A blue and orange logo with white text

Description automatically generated**Commonwealth Disabled People’s Forum** [**https://commonwealthdpf.org**](https://commonwealthdpf.org)

**The Commonwealth Disabled People’s Forum (CDPF**) is an organisation of over 100 Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs) from 50 of he 56 Commonwealth countries. The Commonwealth makes up 2/5s of the world’s peoples which means at 16%, 430 million disabled people.

We use **Disabled People** and **not People with Disabilities** as we are of the view that disability is a cultural and social process that oppresses people with impairments. It is the barriers that need to be removed and it is these attitudinal, organisational and environmental barriers that oppress us. Therefore, we call ourselves disabled people in solidarity with each other, regardless of our wide range of impairments. Impairment is part of the human condition. How we are responded to and view ourselves in achieving disability equality is best served by having cross impairment organisations led and controlled by disabled people. **Nothing About Us Without Us.**

**This is not just an argument about language**. It is also how we conceive of the task and the actions we need to take to gain full disability equality and implementation of the UNCRPD.

**The key message disabled people need to internalise in their millions is that the discrimination and prejudice we face is not our fault and use this empowerment to self-organise for our rights.**

**CDPF** have been using **digital Disability Equality Training** to get this message across. In 2021 we ran a 14 module, online training with films, presentation, course books, assessment activities and seminars in different time slots to which over 500 participated. This can still be accessed. <https://commonwealthdpf.org/training/disability-equality-capacity-building>

In 2023/2024, as part of Commonwealth Year of Youth our Youth Forum decided we needed to run a 6 module, similar online **CDPF Disabled Youth Leadership Course.** Here we had 150+ participants from 41 countries and 50 submitted course work for assessment, with a much larger number attending the sessions. <https://commonwealthdpf.org/training/disabled-youth-leadership-course/>

**We need to invest in much more digital training to build our movement.**

**Disabled girls and women face the extra barriers of Sexism and harassment**. Two thirds of CDPF Executive are women and form our Women’s Forum. They have carried out online research, surveys and meetings to put forward strong policy positions at UN Committee on Status of Women and 13th Commonwealth Women Affairs Ministers Meeting. The Women’s Movement in general does not include disabled women. <https://commonwealthdpf.org/equality-areas/>

**CDPF have found that across the Commonwealth, despite some patches of good practice, only lip-service is paid to disability equality**. CDPF is therefore putting forward a **Disability Inclusion Action Plan** for adoption by Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa in October.

**This will significantly raise the implementation of UNCRPD across the Commonwealth** with regular Ministerial meetings, technical and economic collaboration between countries, a focus on collecting disaggregated data, provision of Disability Equality Training, increasing employment of disabled people in Government, work with the private sector to develop cheap effective assistive devices and technology, setting up a separate funding stream.

[**CDPF Disability Inclusion Action Plan.**](https://commonwealthdpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/THE-COMMONWEALTH-DISABILITY-INCLUSION-ACTION-PLAN-3rd-Draft.docx)

**If you are a DPO in the Commonwealth, join us in our endeavours.**

**If you are a Non-Governmentmental Organisation operating in the Commonwealth, support our endeavours.**

**If you are a Commonwealth state party, support your DPOs financially and agree the Action Plan.**

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