



Young people with disabilities

**Their rights to be safe from violence
and to make choices about
their health, bodies, sex,
relationships and having children**





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About this report



We are called the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**.

We work to make sure that people get their rights to do with:

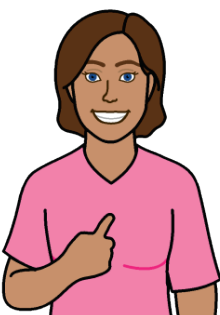
- being free from violence
- having safe and happy relationships
- having children

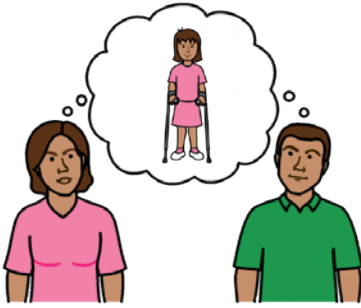


This report is about young people with disabilities aged 10 to 24.

It looks at their rights to:

- Be safe from violence.
This report is about a type of violence called gender-based violence. It mainly happens to women and girls but can also happen to boys
- Make their own choices about their bodies, relationships, sex and having children
- Have a big say in what happens to them





We looked into what was happening with young people with disabilities around the world.



For example, we:

- Talked to young people with disabilities and other people
- Looked at lots of information
- Went to visit some countries



This report is part of a big project about the rights of women and young people with disabilities called **We Decide**.



This report looks at:

- Problems that young people with disabilities face to do with violence, health, relationships, sex and having children
- What should be done to make sure young people with disabilities get their rights



What problems do young people with disabilities face?



Young people with disabilities are often treated badly.

They may be treated badly because of more than one thing about them.

For example, because of their disability, age and gender (being a girl, boy or something else).



People often have wrong ideas about young people with disabilities.



For example, people may think that:

- It is bad to have a disability
- Women and girls with disabilities should not have relationships, sex or children
- People with disabilities are not able to make their own choices and cannot be trusted



Many health staff and other people do not have the right information and training about young people with disabilities.



Young people with disabilities experience more violence and abuse than other young people.

For example, people may bully young people with disabilities or force them to do sexual things.



This is worse for:

- Girls and young women with disabilities
- Young people with intellectual disabilities and some other disabilities



Most girls and young women with disabilities are not allowed to make choices about their own bodies, health, relationships, sex and having children.



It can be hard for them to:

- Know their rights
- Get the information, healthcare and support they need.



For example, support to know about safe sex and happy and healthy relationships.



This puts girls and young women with disabilities in more danger.

For example:

- They may get pregnant when they do not want to
- They may catch a disease from having sex
- People may stop them from having relationships or children

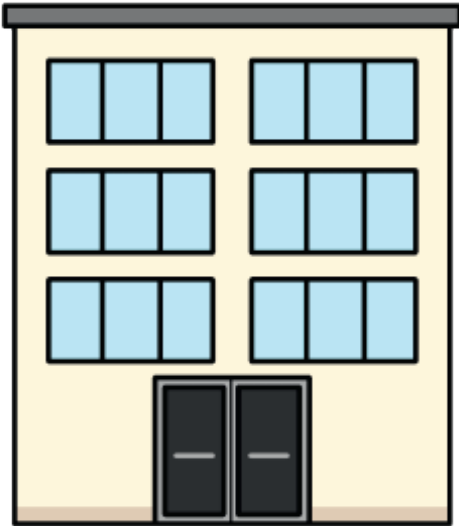


It is hard for many young people with disabilities to go to school.

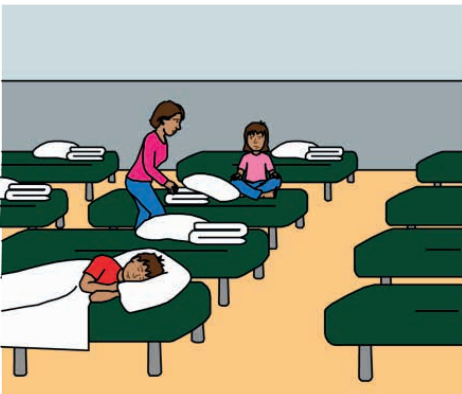
This can stop them having a good life.



People often forget about young people with disabilities when they make new laws, rules and services.



Many things are hard for young people with disabilities to use, like buildings, healthcare equipment and information.



Many young people with disabilities live in homes or hospitals far away from their families and communities.

