








UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Articles 12 & 19)



-  The right of persons with disabilities to legal capacity on an equal basis with others, in all aspects of life, should be guaranteed
-  Necessary support should be provided to persons with disabilities, in exercising their legal capacity.
-  Persons with disabilities should participate equally, effectively and fully in politics and public life.
-  It must be ensured that electoral procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use.
-  The right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot should be guaranteed and, where appropriate, the use of assistive technologies and new technologies should be facilitated.
-  During voting assistance should be allowed to persons with disabilities, where necessary and on request, by a person of their choice.

Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights

is mandated to act as an
Independent Mechanism for the Promotion,
Protection and Monitoring of the UN Convention
on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



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Equal Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Elections



The exclusion of persons with disabilities from electoral processes and other forms of political participation constitutes discrimination on the basis of disability, which is often directly linked to the denial or limitation of legal capacity.

For this reason:

- Legal capacity of all persons with disabilities should be recognized and they should be provided with the necessary support to exercise it.



Persons with disabilities:

- Must not be deprived of their voting rights.
- Should not be removed from the electoral rolls.
- Should not be excluded from the electoral process because of their disability.

It has to be done:

- Ensure access to elections for all persons with disabilities, regardless of their disability.
- Provide the necessary support for the exercise of voting rights by all persons with disabilities, even if they reside in institutions or all-day care centres.

Political meetings and materials used and produced by political parties or individual candidates running in elections, is important to be accessible, otherwise, persons with disabilities are deprived of their right to equal participation in the political process.

Prior to the election, the following should be ensured:

- Accessibility of the places where pre-election rallies are organized.
- Election information is provided in an accessible, appropriate and comprehensible format.
- Political parties have their election material in forms accessible, appropriate and understandable to all people with disabilities.
- Pre-election rallies are held in places accessible by persons with disabilities.
- Television broadcasts related to the elections are simultaneously accessible to all persons with disabilities, regardless of their disability.
- Persons with disabilities are timely informed about the accessibility of the polling stations.
- The necessary education and training is provided to those in charge of the polling stations in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities.

When voting process, facilities and materials are not appropriate, accessible, easy to understand and easy to use, persons with disabilities are unable to exercise their right to participate in political and public life.

During the voting process:

- All barriers that preclude equal access for persons with disabilities to independent and secret ballot, should be removed.
- Provide assistance to persons with disabilities, when they wish, from a person of their choice, should be removed
- The necessary technological or other form of support should be provided to persons with disabilities, to vote secretly and independently
- The necessary reasonable accommodations and facilities should be provided to persons with disabilities, ensuring that:
 - Polling stations are accessible to all persons with disabilities, regardless of their disability.
 - Persons with disabilities are fully informed about the election process.
 - Persons with disabilities vote independently and secretly, with or without assistance, depending on their choices.