# **Module 6 CDPF Young Disabled Leaders Training**

Disabled People's Organisations Influencing Government to improve the position of Disabled People.

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## Introduction

No one can change very much on their own. But by coming together in organisations, we, disabled people, can have a loud, strong voice. We can demand action in our village, our town, our school/college, workplace and our country. We can change things. Remember: together we can really make a change.

"What is Disability?

All over the world, disabled people are among the poorest of the poor, living lives of disadvantage and deprivation. Why? There are two common explanations for disability.

## The Social Model: Disability as Social Oppression

The disability movement believes that there are economic and social barriers which prevent people with impairments from participating fully in society and that these barriers are so widespread that we are prevented from ensuring a reasonable quality of life for ourselves. This explanation is known as the social model of disability because it shifts the focus away from individuals with impairments towards society's disabling environments and barriers of attitude. The social model was developed by members of the international disability movement and is now accepted by an increasing number of non-disabled academics and professionals as well.

The Medical Model: Disability as a Personal Tragedy Another explanation of disability is that impairment (loss of limb, organ or function) has such traumatic physical and psychological effects on a person that they cannot ensure a reasonable quality of life for themselves by their own efforts. In other words, we are disabled as a result of our individual physical, intellectual or sensory limitations. The medical model assumes that it is up to the individual, with the help of rehabilitation, to adapt themselves to society; to learn to fit in and to be as "normal" as possible. This model of disability has been rejected by organisations of disabled people and is now generally recognised by academics and professionals as well to be an inadequate basis for understanding disability.

Using the Social Model to Define Disability and Discrimination

When we redefine disability from our own direct experience, three things become clear.

- Each of us has our own individual characteristics (which include our particular physical, sensory or intellectual impairments).
- We are also members of a distinct group (of disabled people).
- Society singles out this group for a special form of discrimination (disability).

In other words, it is society which disables a person with an impairment - prevents us from being able to participate fully in society. Unlike the medical model, this definition is liberating. It gives us a group identity and a common cause - to rid society of its discriminatory barriers.

We can therefore define disability as: the restriction of the ability to participate in the mainstream of social activities which results from the cultural, physical and social barriers of a mainstream society which takes little or no account of people who have impairments."

<u>Disability Awareness in Action (DAA). 1996. "Resource Kit No. 3, Campaigns."</u>
<a href="mailto:lindependentliving.org">(independentliving.org)</a> author Agnes Fletcher

Written in 1996,10 years before the <u>UNCRPD was adopted</u> and now 18 years after that it is clear that making real progress on improving the lives of disabled people still really lags far behind other equality issues around the World and across the Commonwealth.

## **Disability Inclusion Action Plan**

For this reason the Commonwealth Disabled People is now pushing all our respective Governments to adopted our <u>Disability Inclusion Action Plan</u> at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa in October 2024.

We are doing this because we have noticed that, although an international organisation of 56 countries with its own Secretariat, the Commonwealth does not take disability seriously in terms of access, speakers or in terms of programmes and meetings. We are therefore reiterating the principles and objectives of the UNCRPD and putting forward Action points to make a substantive improvement.

Aimed at both member countries and the Secretariat the Action Points currently are

- A. That within 2 years of this agreement CHOGM agree to hold a meeting of Commonwealth Ministers with responsibility for Disability to consider and share experiences on its implementation with a view to this becoming a regular Commonwealth event;
- B. To gather disaggregated statistics in line with the Washington Group questions and protocols in Census, Household Surveys and other statistical activities;
- C. To agree to collaborate in setting up a Commonwealth Country Dashboard on progress on the Disability Inclusion Action Plan and implementation of the UNCRPD;
- D. Commonwealth Secretariat will support country members and civil society organisations in the reporting requirements to the UN CRPD Committee in Geneva;
- E. For ongoing collaboration in expertise and financial assistance between member countries, especially between those more economically developed and the rest to develop implementation of the UNCRPD and disability equality;

