



1 IN 5

One in five women are women with disabilities; and they are leading the way towards inclusive disability and women's rights movements, around the world.





HERE'S WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT OUR SUPPORT:

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“DRF’s grant has been able to support [us] to influence access to SRH services for women with disabilities across national frontiers.” (Indonesia)

“With the help of DRF funding, people with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, are getting ahead of the game in respecting their rights and applying the Convention [CRPD].” (Haiti)

“...we gained exposure and support of women and girls with disabilities was enhanced.” (Malawi)

“We have been networking with other feminist organizations and other human rights organizations and [have been able to have]...communications with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and Women’s Rights” (Haiti)

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Violence against indigenous women and girls with disabilities is intrinsically linked to indigenous peoples' history of discrimination and marginalization. It is part of a continuum that spans interpersonal and structural forms of violence and inequality.

Pratima Gurung, Chair, National Indigenous Women's Association of Nepal

Panel at the UN CSW with Vicky Tauli-Corpus, Tarcila Rivera, Otila Lux de Coti (and others) with Pratima Gurung

INDIGENOUS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES GLOBAL NETWORK AT UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

"I am Pratima Gurung, and I am speaking on behalf of the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network, which represents 185 million indigenous women and 45 million indigenous persons with disabilities all around the globe.

The situation of indigenous women and women with disabilities in many parts of the world continues to be critical due to these groups' exposure to higher rates of violence.

We are reflecting on the twenty-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration Platform for Action, the ten-year anniversary celebration of the adoption of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the aspiration of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development leaving no one behind.

As change makers, indigenous women have contributed as mediators and negotiators to make peace happen. In the same way, we want to assert the rights and the humanity of indigenous women and women with disabilities. As we move towards this goal, we must first acknowledge the comprehensive understanding and experiences of indigenous women.

Second, justice and law enforcement agencies must engage with evidence of the systematic and structural nature of violence through the creation and use of disaggregated data and documents on violence against women with disabilities.

Third and finally, intercultural approaches and collaboration across movements must be framed by developing strategies, then scaled up in a way that involves different stakeholders."

A close-up photograph of a woman with a physical disability speaking into a red microphone. She is wearing a colorful patterned shirt and a blue lanyard. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a similar setting.

Taking bold actions requires strong motivation. Seeing disabled women chasing their goals always motivates me to help them wherever they are because I know that behind their disability, there is ability.

Gaudence Mushimiyimana, Co-founder and Executive Director, UNABU

WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES SPEAK OUT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN RWANDA

Rwanda has made great progress in promoting gender equality. After the Rwandan genocide in 1994, women demanded equality in politics, land inheritance, marriage, and credit.

Yet women with disabilities – 90% of whom live in rural areas – have not benefited from the economic growth and educational opportunities in the same way as women and men without disabilities. And despite the growing numbers of women in leadership positions, women with disabilities rarely hold or have access to positions of power.

Poverty and isolation — combined with society’s perception that persons with disabilities are weak and vulnerable — set up women and girls with disabilities to be at greater risk of violence.

In Rwanda, in spite of a national public campaign on the prevention of gender-based violence, many women with disabilities are not aware of the laws and services available for women facing violence.

UNABU has trained community mobilizers to organize community advocacy groups of women and girls with disabilities and raise awareness about their rights. Now, they are working with legal aid providers and the government to ensure that women with disabilities who have experienced violence have access to justice and to domestic violence shelters.

INDONESIA: "MOVE" FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS

The campaign for the Indonesian disability movement urges society to raise their voices for the rights of persons with disabilities. Their slogan "Bergerak untuk Disabilitas" unites all people to join together and "move" for the cause of disability rights.

On March 17, 2016, following advocacy by the disability rights movement in Indonesia, the government passed a national Persons with Disabilities Act. The Act adopts a human rights approach and complies with the CRPD. Now, the Indonesian disability movement is working towards full implementation.

As the movement pushes forward on implementation of rights, women with disabilities from the Indonesian Association of Women with Disabilities (HWDI) and other women-led DPOs are leading the way. This is a significant political and social milestone for the 36 million people with disabilities in Indonesia, who account for 15 percent of the 240 million total population according to World Health Organization.

It is remarkable and inspiring that more and more women with disabilities are taking leadership roles in what has been a traditionally patriarchal society. They are fighting at the local and national level for equal access to health care, education, employment, and political rights. They are also beginning to join the broader women's rights movement in Indonesia.

Thanks to the consistent funding for the last five years from the Disability Rights Fund, the movement has grown and we've had some considerable wins. The support raised our dignity – especially in front of the government. Now they consider us as professionals and equals, and treat us as partners of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Maulani Rotinsulu, Chair, Indonesian Association of Women with Disabilities

Women united to move forward for disability rights

BERGERAK UNTUK DISABILITAS



OUR GENDER GUIDELINES

The Disability Rights Fund and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund aim to ensure that women with disabilities are fully included in the disability and women's rights movements.

LEARN MORE: <http://disabilityrightsfund.org/about/our-strategy/gender-guidelines/>



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