

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

Suggestions for disability-relevant recommendations to be included in the Concluding Observations CEDAW Committee 51st session (13 February - 2 March 2012)

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, list of issues, replies, and treaty body concluding observations (see annex).

GRENADA

Grenada has signed but not yet ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

State Report

Selected references to persons with disabilities in the state report:

Seventeen agencies and organisations were involved: Agency for Rural Transformation, Baha'i Faith, Grenada Baptist Women's Group, Grenada Nurses Association, Grenada Save the Children Fund, Grenada Homemakers Association, Grenada Community Development Agency, **Grenada Council for the Disabled**, Grenada Food and Nutrition Council, Grenada Planned Parenthood Association, Grenada Trade Union Council, Grenada Union of Teachers, Group of Concerned Women, International Women's Club, National Children's Home (Action for Children), Soroptimist International of Grenada, and Young Women's Christian Association.

Inter Agency Group of Development Organisations (IAGDO)

The IAGDO is the umbrella grouping of development non-governmental organisations in Grenada. It was formed in 1988 with the objective of providing a united and collaborative approach to community development. The seven members of IAGDO are the Agency for Rural Transformation (ART), Grenada Community Development Agency (GRENCODA), Grenada Education and Development Programme (GRENED), **Grenada National Council for the Disabled (GNCD)**, Grenada National Organisation of Women (GNOW), Grenada Save the Children Development Agency (GRENSAVE) and New Life Organisation (NEWLO).

1.3 The Constitution also prohibits discrimination by law and by persons acting as agents of the state. This is done in Article 13 which also defines discrimination...

(3) In this section, the expression "discriminatory" means affording different treatment to different persons attributable wholly or mainly to their respective descriptions by race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex whereby persons of one such description are subjected to **disabilities** or restrictions to which persons of another such description are not

made subject or are accorded privileges or advantages which are not accorded to persons of another such description.

13.7 The Government provides safety net programmes for persons in vulnerable circumstances, usually **persons with disabilities**, the elderly, and heads and members of poor and indigent households. Officials indicate that a majority of the recipients are women. An analysis on each programme is required to determine the ratio of recipients by sex and vulnerable category.

[List of issues](#)

18. The report is silent on the situation of older women, women with disabilities, refugee women, and migrant women. Please provide information on the economic and social situation of these groups of women and the measures in place to support them. Please also elaborate on their access to education, employment, and health services as well as protection from violence and access to justice. Please indicate whether the State party is considering acceding to the Refugee Convention of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol.

[Replies to list of issues](#)

13. There is no specific programme to encourage girls to enter a wider range of disciplines, but discrimination is prohibited by law. The Education Act, 2001, Section III (27) states: "Subject to this Act, no person who is eligible for admission to an educational institution as a student may be refused admission on any discriminatory ground relating to the student or a parent of the student." Subsection (3) further explains that "discriminatory ground" means a ground based on race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, creed, sex or physical handicap".

18. The State makes provision for support to disadvantaged groups, including the provision of cash transfers and specialised services. The Ministry of Social Development has a Desk for the Elderly which provides home care services to elderly persons (including women), investigates reports of elder abuse, and promotes the interest of elder persons. A National Policy on Aging is being developed. Elder persons are exempt from charges related to health care services provided by the State. The National Council of the Disabled, which receives support from Government in the form of a subvention and other services, ensures that the situation of persons with disabilities, individually and as a group, is considered within national planning and policy, including employment schemes and safety nets programmes.

Recommendations from IDA:

Articles 2, 3, 4, 5

- 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
- Adopt measures to ensure that women with disabilities are consulted and participate in leadership roles in policy development.
- 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 protection from violence, including training for professionals working with women and girls with disabilities.
- 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.
- Take steps to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and accede to its Optional Protocol.

Article 7

- Repeal provisions in the Constitution and legislation which exclude persons with disabilities from the right to vote and to be elected on an equal basis with others¹ in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which comprises the latest international standards with respect to participation in political and public life. (This is confirmed in OHCHR thematic study on participation in political and public life by persons with disabilities which explicitly states that there is no reasonable restriction nor exclusion permitted regarding the right to political participation of persons with disabilities, [A/HRC/19/36](#), 21 December 2011).