- F. To ensure that reasonable accommodations over access to buildings, access to information and accommodation is increasingly built into the planning of Commonwealth events;
- G. Over time, developing a pool of Disability Equality Trainers and Access Auditors, within and between Commonwealth countries to facilitate Disability Equality Training and Access Audits of buildings and infra-structure;
- H. Agree to developing the capacity to run systematic Disability Equality Training for Government Ministers, Members of Parliament, Civil Servants, Advisors and Non-Governmental Organizations;
- I. To run all Development Plans through the requirements of the UNCRPD and the need for disability equality;
- J. To increase the number and seniority of persons with disabilities employed in the Governments and the Commonwealth Secretariat;
- K. To work with the private sector to develop cheap and effective assistive devices & technology and ensure its distribution to those who would benefit most;
- L. To develop inter-country training and exchange of technicians who are able to develop the necessary competency to utilize such devices;
- M. To implement the UNCRPD the Commonwealth should give priority to collaborate in developing Inclusive Education, Health Care, Work opportunities for persons with disabilities and supporting measures that will enable persons with disabilities to take part in elections and stand for office.
- N. Set up a Commonwealth Disability Advisory Committee with representation from DPOs in the Regions, CDPF, Reps of State Parties, Commonwealth UNCRPD Committee Members and others relevant.

This is a campaign and actions to lead a step change in implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities across the Commonwealth. All but one of our Commonwealth countries have ratified the UNCRPD (only Tonga and they are being helped to ratify by October), but fewer than half have introduced compliant legislation.

In many countries old discriminatory practices remain such as refusing to give people with mental or psycho-social impairments equal recognition before the law (Article 12) by providing supported decision making and ensuring all have legal personhood.

Clearly, we can all engage in campaigns to implement these rights.

We are not given Rights but have to struggle for them to become a reality.

Activity 6.1 Write a letter to your president /prime ministers explaining the benefits to your country of supporting and adopting the Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Identify the Problem Your first major decision is on the central issue of your campaign. This will help to determine the strategies, time-scale, resources and target audience needed to carry it through effectively. Agreeing on the problem sounds quite easy. There are so many things which prevent the full participation of disabled people and so many examples of changes that could be made to improve our lives. It is important, though, to focus on one issue and to make sure that you act on the basis of consensus. To do this, you need to provide time for your group to discuss everything fully. Make sure that everyone agrees with, or at least accepts, the final decision about the focus of the campaign and the best way forward.

#### Public awareness campaigns can be useful to change people's thinking:-

- knowledge about disabled people's lives and about disability issues
- correcting inaccurate ideas about disabled people
- positive publicity for your organisation.

These are often more effective if they are for a limited time scale-a day, week or month e.g.

International Disabled Peoples Day: ever since 1992 this was designated by the United Nations as 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Human Rights Week 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December or <u>United Kingdom Disability History Month</u> (Mid-November to Mid-December with a different theme each year).

Often the General Public can influence Government by DPOs raising a particular issue in the media, through demonstrations, stunts and providing interviews. It is important whatever you are campaigning upon that a number of your group practice putting forward what you are campaigning upon in a clear and unambiguous way. Make sure you have gender and impairment balance of such spokespeople.

## Campaigns to influence Government.

Changing Laws, Policies, Services - Long-Term Campaigns. In the UK in 2010 it was clear that Disabled People's hard won benefits were going to be subjected to Austerity by the incoming Coalition Government of 2010. Disabled People Against the Cuts was a Campaign from the grassroots that largely came together using Social Media, to hold a variety of protest events which had a significant impact on Governments stated objectives of introducing swingeing cuts to disabled people's livelihoods in the UK

Clip 1 Linda Burnip Disabled People Against the Cuts, UK. (https://youtu.be/exf1vZNHbfU)

Activity 6.2. Watch Clip 1 of DPAC on the website and make a list of a) the issues they campaigned against, b) The ways they organised. Then c) Evaluate the impact DPAC had.

