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CDPF Brief Information on Implementation of UNCRPD Questionnaire.

Will all DPOs supporting the and joining the re-launched Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum complete this form. Return to rrieser@gmail.com

1. Name of your DPO: **Nation Forum of Women with Disabilities (NFWD)**

2. Name of your country: **Sri Lanka**

3. Has your country ratified the UNCRPD and when? **Yes, 09 February 2016**

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

The Government of Sri Lanka has included disability as a separate thematic area in the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) 2017–2021. Many of the identified strategies and actions are aligned with the National Policy on Disability (2003) and the UNCRPD. However, despite these policy commitments, there is very limited political will and institutional commitment among many leading politicians and senior-level bureaucrats to effectively implement the UNCRPD. As a result, progress remains slow, fragmented, and largely unaccountable.

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

NFWD engages with government institutions through consultations, advocacy, policy dialogue, and participation in national and international forums. While engagement exists, meaningful participation of women with disabilities in decision-making processes remains limited and requires stronger institutionalised mechanisms.

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

NFWD's Founder President has been actively involved for many years in national and international consultations, civil society processes, and discussions contributing to

shadow reporting and monitoring of UNCRPD implementation. Through this engagement, NFWD has provided inputs reflecting the lived experiences and priorities of women with disabilities. NFWD has also applied for UN ECOSOC accreditation, which, if granted, will significantly strengthen NFWD's ability to directly engage in future submissions, reviews, and follow-up processes related to UNCRPD shadow reporting. NFWD continues to strengthen its organisational capacity and partnerships to engage more systematically with the UNCRPD Committee.

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

Progress has been limited. While inclusive education is recognised in policy, many schools lack accessible infrastructure, trained teachers, reasonable accommodation, and learning materials in accessible formats. Girls and young women with disabilities face additional barriers, leading to high dropout rates.

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

Social protection schemes, including disability benefits, exist, but coverage is inadequate and benefit levels are inadequate. People with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, face complex barriers due to poverty, care responsibilities, and lack of access to information and services.

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

Employment opportunities for persons with disabilities remain very limited. Quota systems and inclusive employment policies are weakly implemented. Women with disabilities experience discrimination based on both gender and disability, resulting in very low labour force participation.

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

Awareness-raising initiatives have taken place, mainly led by civil society organisations. However, deep-rooted stigma, harmful stereotypes, and charity-based approaches persist, particularly affecting women with disabilities, including those with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities.

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

Progress is minimal. Women with disabilities continue to face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including exclusion from leadership, justice systems,

employment, and protection from gender-based violence. Their voices are still under-represented in policy and decision-making spaces.

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

- UNCRPD monitoring and reporting
- Advocacy and policy analysis
- Organisational development and sustainability
- Resource mobilisation and fundraising
- Leadership development for young women with disabilities
- Digital accessibility and communication

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

NFWD is not a national umbrella DPO; it is a national-level Disabled Persons' Organisation focusing on women with disabilities. NFWD operates through participatory and democratic processes within its own membership, including consultations, regular meetings, representation from grassroots women with disabilities' groups, and leadership by women with disabilities. Decision-making is guided by collective input and accountability to members, while NFWD collaborates with other DPOs and networks through consultations, joint advocacy, and coalition-based work.

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

NFWD is a national-level Disabled Persons' Organisation with a specific focus on women with disabilities. NFWD works collaboratively with regional DPOs and other disability networks through consultations, advocacy coalitions, joint statements, and shared campaigns. Through these engagements, NFWD ensures that the specific voices, priorities, and lived experiences of women with disabilities are meaningfully represented in broader disability advocacy processes.

15. If there is no national; umbrella DPO. How could one be built?

There is currently no national umbrella DPO for women with disabilities in Sri Lanka. Such a body could be built through inclusive representation of women-led DPOs and grassroots groups, democratic governance, capacity building, sustainable funding, and

recognition of diverse impairment groups, with strong leadership and participation of women with disabilities.

16. How does your DPO get funded?

NFWD is primarily funded through project-based support from development partners, small grants, and contributions through collaborations and networks. NFWD also engages in partnerships for specific advocacy and capacity-building initiatives. However, long-term sustainable funding remains a significant challenge.

17. What training capacity does your DPO have?

Under the leadership of our Founder President with over 20 years of experience, NFWD delivers training on disability rights, gender equality, leadership, and advocacy for women with disabilities at grassroots, district, and national levels. NFWD also runs a day care centre for independent living, supporting women with disabilities to build life skills and confidence.

18. What regular training do you provide for PWD?

NFWD regularly provides training for persons with disabilities on disability rights, gender equality, leadership, advocacy, and independent living skills. These sessions use participatory and inclusive methods to empower PWD at grassroots, district, and national levels.

19. How does your DPO involve young DWP?

NFWD actively engages young persons with disabilities through leadership programs, mentorship, skills development workshops, and advocacy initiatives, enabling them to raise their voices, participate in decision-making, and contribute to community and national disability rights agendas.

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

Yes. NFWD has experience supporting persons with disabilities during humanitarian emergencies. Most recently, during the cyclone in Sri Lanka, NFWD provided dry rations, health and hygiene support, and assistive devices to over 200 families with disabilities. We also ensured accessibility, shared safety information, and coordinated with local authorities to help PWD access relief services and inclusive disaster response programs.