

**Commonwealth Disabled People’s Forum**

 **c/o World of Inclusion**

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**CDPF Brief Information on Implementation of UNCRPD Questionnaire**

Will all DPOs joining the Commonwealth Disabled People’s Forum and/or their delegates please ensure this form is completed and emailed back. Return to rlrieser@gmail.com along with the completed application form.

1.Name of your DPO

Guyana Council of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities

2. Name of your country

Guyana

3. Has your country ratified the UNCRPD and when?

Yes

September 10, 2014

4. What has your country done to Implement the UNCRPD?

Implement the Guyana Disability Act 2010

5. How much is your DPO involved in implementation with the Government of your country?

Our organisation is at the forefront of advocating for the implementation of the contents of the Guyana PWD Act 2010 as the umbrella body for the majority of DPOs. Our partnership with government is relatively good. Over the few years we have been invited to sit on a few statutory government boards representing the rights of PWDs. Additionally our organisation has been involved in numerous consultations relating to implementation of services of PWDs.

6. Has your DPO been involved in producing a shadow report to go to UNCRPD Committee and how?

No

7. What progress has been made on implementing Inclusive Education?

Limited progress in this area. We are fortunate to have the Guyana PWD Act 2010 that is very comprehensive in outlining what should be done for special education, but sadly not much has been done in changing the status quo. We have seen the establishment of a few new special education needs schools and the employment of Regional SEN officers. However not much has been done in teacher training, procurement of adequate resources and the renovation of existing schools to ensure accessibility. We are still to have the SEN policy implemented by the Ministry of Education.

8. What progress has been made on social protection for PWD?

Not much. PWDs are still encountering challenges in accessing housing, discrimination is still part of daily living and there is no policy to guide the Ministry of Social Protection in the delivery of services to PWDs. PWDs receive 45USD per month as a living allowance if they are unemployed. Woefully inadequate.

9. What progress has been made in implementing employment opportunities for PWD?

Not much.

We have been fortunate to have the government provide some funding to train PWDs in various skills area. This however has not translated to employment. There is no employment policy for PWDs at the Ministry of Labour. We are advocating for a quota system in relation to public sector jobs.

10. What progress has been made on challenging negative attitudes and stigma to PWD?

It is a continuous battle. We use both the traditional and social media to raise awareness and to change general attitudes. Daily radio shows like Disability And You and RGI’s Disability In Focus of which I produce and present, are such programmes.

11. What progress has been made in achieving gender equality for PWD?

Generally women and girls are included in all matters relating to disability. Sometimes females are in the majority in the management of organisations and, in schools and at trainings. However there is no policy to ensure gender balance.

12. What capacity building does your DPO need? Identify areas.

- Social media advocacy

- Fundraising

- Leadership and capacity building

- Proposal writing

- Organisational development

13. If you are the National Umbrella DPO, how do you operate democratically with other DPOs?

The DPOs that are members of our organisation make up the general assembly. From the general assembly the executive committee is elected. Therefore the executive committee is made up of representatives from various DPOs. The general assembly also meet regularly to be in volved in planning of activities and to be updated.

14. If you are an impairment specific or have a particular focus or are a regional DPO, how do you work with Umbrella DPO?

NA

15. If there is no national umbrella DPO, how could one be built?

NA

16. How does your DPO get funded?

Through proposal writing and other small fundraising activities.

17. What training capacity does your DPO have?

We have the capacity to train PWDs in employment skills areas, education information technology, STEM robotics, among others. This is done through our network of part time instructors that facilitate the various training programmes.

18. What regular training do you provide for PWD?

Skills training for employment. These trainings are conducted all year round across Guyana.

19. How does your DPO involve young PWD?

The majority of trainees that are in our training programmes are young PWD. Additionally we have a youth arm called Young Voices Guyana. We also work closely with the SEN schools. The majority of our projects are with the SEN schools.

20. Does your DPO have any experience working in a humanitarian disaster?

NO