Article 10

- Adopt measures in the law to ensure the implementation of inclusive education of children with disabilities, such as the obligatory training of all teachers (beyond special education teachers), to require individual education plans for all students, ensure the availability of assistive devices and support in classrooms, educational materials and curricula, ensure the accessibility of physical school environments, encourage the teaching of sign language and disability culture, allocate budget for all of the above. Include inclusive education as an integral part of core teacher training curricula in universities to ensure that the values and principles of inclusive education are infused at the outset of teacher training and teaching careers.

Article 11

- Ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation in employment and vocational training for women with disabilities, including accommodations for different types of disabilities.

¹ Article 26(1) of the Constitution states: "No person shall be qualified to be appointed as a Senator if he...(c) is a person certified to be insane or otherwise adjudged to be of unsound mind under any law in force in Grenada." Article 31(1) of the Constitution states: "No person shall be qualified to be elected as a member of the House of Representatives if he...(c) is a person certified to be insane or otherwise adjudged to be of unsound mind under any law in force in Grenada." Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act, Section 18 states: "No person shall be entitled to be registered as an elector in any constituency who...(b) is a person adjudged to be of unsound mind or detained as a criminal lunatic under any law in force in the State..."

- Ensure the provision of support services, including psychosocial support services, to assist families, including both mothers with disabilities, and mothers or women in the family who are the lead caregivers in their care for children with disabilities. In particular, ensure that services and assistance are rendered to permit women in families with children with disabilities, as well as mothers with disabilities, to continue their careers with an appropriate work/life balance.

Articles 12 & 16

- 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.
- Adopt measures to ensure that all information, healthcare and services relating to sexual and reproductive health, both including physical treatment and psychological counselling, 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).
- Adopt measures to ensure that all education, information, healthcare and services relating to sexual and reproductive health, HIV and STIs, are made accessible women and girls with disabilities in age-appropriate formats.

Article 15

- Reform the law in accordance with Article 15, CEDAW and Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to guarantee the equal recognition before the law of persons with disabilities, including the adoption of measures to ensure that having a disability does not directly or indirectly disqualify a person from exercising her legal capacity autonomously, and to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to support that they may need to exercise legal capacity on an equal basis with others, respecting the will and preferences of the person concerned.²

ANNEX- Disability references in treaty body Concluding Observations with respect to Grenada

CRC Committee Concluding Observations, 2010, [CRC/C/GRD/CO/2](#)

17.The Committee reiterates the concern expressed in its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/15/Add.121, paragraph 8) at the lack of a system of data collection and analysis in the State party to provide systematic and comprehensive desegregated quantitative and qualitative data for all areas covered by the Convention in relation to all groups of children, in order to monitor and evaluate progress achieved and assess the impact of policies adopted with respect to children.

18.The Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary steps to establish a central system for comprehensive data collection incorporating all the areas covered by the Convention. The State party should ensure that information collected contains up to date data on a wide range of children in vulnerable situations, including children with disabilities,

² See also report of Special Rapporteur on Torture, 28 July 2008, A/63/175, paras 73 and 44.

children living in poverty, children in the juvenile justice system, children of single-parent families, victims of sexual abuse, and institutionalized children. The Committee also recommends that the State party seek technical assistance from, inter alia, UNICEF.

Children with disabilities

41. The Committee notes with interest the work of the Task Force on Special Education established in 2002 by the Ministry of Education and the development of the Strategic Plan for Educational Enhancement and Development (2006-2015). It also notes other initiatives and programmes to assist children with disabilities, including the existence of two schools for special education in Grenada, of Itinerant Teacher programmes targeting visually impaired and hearing impaired children and of the dedication of a month of Awareness for persons with disabilities. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned that access to education for children with disabilities is limited and that the Itinerant Teacher programme covers only a limited proportion of the children with disabilities who could benefit from its services. Furthermore, recalling its previous recommendations (CRC/C/15/Add.121, paragraph 23), the Committee regrets that no early identification programmes to prevent disabilities have been developed.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all necessary measures to ensure the implementation of legislation providing services for children with disabilities;
- (b) Continue and further strengthen its programmes and services for children with disabilities, including through the development of early identification programmes, the broadening of its Itinerant Teacher Programme to cover all children with disabilities in need of its services. In this regard, the State party should ensure that such services receive adequate human and financial resources;
- (c) Continue, strengthen and broaden training for professional staff working with children with disabilities, such as teachers, medical, paramedical and related personnel and social workers; and
- (d) Proceed with the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.
- (e) Take into account the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (General Assembly resolution 48/96) and the Committee's general comment No. 9 on the rights of children with disabilities (CRC/C/GC/9, 2006),