

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 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.

BELARUS

Belarus 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](#)

B. Socio-economic and political situation of women

61. The labour market presents the greatest difficulties to women raising young children, school graduates with no work experience, women close to retirement age, **disabled women** and women in fields where the current market favours men (engineering, technical, construction and other specializations).

77. From 2002 on, the size of the allowances have been set as a percentage of the average per capita minimum subsistence living budget and the allowances are reviewed every three months to see whether they need to be increased. From 2002 to 2006 such reviews have led to a more than nine-fold increase in the allowances. Monthly allowances for child care for children under three years of age and allowances to families raising **disabled children** or a child up to 18 years of age who has HIV or AIDS are granted, irrespective of the total income per family member.

Article 4. Temporary special measures to ensure de facto equality between men and women

128. Working fathers and other relatives who actually provide care for a sick child under the age of fourteen, a child under the age of three years, a **disabled child** under the age of eighteen years or a **disabled child** under the age of eighteen years are entitled, in the event of the mother's illness, as are the child's caregivers (trustees), to benefits for their temporary inability to work, in the amount and subject to the conditions specified in the law.

Article 10. Education

240. The basic principles of the State education policy of the Republic of Belarus were established in Act No. 1202-XII of the Republic of Belarus of 28 October 1991 entitled "On education", Act No. 216-Z of 29 June 2003 entitled "On vocational and technical education", Act No. 285-Z of the Republic of Belarus of 18 May 2004 entitled "**On the education of**

persons with mental or physical handicaps (special education)", Act No. 141-Z of the Republic of Belarus of 5 July 2006 entitled "On general secondary education" and Act No. 252-Z of the Republic of Belarus of 11 July 2007 entitled "On higher education".

Article 11. Employment

297. Job quotas have been widely used in Belarus to secure employment of vulnerable categories of citizens, primarily single women with many children and those raising minor and **disabled children**.

344. A working father or other relatives actually caring for a sick child under the age of fourteen, a child less than three years old, a **disabled child** under the age of eighteen, or a **disabled child** under the age of eighteen, shall be entitled, in the event of the mother's illness, or that of the caregiver or guardian of the child, to temporary **disability benefits**, subject to the terms and conditions stipulated in the law.

Article 12. Health care

382. All antenatal clinics conduct prenatal ultrasound diagnosis of congenital malformations of the foetus. This makes it possible to identify the abnormality and take preventive measures to avoid worsening of the condition of the foetus. Such measures have reduced the frequency of hereditary and congenital disorders among newborns and have reduced **child disability** by 10 to 15 per cent.

Article 13. Other areas of socio-economic life

390. Since 2002, allowances are set as a percentage of the average per capita minimum subsistence budget and are reviewed on a quarterly basis as that minimum budget increases. The reviews for the period 2002-2006 led to increases in benefits by a factor of more than 9. Monthly allowances for child care up to age 3, as well as benefits to families raising a **disabled child** or a child infected with HIV or AIDS up to the age of 18, are granted regardless of the total income per family member.

406. Families with **disabled children** up to the age of 18 amounted to 0.5 per cent of recipients of targeted assistance in 2007 (286 people in all).

414. The activities of those programmes are aimed at addressing issues of sociolegal protection, health promotion, participation in appropriate work, targeted social support, and development of the infrastructure that provides social services for veterans, **the disabled** and the elderly. Modelled on the Republican Programme, similar regional programmes were developed and adopted.

416. The services most in demand are those provided by social assistance agencies in the home. Currently, such assistance is being provided to over 79,000 elderly and **disabled citizens**, of whom 70 per cent live in villages. For citizens who cannot live independently, the centres have set up 42 branches providing 24-hour home-stay for 1,400 senior citizens and **disabled persons**.

418. Resources provided by local executive authorities and enterprises have made it possible to open 7 small boarding facilities designed to house up to 50 senior citizens and **disabled persons**.

Article 14. Rural women

451. A job quota system is widely used to promote the employment of vulnerable categories of citizens, primarily single women, those with many children and those who are raising minor children and/or **disabled children**.

474. Additional guarantees of employment assistance to citizens, including those in rural areas, are provided through the development and implementation of targeted State programmes to promote employment, generate more jobs and establish specialized labour organizations (including those involving work for **the disabled**), provide vocational guidance services and training through special programmes, and other measures.

Part III

Information regarding the Committee's recommendations

Paragraphs 355 and 356

558. The Act of the Republic of Belarus entitled "On the social protection of citizens victims of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power station" provides for a number of benefits to parents to care for sick children:

- A monthly payment of a basic allowance to non-working women with children who have **disabilities** and need, in the view of the medical advisory board, home care provided by an outsider.

569. The fact that some families have **disabled children** has led to increased costs in funding the programme of enhanced nutrition, treatment and ongoing care, and has led to a greater likelihood that one of the parents will be dismissed from work. In this regard, for a **disabled child** under 18 years, the State pays benefits, regardless of the total family income, with a supplement amounting to 40 per cent of the amount of the benefit. If the **disabled child** is being raised in a family where there are other children, the benefits for all children are paid without regard to total income. Unemployed persons and non-pensioned persons who provide care for a **disabled child** receive an allowance for that care amounting to 65 per cent of the minimum subsistence budget. This allowance for the care of **disabled children** under the age of 10 is granted regardless of degree of invalidity, and in the case of **disabled children** aged from 10 to 18, for those with second, third and fourth degree invalidity.

589. Under the CORE programme in 2007, various projects were carried out, including "Living with a smile" (based on the Chechersk village council) and "Merry Musician" (based on the Centre for Corrective and Developmental Teaching and Rehabilitation in the city of Chechersk). New forms of work with **disabled children** and their parents were introduced, in particular, rehabilitation programmes through the arts, music therapy and theatre.

[List of Issues](#)

Stereotypes

10. The report (paras. 137-149) indicates considerable efforts made by the State party to eradicate stereotyped attitudes regarding the roles of women and men in private and public life. Please indicate whether an assessment of the various initiatives undertaken has been carried out to identify their impact as well as the most persistent obstacles in this regard. What efforts have been made to address stereotyped attitudes towards women experiencing multiple forms of discrimination on the grounds of their ethnicity, age, **disability** or other characteristics? Are any temporary special measures introduced or envisaged in this regard?

Minority women and disadvantaged groups of women

27. While providing detailed information and data on migrants, the report is silent regarding the economic, employment, education and health situation of minority women, rural women, **women with disabilities**, and older women. Please provide the above-mentioned information, as requested by the Committee in its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/6, para. 360).

[Reply to the List of Issues](#)

Currently only available in Russian.

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 introduce measures to ensure that all children, including children with disabilities, can live and be raised in family environments in the community, and to eliminate the institutionalisation of children by building up community based services and support to children with disabilities and to their families.
- 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 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.
- To accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.