

## **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.

#### **BANGLADESH**

Bangladesh has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 30 November 2007, and its Optional Protocol on 12 May 2008.

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

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

#### **Empowerment and Development of Women**

In ensuring social safety net protection for vulnerable women in extreme poverty, Vulnerable Group Development Program (VGD) is providing extreme poor and distressed women food assistance along with development package training. Skill development training on income generating activities as well as nutrition, primary health, HIV/AIDS etc. is being given. Microcredit programs are helping women develop self employment. Similarly, there is Widow Allowance, Elderly Persons Allowance, Maternity and Lactating Mothers allowances. **Women with disability** are also given support.

#### **2. General Framework for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights**

##### **C. Acceptance of International Human Rights Norms**

Ratification of the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006 and its Optional Protocol** reflects the commitment of Bangladesh in fulfilling its international obligations as State Party.

#### **186. Article 3: All Appropriate Measures in the Political, Social, Economic and Cultural Fields to Ensure Full Development and Advancement of Women**

190. The pro-women policies and major activities of MoSW include old-age allowance scheme, allowance for distressed **persons with disabilities**, programs for the orphans, and educational stipends for **students with disabilities**. For two of the largest programs, 60 percent of the beneficiaries are women and on average, 59 percent of the total funds for programs go to women.

191. Department of Social Services (DSS) has been implementing poverty alleviation programs through provision of micro credit to over 954,000 women for job creation, need based skill training to over 971,200 women for their self employment and wage employment, and increase in standard of living. These programs include Rural Mothers' Centre (covering 12,956 villages in 318 sub districts), Rural Social Services, Urban Community Development, and Rehabilitation for **Acid Burnt and Physically Handicapped Women**. DSS also undertakes programs to prevent dowry through awareness building, change of attitude through motivation, group meetings, leaflets etc. Over 358,000 persons have been covered by the anti dowry program and 9,455 DSS employees have committed not to take or give dowry from their families. DSS also implements training and rehabilitation programs for vagrants and 2,108 socially disadvantaged women have been rehabilitated/integrated in their families and in the society.

## 5. Different Groups of Women

305. The different groups of women include those from the *adivasi* (indigenous) community, religious minorities, other socially disadvantaged groups and **people with disability**. All forms of discrimination against the socially excluded groups will be eliminated...

307. Ministry of Social Welfare and its agencies has various development initiatives supporting such **disabilities** girls and women.

309. Rules and regulations will be framed for implementing the **Bangladesh Disability Welfare Act, 2000**.

310. NSAPR II mentioned that **disability** and gender issues will be addressed both as a humanitarian and also as a development issue. Measures will be taken for ensuring proper housing and accessibility to all physical facilities for **disabled** persons. Shelter homes will be provided for women with severe **disabilities**. They will also be given preference under safety net measures.

### [List of Issues](#)

22. Are there any data to measure the success of the following programmes: Widow Allowance; Elderly Persons Allowance; Maternity and Lactating Mothers allowances and allowances for **persons with disabilities**?

### Reply to the List of Issues

Currently unavailable.

### **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 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 CRPD.
- 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).