#### **Influencing Governments**

- a) Choose the area of Government Activity you want to influence e.g.
  - a particular welfare or benefit payment,
  - lack of access to mass transport system,
  - a new build college you want to be accessible,
  - lack of specialist teachers to support class teachers in including disabled students
  - a Bill implementing the legal rights in UNCRPD
  - Involving disabled people in emergency evacuation plans for climate or natural disasters,
  - Environmental pollution that is causing impairment,
  - Police Departments not believing disabled girls reporting sexual abuse and rape,
  - Disabled girls and women not having regular access to reproductive health services,
  - Getting Government Ministers to act to stop a particular form of disability discrimination.
- b) Gather information to support the change you want to see.
  - This could be based on true life stories from disabled people, impacted negatively by the current practice and how the change you want to get will make a difference;
  - ii. Tracking stories which illustrate disability discrimination in the local or national newspapers;
  - iii. Court reports that demonstrate injustice to disabled people;
  - iv. Published survey and census data (remember disability is nearly always under-represented);
  - v. Your own survey questionnaire;
  - vi. School and college enrolment data;
  - vii. Access survey of a building, hospital, college infra structure or transport facility (remember to include access for sensory impaired, those unable to read and with neurodiversity [sensory overload]);
- c) Arrange a meeting with a Minister or senior civil servant or manager in charge of the area you are concerned about.
  - i) Frame specific demands and follow up questions for the meeting,( It is often useful to send the main issues you wish to discuss in advance so whoever you are meeting has considered their response. This can work or not depending on the situation).

- ii) Decide collectively a cross section or which leaders of your group will attend,
- iii) Sometimes it is good to have a static demonstration outside the meeting place,
- iv) Run over some ground rules for your delegation i.e.

Be Clear,

Be Polite,

Be forceful,

Don't go alone,

Take notes of what is said,

Put your demands for change with well researched evidence,

Offer your support as a DPOS to share your experience and knowledge.

Don't make secret deals,

Don't accept bribes or excuses,

Don't be bound to confidentiality.

- v) Try to end the meeting with clear agreement or at least a productive way forward.
- vi) Send a letter to who you met with restating key points and any agreement or concessions or forward planned mentioned at the meeting.
- d) Sometimes those in charge will refuse to meet with you or will not agree to your demands then it will be necessary to raise pressure in other ways.
- e) These can include
  - i) Mass letter writing to elected representatives in the Service Manager, Local Council, Parliament, Ministers or Prime Minister or President as appropriate [ Provide a draft letter giving main points and allow senders to adapt to reflect own experience or thoughts on the issues];
  - ii) Petitioning -Make sure the issue to be resolved is clearly stated and there is space for those signing to include their address or ID data. Remember to put an address on the bottom for your organisation issuing the petition. Petitions give you a chance to explain your campaign to the public and win their support through argument. For petitions numbers are really important. They have more impact if they are signed by people directly or indirectly impacted by the issue or local supporters and members of the community impacted by the issues;
  - iii) **Using Local Radio** to ring in and talk about your issues or ask editors to have a slot or interview;
  - iv) Letters to Newspapers or provide an article on the issues to be printed;
  - v) Holding a **protest demonstration**. Remember to invite the media. (More below);
  - vi) Other forms of **direct action** may lead to arrest, but shows strength of feeling on the issue. If Direct Action is used ensure it is peaceful and that all taking part have been briefed, know the risks and have a solicitor's name and number. Use

of this tactic will depend on laws to protest and way the police are likely to react. Remember Ghandi and

vii) the Black Civil Rights movement used these techniques very effectively.

## Activity 6.3 (in 2 parts)

6.3.i) Briefly describe the way a successful campaign you were involved in, or you know about changed the circumstances of disabled people.

6.3.ii) Briefly try and analyse how change was brought about.

## Dealing with the Media

#### Talk to producers of community radio programmes and editors of local newspapers.

Ask them to broadcast a programme or print an article about disability issues or print a regular column by a disabled person. Encourage members to write in to comment about these. You might be able to get a regular show on disability issues on the radio, once a month or even once a week. Remind editors and producers that disabled people and their families are readers and listeners.

When talking to the media, **stress the human rights angle** and the practical steps which can be taken to improve things. Don't let reporters dwell on personal tragedy-type stories. Raising awareness about disability, as defined by the social model, opens the way to finding solutions to problems. Stress that action on disability is everybody's responsibility.

**Let media people talk directly to disabled people** - for example, schoolchildren can talk about the benefits of living and learning together and the damage of segregation.

