no longer been awarded exclusively in the field of gender equality. With the expansion of the prize to include **disabilities**, sexual orientation, age and migration/integration, gender mainstreaming criteria have been introduced for the entire project.

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#### **Nursing and care allowance**

On 1 January 2010, the new Ordinance on Nursing and Care Allowance for Domestic Care (BPGV) entered into force. Relatives of a person in need of nursing and care within the family can contact a specialized office. The office offers competent counselling and, together with the family's physician and the caregivers in the home, develops a care and nursing

concept. The degree of need of care and nursing is ascertained and the level of performance is defined. On the basis of the care and nursing concept and the recommended amount of the nursing and care allowance, the Old Age and Survivors Insurance/**Disability Insurance** office dispenses the funds. The nursing allowance was also increased to CHF 180.00 per day. Thanks to the overall package, private 24-hour care has been improved.

### **Disadvantaged groups of women**

*30. The report indicates that most of **persons with disabilities** are women (see p. 20 of the report) and that one of the State Employees Act objectives is support for integration and employment of **people with disabilities** (see p. 18 of the report). Please provide information on measures taken to improve the employability of women with disabilities and results achieved through their implementation, as well as on the impact of the entering into force of the **Equality Act for People with Disabilities** in January 2007 on the improvement of the situation of **women with disabilities** in all relevant areas covered by the Convention.*

Firstly, the employability of **women with disabilities** is improved with the following educational offerings:

The Alpstein Education Club offers adult education for **people with mental disabilities** in the Swiss cantons of St. Gallen and Appenzell and the Principality of Liechtenstein. The educational offerings are advertised twice a year. The current offerings range from a computer course and self-determination to wheelchair dancing and language and massage courses. The Therapeutic-Pedagogical Centre in Liechtenstein offers courses on the topics of cultural techniques and orientation in the environment for employees in the workshops. The Liechtenstein Seniors Association has operated a Computeria since 2002. Seniors help each other with problems relating to computers. **People with disabilities** are also welcome. Through the Social Pedagogical Office, the **Liechtenstein Association of People with Disabilities** supports and accompanies **people with disabilities** in regard to continuing education and facilitates course attendance by providing financial support. The State of Liechtenstein supports the educational wishes of a deaf woman by funding a **sign language interpreter** during classroom instruction.

Secondly, various measures and projects aim to make the job search more successful for **women with disabilities**:

The Brandis Work and Integration Project (ABP), an initiative of the Association for Assisted Living, offers services for professional rehabilitation and integration with training opportunities in various activity areas. ABP also offers care at the external workplace as a means to secure employment. Liechtenstein **Disability Insurance** supports potential employment with various services. It offers career counselling, assumes the additional costs for professional basic and continuing employment due to **disability** and funds trial employment relationships to assess employability. With capital assistance, it encourages **disabled persons** to start up their own business. Wage subsidies motivate businesses to employ people with reduced work performance. An important instrument is early assessment. The purpose is to prevent **disability** cases to the extent possible thanks to early intervention and reintegration measures. The Social Pedagogical Office of the **Liechtenstein Association of People with Disabilities** supports persons seeking work by means of meticulous joint consideration of realistic employment options and demands at the future workplace and it helps in the job search.

Based on the experience of the Social Pedagogical Office, the chances of success in finding employment on the primary labour market for **people with disabilities** are very modest, despite the broadly based efforts.

### **Recommendations from IDA**

- To collect adequate data on women and girls with disabilities and use disaggregated data and results of studies to develop policies and programmes to promote equal opportunities for them in society.
- To adopt measures to ensure that women with disabilities are consulted and participate in leadership roles in policy development.
- To raise awareness and provide more information about women and girls with disabilities, who are often subjected to multiple forms of discrimination, especially with regard to access to education, employment, access to health care and violence.
- To address the heightened risk for girls and women with disabilities of becoming victims of domestic violence and abuse, and adopt urgent measures to ensure that both services and information for victims are made accessible to women and girls with disabilities living in institutions and the community.
- To adopt measures in the law to ensure that both children and adult education is inclusive and accessible to children and adults with disabilities, such as the obligatory training of all teachers, providing assistive devices and support, inclusive and accessible educational materials and curricula, and allocating budget for all of the above.
- To adopt measures to ensure that all health care and services, provided to persons with disabilities, including all mental health care and services, is based on the free and informed consent of the person concerned, and that involuntary treatment and confinement are not permitted by law in accordance with the latest international standards.
- To adopt measures to ensure that all information, healthcare and services relating to sexual and reproductive health are made accessible to women and girls with disabilities, and that they are respectful of the dignity and integrity of persons with disabilities based on the free and informed consent of the individual concerned, and that consensual treatment such as the administration of contraception, or fertility treatments are not denied, while all non-consensual treatment, including that for which consent is given by a third party, is not permitted by law (including *inter alia* forced abortions, forced contraception, and forced sterilisation).
- To consider acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.