

# Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum

Newsletter No 2 December 2019



From December 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> the General Secretary and Lucy Mason of CDPF were invited to take part in 'I Am Able 2' in Antigua in the Eastern Caribbean. This started with in 'I Am Able: The Future is Accessible' church service on the morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> December, followed by a meeting of DPO representatives from Antigua, Anguilla, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica. Many of the barriers they faced with implementing the UNCRPD and SDGs were similar. There was strong interest from all national umbrella DPOs in joining the CDPF, though four were already members. Many new contacts were made. The evening saw a Glow March organised by Bernard Warner of Antigua and Babuda Disabled Association around St Johns, the capital, to celebrate International Disabled People's Day. There was a great atmosphere with a large sound system followed by about 200 dancing disabled people and which challenged many stereotypes such as passivity and having no agency.



**Seasonal Greetings and Best wishes for an Inclusive New Year from CDPF**

This was followed by 120 disabled people attending the 2 day 'I am Able 2' Conference jointly supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat, the UK High Commissioner of Antigua and Ministry of Social Transformation. This consisted of a mix of key-note speakers, panels and workshops. <https://thecommonwealth.org/media/news/caribbean-disability-conference-we-are-opportunity-not-burden> . Despite the aims of the event being somewhat confusing, participants gained useful insights and contacts. The Commonwealth Youth Forum played an excellent role in coordinating. The CDPF would prefer future events to have a more structured programme based on implementation of the UNCRD and SDGs leading to concrete changes and improved understanding of the paradigm shift required to bring about disability rights.

**Excellent Resources produced for raising Equality for disabled women, girls and young people.** We wanted to share with you an exciting new resource. [The Path to Equality for Women and Young Persons With Disabilities: Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Ending Gender-Based Violence](#) is a multimedia presentation describing the necessary policy changes and investments needed for women and young persons with disabilities to fully realize their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and be protected from gender-based violence (GBV). The presentation was developed with support from the We Decide Program and the guidance of a global technical advisory group, chaired by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Population Reference Bureau (PRB), which International Disability Alliance participated in.

The goal of this product is to enable women and young persons with disabilities to engage policymakers, program planners, and their families and communities to join them as they lead efforts to access their rights in these areas. *The Path to Equality for Women and Young Persons with Disabilities: Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Ending Gender-Based Violence* is a 14-minute presentation available as a narrated video and a click-through .exe file for live presentations. Accessible versions of the presentation video include closed captioning, American Sign Language and audio description.

The presentation is accompanied by a guide designed to help users make the most of the presentation. Please find all these materials here: <https://www.prb.org/path-to-equality/> Sexism, gender based violence, lack of reproductive rights and freedoms are major issues for disabled girls and women, which we must all address. The videos feature a number of disabled people women from the Commonwealth, including Abia Akram, the CDPF Women Representative on our Executive [abia.akram@gmail.com](mailto:abia.akram@gmail.com).

**Persuading Governments to gather good information on numbers of disabled people.**

Quantifying how many disabled people disaggregated by age, gender, district and type of impairing difficulty is crucial both for adults and children. UNICEF data have just produced 6 excellent on-line videos providing comprehensive background information in the changes under way so all countries use Washington Group questions, to get an accurate idea of the numbers and diversity of disabled people. Asking different questions in censuses or household

surveys led to very different results. E.g. in Uganda different surveys using different questioning led to an incidence of 7% or 20 % in 2 surveys completed within a year of each other.