#### **Most Effective**

Face-to-face personal contact
Personal letters
Statements of policy
Directly distributed publicity
Television & radio advertisements
Signs and posters
Social Media Posts

#### **Least Effective**

**Press Releases** 

A press release should answer five basic questions: who, what. where, when and why. If you are letting the media know about an event, you must let them know who is organising it, what it is, where and when it is happening and why.

Your **press release** should be short, clearly written with all the relevant details. Make sure there is a contact name and number for more information.

#### **Press Conferences**

You need to plan press conferences at times that will be convenient for press deadlines. The best time of day is usually about 10am on weekdays, the earlier in the week the better.

Send out a press release announcing the press conference a week to ten days before the event.

Give an idea of the subject, but don't give everything away. Two or three days before, you can telephone to check whether it has been received and whether anyone will be coming along.

## Raising Awareness Among Media Professionals

Why not arrange a simple Media Forum to educate media professionals?

#### Aim

To make sure that news and features about disabled people overcome negative attitudes and encourage the creation of positive images and portrayals by educating media professionals.

#### **Activities**

Invite media representatives and disabled people to discuss the words and pictures used to represent us. You could collect good and bad examples from magazines and newspapers.

Topics for discussion might include:

words - "tragic", "stricken", "confined to a wheelchair", "invalid", etc. visual treatments (television, advertising, the press) - what "message" is given interviewing disabled people sensationalism

If disability issues are covered in a non-emotional, factual and interactive manner, the public will begin to question the prejudices and stereotypes that still exist. Make the barriers clear to media professionals and ask them to help make the general public aware".(From DAA Tool Kit 3)

## Activity 6.4 in 2 parts

- 6.4.i) Imagine a local campaign to improve disabled people's rights. Outline the main things you would do to get government and positive media interest,
- 6.4.ii) Name some mistakes you need to be careful to avoid when working with the media or trying to influence your Government

## Language of Disability, Journalism and the Media

We often find ourselves in working with the media having to educate journalists in how to use the right language and portray us in non-stereotyped ways.

Disability is often referred to as the <u>world's largest minority group</u> — yet the community is still poorly represented in the media, if at all. And, when disabled voices are heard, the overwhelming majority of these stories still contain gross stereotypes, sensationalism, or a focus on trauma.

How we tell stories about disabled experiences matters. Bad reporting directly affects how non-disabled people treat us in the real world, from people in our daily lives to politicians writing policy. At the same time, being misrepresented in reporting can have a significant impact on overall well-being. Compassion, accuracy, and fairness should be at the heart of all journalism — and it's important we get it right.

Journalists don't have to be disabled or have an encyclopaedic knowledge of disabled realities to report on disability — but we still need to be wary of stereotypes and allowing assumptions to skew our reportage. All journalists, at all levels of our careers, need to be open to learning more and responsible reporting — here's how to make a start.

# How Are Disabled People Represented In The Media?

Right now, depictions of disability are often limited to a series of stereotypes and sensationalism. Inspiration porn and trauma porn are the biggest culprits.

Coined by disability activist Stella Young, inspiration porn refers to the portrayal of disabled people as inspirational, partly — or solely — because of their disability. **Speaking at TEDxSydney**, she explained: "I use the term porn deliberately because they objectify one group of people for the benefit of another people." In other words, content is made for a non-disabled audience to feel good, rather than telling an accurate story.

Some examples of inappropriate language include but are not limited to: 'tone-deaf', 'wheelchair-bound', 'psycho', 'crazy' and 'special needs'. All of these terms perpetuate historical slurs and negative images — and they should be avoided in all reports, whether talking about disability or not.

For example, people aren't "wheelchair-bound" — because for wheelchair users, a wheelchair is a tool of empowerment, not a prison. Always use 'able-bodied' in the correct context, and not as an antonym for 'disabled'. And remember not all disabled people's stories are the same — make sure you're accurate and inclusive with your images and represent all types of disability, whether you're reporting on a story about disability or not.

