A fairer justice system for women with disabilities

What we learned at our event at the World Justice Forum 2022
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In this Easy Read document, hard words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after we have used them.

Some words are **blue and underlined**. These are links that will go to another website which has more information.
Introduction

The UN Women Regional Office of Asia and Pacific works to make life better for women in Asia and the Pacific. We are part of the United Nations.

The United Nations (UN) is an organisation made up of many countries working together. It works to make the world a safer and better place.

In May, we ran an event at the World Justice Forum 2022 - this is a yearly event about making the law fairer for everyone around the world.

The event was to look at why women with intellectual disabilities and psychosocial disabilities are not being treated fairly by justice systems in Asia and the Pacific, and think about what needs to change.
Justice systems are people and organisations which help make sure people follow the law and people are protected by the law.

Justice systems include many different people and organisations, including:

- The police.
- The courts.
- Lawyers.
People with **intellectual disabilities** find it more difficult to learn and take part in daily life.

People with **psychosocial disabilities** face issues or barriers because they have a mental health condition.

At the moment, justice systems are not working well for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

This report will tell you more about our event and what we found out.
The event

The event involved:

• Women with disabilities and their families.

• People from other organisations that we work with.

• People who work in law and human rights around the world.

Human rights are the things that every person has, by law. Like the right to be safe and the right to be treated with respect.

We listened to people’s experiences of being treated unfairly and talked about what needs to be done to make the justice system fairer for women with disabilities.
There were 4 main things that we found out during the event:

1. Women with disabilities must be involved in making any changes.

2. Justice systems should work and represent everyone.

3. Laws and rules need to change to make justice systems fairer for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

4. Organisations that are run by and represent persons with disabilities need support to help women get fair justice.
Women with disabilities must be involved in making any changes

We learned that it is important for women with disabilities and the organisations that represent them to be involved in making changes to justice systems because:

• They have experience of what it is like to be treated unfairly.

• They understand what needs to change to make things fairer.

• They have good ideas.

Women with disabilities must be listened to.
Justice systems should work for everyone

Justice systems in Asia and the Pacific need to work for every person, including women with disabilities.

Some of the most important changes that need to happen are for justice systems to:

- Stop treating women with disabilities in a different way to other people.
- Give women with disabilities the chance to make their own decisions, with support if it is needed.
- Give women with disabilities information in a way that they can understand, like Easy Read.
• Give more opportunities to women with disabilities to work within justice systems.

• Follow the rules that have been agreed by all countries of the United Nations, to treat people with disabilities fairly.

These rules are called the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

As part of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, countries have agreed that:

• Women and girls with disabilities are treated unfairly in lots of different ways.

• Countries will work to make sure that women and girls with disabilities have full, free and equal lives.
Laws and rules need to change to make justice systems fairer

Countries will need to make changes to their laws and rules to make justice systems fairer for women with disabilities.

To make the right changes there needs to be more information about what women with disabilities need.

Good information can be collected through surveys which are written by and for women with disabilities.

We know that it takes time to change laws and rules.
In the meantime, people who work in justice systems should look at what they can do to be fairer to women with disabilities now.
Organisations that are run by and represent persons with disabilities need support to do their work.

They do important work, including:

- Helping women with disabilities to access justice systems.

- Training women with disabilities to understand their rights.
• Supporting women with disabilities to speak up for their rights.

• Working with women with disabilities and justice systems to stop them from having problems with the law.
What should happen next

The justice system needs to listen to and work with women with disabilities and other organisations working for their rights.

These organisations should work together to understand why women with disabilities are not being treated fairly, and what needs to be done about it.

We must make sure that countries are following the United Nations rules about:

- Treating persons with disabilities fairly.

- Protecting the rights of women, especially women with disabilities.
Women with disabilities must be allowed to use the law to get their rights, like anyone else.

Women with disabilities must be involved in making changes to justice systems, to make them fairer for everyone.

The event was co-sponsored by:

[Logos of IDA, Ollscoil na Gaillimh, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, UN Women]
For more information

You can look at our website here: www.asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/governance/womens-access-to-justice

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This Easy Read information has been produced by easy-read-online.co.uk

The Easy Read summary was peer-reviewed by Morgan Maze, international self-advocate for the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities

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