1. Introduction (4min. 53 sec.)  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnJDbVb-S-E0ru7En -ux1ZFUArq6ujsF>
2. Current Landscape of Measurement (16 min. 28 sec.)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHvLuKEw00Q&list=PLnJDbVb-S-E0ru7En -ux1ZFUArq6ujsF&index=3&t=0s>
3. Methods of collecting data FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (21 min 44 sec.)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSKTanzS8IM&list=PLnJDbVb-S-E0ru7En -ux1ZFUArq6ujsF&index=3>
4. Unicef Washington Group Module on Child Functioning (5 min. 12 sec.)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoeEIIIfwmc&list=PLnJDbVb-S-E0ru7En -ux1ZFUArq6ujsF&index=4>
5. Washington Group Short and Extended Sets (21 min. 37 sec.)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kq4cRRdfqCA&list=PLnJDbVb-S-E0ru7En -ux1ZFUArq6ujsF&index=5>
6. Translating Knowledge into Action (14 min. 54 sec.)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3R2O4bJhW4&list=PLnJDbVb-S-E0ru7En -ux1ZFUArq6ujsF&index=6>

**PENDA (Programme for Evidence to Inform Disability Action).** We need Southern Disabled People's Organisation who are interested in partnering, particularly with southern academic centres. Penda have just issued this call for people to register interest in the 4 impact evaluations they are tendering out in early 2020.

**Register Interest for PENDA's Call for Research Applications in January.**

**PENDA** is excited to announce the launch of a series of calls for applications to deliver impact evaluations on disability inclusive development programmes. A total of 4 calls will be released over the next 4 years, with the first anticipated to launch in January 2020.

PENDA will [invite applications](#) from consortiums, preferably led by research institutions from low or middle-income countries, to deliver Impact Evaluations, including Randomised Control Trials (RCTs), on DFID funded disability inclusive development programmes. These will each have a different geographic and thematic focus, concentrating on DFID priorities areas of education, health, livelihood and stigma. Register interest with the [PENDA team here](#) to receive updates and information when the call launches, and to find out about future opportunities.

**Commonwealth Shared Scholarships for disabled students to study in the UK focus on Low Income countries.** Shared Scholarships fund students from least developed and lower middle-income Commonwealth countries to study a full-time Master's degree on [selected courses](#) at UK universities. Funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), Commonwealth Shared Scholarships enable talented and motivated individuals to gain the



knowledge and skills required for sustainable development and are aimed at those who could not otherwise afford to study in the UK. Please note, applications from disabled applicants are encouraged. For full details, including eligibility criteria, approved courses and how to apply, go to the [Shared Scholarships page on our website](#).

**Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network write :-The Global Disability Children & Young People's Charter** was developed during the Global Disability Summit which took place in London 2018. Children and young people with disabilities from across the globe representing 23 countries shared their views on the Global Disability Summit 6 themes. This included key messages they wanted included in their own Global Disability Children and Young People's Charter. This has 12 commitments, for which children and young people with disabilities are requesting action from across the world to protect their rights; to provide support and resources; increasing their inclusion and their access to opportunities to live a full life and to achieve their goals and full potential. We would welcome the support of CDPF members and other organisations including NGOs DPOs, governments officials, corporate and private organisations to sign up to the Global Disability Children and Young People's Charter **on any of the 12 commitments** they can advocate and deliver upon. There is no cost to sign up to this charter. The aim is to strengthen the rights and inclusion for children and young disabled people by aligning the actions and support gathered for their charter alongside the commitments already made during the Global Disability Summit. This is given greater emphasis as this is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. CCYDN aim to measure the advancement following the messages in this charter provided by children and young people with disabilities on what matters to them and the importance of their inclusion, participation and rights. <https://includemetoo.org.uk/global-disability-children-young-people-charter/>

**CDPF Executive to meet in Malta 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February.** This meeting will be to finalise 6 policy papers to be presented to Commonwealth Heads of Government in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2020. The Policy papers are being drawn up by sub-committees of the Executive. They cover Employment and Livelihood, Inclusive Education, Girls and Women, Humanitarian Situations, Stigma, Media and Discrimination and Assistive Technology. Please can any affiliated organisation send useful information about these policies from their countries to the General Secretary. The meeting in Malta will also be finalising arrangements for a training event in Kigali from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June and the CHOGM Civil Society Forum 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June. We have limited resources to get selected members there. Please can all national organisations approach their Governments to fund them attending! **Richard Rieser Gen. Sec. CDPF** [rlrieser@gmail.com](mailto:rlrieser@gmail.com)



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