## Disablist Language Watch: Common Phrases To Avoid

Specially abled / Handicapped → Disabled / Disability

Wheelchair-bound → Wheelchair user

Confined / Bed-bound → Chronically ill / Fatigued

Crazy / Psycho / Mental → Mental health

Overcoming disability / In spite of disability → You're not strong in spite of being disabled, you're disabled and strong

The disabled → Disabled people

As a reporter, you should ask the interviewee for their preference on how they wish to be described. Never make assumptions — or assume that disability is relevant to the story. While some people prefer identity-first language — for example, 'a disabled person' rather than 'a person with disability' — others prefer to have the disability mentioned after. It is up to you as a journalist to represent your interviewees correctly.

When approaching a real-life feature, you have the responsibility to represent that person's story accurately, without using stereotypes.

Tell the story honestly. Consult your case studies and ask how they want to be represented and, above all, do not undo all your hard work by allowing a sensationalist headline to take over the story. Prioritise quotes from disabled folks instead of relying on carers of disabled people to provide all the insights.

Finally, when it comes to opinion writing, stay in your lane. If there's an issue impacting the lives of disabled people and you are not disabled, do not take up space by writing about it. It's time to let disabled folks get to the front of the queue.

## Simple Dos and Don'ts To Remember:

#### Do...

- Avoid the easy sensationalist sell;
- Include disabled voices of all experiences; do not limit our experiences to a stereotype;
- In-depth research when covering disability;
- Hire disabled writers, producers, and editors;
- Show the full nuanced experience of disability;
- Highlight human rights abuses. Laws mean nothing when there's no one holding official bodies to account.

#### Don't...

- Encourage disabled writers to divulge their trauma for a story.
- Assume you know enough about disabled lives to write about us without research.
- Decide that one disabled story applies to all of us.
- Assume people's preferred language.
- Exclude us from the newsroom by having inaccessible offices, only providing full-time work roles, or refusing to allow remote or flexible working.
- Expect disabled people to do the emotional labour of sensitivity checking for free.

#### Hannah Shewan Stevens

https://www.journoresources.org.uk/how-to-report-on-disability-responsibly-journalism/

## Activity 6.5

What would be the five most important things you would seek to educate non-disabled journalists and media professionals about to fairly represent disabled people and their struggle for human rights and what do you think are the best ways to do this?

# Utilising the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to influence Governments.

Disabled People have long fought to have their human rights formally recognized in human rights law. In 2006 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This, like the other United Nations human rights conventions, (such as the <u>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> and the <u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</u>) resulted from decades of activity during which group rights standards developed from aspirations to binding treaties.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the 1971 <u>Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons</u> followed by the <u>Declaration of the Rights of Disabled Persons</u> on 9 December 1975. 1982 was the <u>International Year of Disabled Persons</u>; an outcome of the year was the World <u>Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons</u>. The Year was followed by the Decade of Disabled Persons, 1983-1992. In 1987, a global meeting of experts to review progress recommended that the UN General Assembly should draft an international convention on the elimination of discrimination against persons with disabilities. Draft convention outlines were proposed by Italy and subsequently Sweden, but no consensus was reached. Many government representatives argued that existing human rights documents were sufficient. An <u>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</u> (3 December) was proclaimed in 1992 General Assembly resolution 47/3. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the non-compulsory <u>Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities</u> on 20 December 1993 (resolution 48/96 annex). Many analysts characterized the pre-CRPD documents as "soft," in contrast with the "hard" treaty obligations of the CRPD.<sup>1</sup>

In March, 2000, leaders of six international disability NGOs, along with about 20 regional and national disability organizations, adopted the "Beijing Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the New Millennium," calling on all governments to support a Convention. In 2001, the General Assembly, following a proposal by President Fox of Mexico, established an Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based on a holistic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/historyinfographic.pdf

approach. Disability rights organisations, including <u>Disabled Peoples' International</u>, the <u>World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry</u>, Landmine Survivors Network (now <u>Survivor Corps</u>), and the <u>International Disability Alliance</u> influenced the drafting process through the International Disability Caucus. The UN encouraged National State delegations to have disabled members, and provided 25 grants for disabled reps. from Low Income countries. At the first Ad Hoc Committee there were 85 DPO reps. Registered. By the last Ad Hoc Meeting in August 2006 there were 850 registered. The International Disability Alliance served as coordinator of an ad hoc International Disability Caucus, participated actively in the drafting process, in particular seeking a role for disabled persons and their organisations in the implementation and monitoring of what became the Convention.

