

---

# SPOTLIGHT: Indonesia

## Inclusion of Women with Disabilities in Sexual Violence Crime Law in Indonesia

### Setting the Scene

In 2012, Indonesia's National Commission on Violence Against Women produced the first draft of the Elimination of Sexual Violence Act. However, this draft included Article 104 that legalized forced contraception and sterilization of women and girls with disabilities. In response to consistent advocacy of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and their allies, women with disabilities were invited to share their lived experiences and the urgency to pass an inclusive law that protects persons with disabilities from sexual violence. Thanks to cross-movement collaboration, OPDs gained support from the mainstream women's rights movement and the Parliament to build support for the draft bill, which was passed into law on April 12, 2022.



### Who led the cause?

This advocacy win was a result of a campaign to remove Article 104 by the Indonesian Mental Health Association (IMHA) and Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia (HWDI). Together with over 20 organizations, important bridges and connections were built with the mainstream women's rights movement, resulting in joint advocacy for the passage of the Sexual Violence Crime Bill.



**"The issue of disability rights has now become a central issue in the larger human rights movement in Indonesia."**

- Jakarta Legal Aid

---

# Milestones 2017-2022

---

- 1. A bill, which included protections for women and girls with disabilities, was drafted by the National Commission on Violence Against Women** and registered in the National Legislation Program in 2017.
- 2. OPDs and the mainstream women's rights activists worked together** to strategize on joint advocacy.
- 3. They met with the President's staff to ensure the bill protects the rights of women with disabilities;** Article 104 on forced sterilization is eventually removed from the Law.
- 4. On April 12, 2022, Indonesia approved the new law that protects all women,** including women and girls with disabilities, from sexual violence.

## Why is this win so important?

- Women with disabilities now have the right to make decisions about their own bodies.
- Persons with disabilities have the same legal rights and capacity as other citizens. Their testimony has the same weight and value as the testimony of persons without disabilities.
- Persons with disabilities who experience sexual violence have the right to reasonable accommodation.
- There is additional punishment in cases of sexual violence if the victim or survivor is a person with disabilities.
- The disability movement and women's rights movement in Indonesia worked together for the rights of persons with disabilities.

## DRF/DRAF Contribution

The technical assistance provided by DRF/DRAF over the years contributed to building the capacities of women with disabilities and their organizations. This also facilitated networking with other women with disabilities, from the local to the international level. DRF/DRAF also supported cross-collaboration between women with disabilities and the Indonesia Women's Coalition by funding a convening in 2018. This convening was key moments for building bridges between the disability movement and the mainstream women's rights movement.