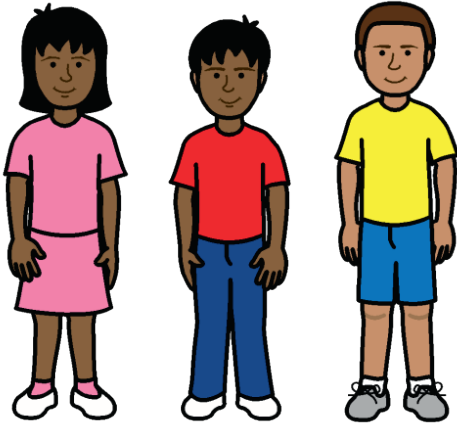
This can put them in more danger.



It can be hard for young people with disabilities to speak up and get their rights.

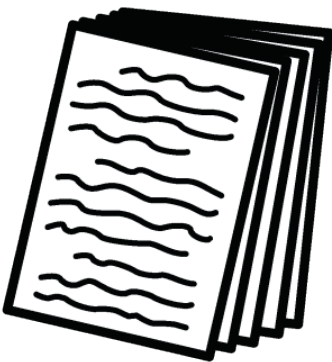
For example, people may not let them speak up or trust what they say.

What rights do young people with disabilities have?



Young people with disabilities have all the same rights as other young people.

For example, the right to go to school, work, have their say about their health and bodies, and take part in their communities.



There is a document about the rights of all people with disabilities.

It is called the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**.

There are other documents and agreements about rights that everyone has.



Many countries have agreed to do what these documents say.

This means governments must make sure that all young people with disabilities get their rights.

What should happen



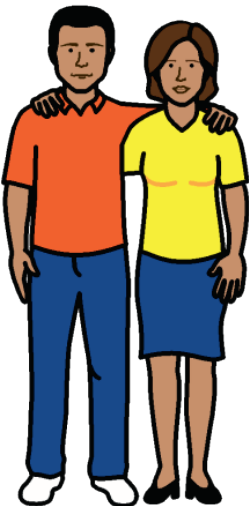
Young people with disabilities should get all their rights to:

- Be safe from violence



- Decide if and when they want relationships, sex and children

Other people should not decide for them.



- Have healthy and happy relationships



- Have safe sex they enjoy



- Have treatment for diseases that people can get from having sex



- Have the right information and support about safe sex, relationships and children.

This will help young people with disabilities decide what they want.

Governments and other groups should make the following things happen:

1

Young people with disabilities should have a big say in things that affect them.

For example, new laws and plans.

They should never be left out.



2



Different organizations should work with young people with disabilities and the organizations that support them.

This includes governments, the United Nations and organizations of people with disabilities.



They should:

- Find out what young people with disabilities need and what needs to change
- Make good laws, plans and services that give everyone good support
- Check how the laws, plans and services are working



3



Governments should change any laws and rules that are unfair to young people with disabilities.

4

Governments should make sure that:



- Laws, plans and rules for everyone also work for young people with disabilities.

For example, laws about stopping violence against women and girls.

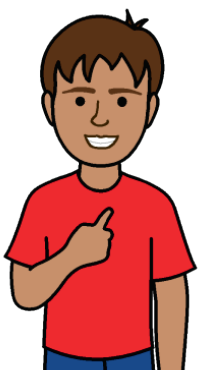


- Support services for everyone are easy for young people with disabilities to use.

For example, support to help people cope and get better after violence.



And information about safe and happy relationships, having children, and being pregnant.



- Young people with disabilities get different support just for them if they need it

5



Governments should help people think good things about young people with disabilities and treat them fairly.

For example, governments should:

- Help young people with disabilities know their rights and have their say



- Give other people information and training about young people with disabilities and their rights.

For example, the police, judges, health staff and local communities.

6



There should be good information about what is happening for young people with disabilities and what they need.



7

Young people with disabilities should get good support if someone is violent to them.

For example:



- Young people with disabilities should get support to go to court
- People who are violent to young people with disabilities should be punished



8

There should be enough money for all of this work.

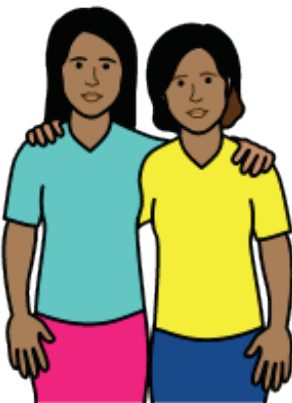
Some examples of good work that countries are doing



- Health staff in Ecuador, Nepal, Uruguay and Ethiopia are getting information and training about people with disabilities and how to make services work for them.



- People with an intellectual disability in Kenya are getting support to go to court if violence happens to them.



- Women and young people with disabilities are supporting each other to learn about their rights in Nepal, the Philippines and Mozambique.



- India made some websites to help women and girls with disabilities know their rights to do with relationships, sex and children.



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