In 2001, at the 56th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mexico initiated negotiations, with active support from GRULAC (the Latin American regional group). When support for a Convention was foundering in 2002 due to WEOG opposition, New Zealand played a pivotal role in achieving cross-regional momentum. Acting as facilitator from 2002–03, New Zealand eventually assumed the formal role of Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee and led negotiations to a consensus agreement in August 2006, working closely with other Committee members Jordan, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, and South Africa, as well as Korea and Mexico. Several observers commented on the "esteem-seeking behaviour" of governments, national human rights institutions, and nongovernmental organizations. The Convention became one of the most quickly supported human rights instruments in history, with strong support from all regional groups. Currently 182 Government have ratified with 51 Commonwealth countries ratifying.<sup>2</sup>

The UNCRPD is DPOs' best means of influencing Government on an ongoing basis. Article 4.3. 'In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations'. Also in Article 33.3 Monitoring 3. 'Civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, shall be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process'. There is a strong argument to be repeatedly made to Government to materially and financially support DPOs. No strings should be attached to such grants other than to represent disabled people so we can maintain our independence.

Articles 35 to 40 focus on Governments and their relationship with the UNCRPD Committees whose members with direct experience of disability they nominate and elect at the Conference of State Parties who have ratified the Convention.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention</a> on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and comments from Professor in his Video Talk Michael Stein The Making of the UNCRPD <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWlf\_NzpvYo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWlf\_NzpvYo</a>

In 2010 the International Disability Alliance produced this useful scheme showing

# How DPOs can Influence their Governments Reporting to the UNCRPD Committee.<sup>3</sup>

- **"Step 1.** The State Party should have consultations with civil society, including representative organizations of persons with disabilities, to prepare its State report.
- **Step 2.** State Party submits its State report to the CRPD Committee (the first time, it submits its initial report, after that, it submits periodic reports).
- -Opportunity for input from UN system, National Human Rights Institutes NHRIs, NGOs and DPOs.
- -DPOs submit their own parallel reports with priority issues and concrete recommendations.
- **Step 3.** The CRPD Committee presents State Party with **list of issues** and questions based on concerns raised by the report.
- -Opportunity for input from UN system, NHRIs, NGOs and DPOs.
- -DPOS can suggest issues for the list of issues and questions the Committee should ask the State, before the Committee adopts its list of issues.
- **Step 4.** State Party submits written replies to list of issues and questions.
- -DPOs can also give their own responses.
- **Step 5.** Constructive dialogue between the CRPD Committee and the State Party delegation during a plenary session.
- -Opportunity for input from UN system, NHRIs, NGOs and DPOs.
- -DPOs can request in advance to give an oral presentation during the session in which the constructive dialogue with their country will take place.
- -Before the dialogue, and during the same session, DPOs could try to meet with Committee members, especially the country Rapporteur, to identify priority issues and recommendations.
- **Step 6.** The CRPD Committee issues its concluding observations on the report, including recommendations.
- -Before the concluding observations are adopted, DPOs can identify for the Committee members the priority areas that need quick action and suggest concrete recommendations on the issues that were raised during the dialogue.
- Concluding observations should be circulated widely at national level.

International Disability Alliance Effective Use of International Human Rights Monitoring Mechanisms to Protect the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Step 7.** Procedures to follow up on implementation of CRPD Committee's recommendations.

- -Opportunity for input from UN system, NHRIs, NGOs and DPOs.
- -DPOs should work with the national monitoring mechanism and the government on implementing recommendations and follow up.
- -DPOs should do their own monitoring for the next report.

