

## International Disability Alliance (IDA)

Disabled Peoples' International, Inclusion International,  
International Federation of Hard of Hearing People,  
Rehabilitation International, 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)

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### Suggestions for disability-relevant recommendations to be included in the Concluding Observations CAT 44<sup>th</sup> Session (26 April to 14 May 2010)

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 reports on Syrian Arab Republic.

#### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

##### [State report](#)

55. Article 46 of the Constitution states:

“1. The State shall care for all citizens and their families in the event of an emergency, an illness, a **disability**, a child being orphaned and old age.

“2. The State shall protect citizens’ health and provide preventive health care, treatment and medicine.”

81. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has established regulations and procedural rules for social welfare institutions and centres and the residential facilities which they run and oversee (such as juvenile offenders institutions, employment homes for vagrants, institutes for the **blind** and **special education** institutes for the welfare of the **deaf** and **profoundly deaf**), prohibiting the use of violence and torture against the residents of these institutions. These institutions were established to protect inmates, offer them health, psychological and social assistance, assist with their rehabilitation and correct their behaviour with a view to their social reintegration. Any staff member in such a facility who carries out an act that is prohibited under the Convention is liable to the penalties laid down in the Criminal Code, in addition to administrative and disciplinary sanctions which can include dismissal and termination of employment.

#### Recommendations from IDA

- To ensure any laws that may exist which permit interdiction or involuntary confinement on the basis of disability are repealed or treated as null and void in order to give effect to CRPD articles 12, 14, 17 and 25.
- To provide detailed information on the inspections system in prisons, psychiatric institutions and other institutions serving persons with disabilities or where persons with disabilities may be in fact deprived of their liberty.