**End of the cycle**. Return to Step 1 for the next periodic report. Notes: The cycle begins two years after entry into force of the CRPD for the State Party. It repeats every four years after that. This is covered in Article 35 of the CRPD. DPOs can find out when the list of issues will be prepared, and when the constructive dialogue will take place, via the CRPD Committee website or by contacting the CRPD Committee Secretariat. DPOs need to keep track of how and when States Parties are preparing and submitting State reports"

## Role of the Shadow Report

Through shadow reporting DPOs and disabled people can actively engage with the reporting and monitoring process by providing facts and data on the achievements of the rights of persons with disabilities, and identify gaps in implementation of the obligations outlined in the CRPD. This includes:

- The situation of disabled people
- Capacity to monitor and assess a government's track record for fulfilling its obligations under the CRPD
- The impact and progress made by the State in implementing the Convention
- Violations of the human rights of persons with disabilities
- Gaps in laws and policies and their implementation status
- Information about obstacles and barriers to the full realization of the human rights and fundamental freedom of disabled people.
- Examples of "best practices" to advocate for further government action"

## Suggested Template for shadow report⁵

**Executive Summary** 

i. Key issues of concern and recommendations

Introduction

- i. Methodology
- ii. Who was involved in drafting the report
- iii. How and to what extent DPOs were involved in the preparation of the State Party Report

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Disabled People International 2012 Shadow Reporting Guidelines <a href="https://www.globaldisabilityrightsnow.org/sites/default/files/related-files/345/Shadow\_Reporting\_Guidelines\_on\_the\_CRPD\_for\_DPOs\_and\_CSOs\_DPI\_2012\_English.doc">https://www.globaldisabilityrightsnow.org/sites/default/files/related-files/345/Shadow\_Reporting\_Guidelines\_on\_the\_CRPD\_for\_DPOs\_and\_CSOs\_DPI\_2012\_English.doc</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid p.8

#### **Key Issues and Principle Concerns**

- i. Purpose, definitions, general principles and general obligations (Articles 1-4)
- ii. Specific rights covered under Articles 5 & 8-30
- iii. Situation of women and children with disabilities (Articles 6 & 7)
- iv. Statistics and data collection, international cooperation and national implementation and monitoring (Articles 31-33)

#### Key recommendations

#### References

The Shadow Report needs to be concise, based on reliable documented sources; it needs to be properly referenced. The length of the report can vary. The organizations in each country have flexibility in determining the size of the report because the situation in each country is different. It is suggested that the Shadow Report not exceed 60-70 pages in length. This does not include appendices or supplementary materials. The report should include:

- o Title page including title, author(s) and date of the report
- o Executive summary
- o Table of contents
- o Introduction that gives more information about the production of the report
- o Body, organized by the CRPD articles, including recommended actions
- o Conclusion
- o Appendices (e.g. text of important laws and regulations, lists of references or participants (NGOs) in report preparation, media clips, etc.)<sup>6</sup>

Working with Government as DPOs is expected in developing their Reports. This is helpful in developing issues that the State Party is not prioritizing that the shadow report should focus upon. The need to base the shadow report on evidence -statistics, surveys, judicial cases and case studies is important for its credibility. The recommendations the shadow report makes should be both realistic and achievable within the resources available and the level of development within the country. A great deal more back up for shadow report creating can be found at

https://www.globaldisabilityrightsnow.org/tools/crpd-shadow-report-guidance.

## Follow up Activity 6.6 in 2 parts

6.6.i) Suggest the main ways you would go about setting up a group to write a shadow report in your country.

6. 6.ii) List the main things you would need to consider to ensure the group you would be part of developing the shadow report need to consider to make sure you are successful.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid p.9

Watch 3 short clips and answer briefly for each the following questions

- a) How have they organised to influence Government?
- b) How do they work with the media?
- c) What do they do if the Government does not listen?
- d) Suggest other ways these DPOs might be able to influence their Governments.

6.7i.Rita Kusi Kyememaa, Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (4 mins 52 secs)

(https://youtu.be/uPTpEH3QEuA)

6.7ii. Abia Akram, Pakistan Special Talent Exchange Programme (3 mins 54 seconds)
(https://youtu.be/bxk2hNXClqA)

6.7iii. Patience Ogolo Dickson, Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities of Nigeria (JONAPWD) & Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiative (AWWDI) (3 mins) (https://youtu.be/3yj84FayuHs)