

National Disabled Women's Convention, 2006 Retrospect

DECLARATION OF THE CONVENTION 3. Disabled women should be This Convention unani- mously demands the realization of the rights of 7 million (70 lakhs) disabled women. The demand is the result of consensus reached in 114 workshops in 23 districts participated by 12,000 disabled persons, local elected them for the disabled people. representatives and elite of society, organised by National Development - ADD along

the support of ADD. The demands of the disabled Disabled Women's Convention women are

Education: Primary education is ensured for all but disabled on 09 June 2006. The daylong children especially girls are being deprived. The following initiatives are needed:

1. The education of disabled children should be placed under the Ministry of Education instead of Social Welfare Department as at present.

Experienced teachers preferably disabled who can understand the needs of disabled children should be recruited.

3. Scholarships granted to Mosharrof Hossain disabled girls should be Country Representative ADD

system should be introduced in schools and colleges.

5. Availability of teachers knowing sign language for those with hearing impairment. 6. More time should be given to disabled examinees with multidisabilities.

7. Teachers training syllabus should have suitable provisions for teaching the disabled.

8. PTI and B.Ed training should have arrangements for in teaching disabled people. Health: The special health-care

needs of disabled women are: 1. Free/reduced charge

disabled women.

health care centers should be establish human, social, reserved for the disabled.

including those intellectually challenged.

5. Treatment and awareness of all disabilities be given wide coverage in the media.

6. Disabled women made aware of HIV/AIDS and necessary precaution in this respect.

7. Creation of awareness in disabled women regarding mother-child and fertility issues.

Employment

1. To generate employment, each division to have one vocational training center to educate and train disabled women.

2. Implementation of existing employment quota of 10% in all Govt and non-Govt organizations.

3. Interest-free loans must be made available to disabled Umme Kulsum Ranjana women for self-employment.

4. Denial of employment Women's Council people must be changed. Legal Policies

conformity with those in CEDAW.

Strict laws must be promulgated to protect disabled women against violence.

3. Protection of legal rights of those with hearing and speech impairments and special arrangements to protect the disabled from exploitation.

4. Quick justice to the disabled victims of violence and rape with punishment to the guilty though speedy tribunals.

5. 6 reserved seats for disabled women in National Ramachandran Parliament,

6. Amendments to and I work in Bangalore, India implementation of the Disability where we focus on people Welfare Act, 2001 ensured. Accessibility to Transport

and I/D card issued to them. respect their demands.

allowed to travel free of charge or at reduced rates.

4. Special landmarks on roads for the visually impaired to facilitate their movement.

5. Ramps in transport and buildings to facilitate access to

Action on Disability and Disabled Women's Council with with Disabled Women's Council held the first everat the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center programme was divided into four different sessions where many distinguished guests gave their opinions as follows



Overcoming the difficulties 4. Education using the Braille faced in 1995 when ADD Bangladesh first started its work in getting the disabled people out of their houses, they have today come out and are fighting for their rights to participate, for empowerment and to establish human rights. Bangladesh is no exception come forward themselves when it comes to neglecting and depriving the disabled people, especially women their rights. The disabled teachers who are well-versed and children who are the most marginalized and frequent victims of violence and torture. This cannot continue and change is access to transport and other treatment in Govt and non- inevitable. This change has services must be made Govt hospitals/health/care manifested itself today when disabled people including 2. There should be reserved ethnic minorities have person with disability works seats in such institutions for gathered in unison from 27 districts of the country.

3. 10% seats in all Government ADD has been working to political, economic and 4. Trained Public Sector grass- cultural rights of the disabled roots workers made available people all over the world. The to cope with disabled people disabled people now have become vocal about their development of situation, to attain rights to education, health and employment. The PRSP in Bangladesh also promises change for the development of the disabled people. If proper opportunities of education, health and employment are provided then the disabled people will prove that they can be assets



President National Disabled

opportunities to disabled I believe the main deterrent for the disabled people is the attitude of the society. Lives 1. National women's law and of the disabled people will policies should be in turn about if this is changed. Today I am earning a masters degree because I got the right environment. Today we require equal opportunities in all sectors of embarrassment



Director ADD India

with disability especially in the rural areas. Through this 1. Reserved seats and convention declaration today, separate counters for disabled the disabled people of women in all forms of Bangladesh have voiced their demands. These demands 2. Separate transport made are very relevant and it is available for disabled women very important that we



DG Social Services Department The government has taken steps to facilitate the lives of the disabled people. About 60 thousand disabled people receive benefits each month. 10% quota has been reserved for the disabled people in the recruitment of 3rd and 4th class government employees. The first water of the state, I have met plant directed by disabled people 'Mukta Mineral Water' is situated in Tongi. Work for the disabled is progressing in me most was that nonthe private sector as well. The disabled victims of rape and performance of ADD deserves praise in this regard for achieving so much in just



Nasir ur Rahman Sinha Chairperson, ACME Group

The disabled people must and achieve their goals through love and asserting people must first be identified and given identity cards as impairment. their Employment opportunities, available to them.

I can youch for the fact that a with more interest and sincerity than a non disable person. We have a Disability Welfare Act : why has it not been implemented? To bring the grassroots disabled people forward, the role of disabled women in the ADD is praiseworthy.



Kushi Kabir

Coordinator Nijera Kori The national policies for the people and Disability Welfare Act in 1995 and 2001 respectively. We have to scrutinize these acts that all discrimination is and begin a nation wide obliterated. The government movement to press for our promises that it will take fast demands.

I work in an NGO. Entire implement the disability society must cooperate and come forward if the disabled people are to achieve their



S M Jahrul Islam Secretary Ministry of LGRD

I have personally noticed the restrictions disabled peoples and their families. If the physically impaired students in the rural primary areas apply to me then we will construct ramps for them in every school.

With hard work, I believe that physical challenges can be overcome but it is the obligation of the government to remove all artificial barriers on the path of the disabled people and I request the government to do so. Issac Kute

CEO ADD UK

Having toured many areas in Bangladesh, I have realised how vibrant and committed



the people are to the issue of human rights of the disabled people. This is a clear statement to the human rights commitment of the country. ADD works in 12 countries in Asia and Africa, promoting human rights among disabled people so that they can enjoy their rights, fulfil obligation and participate in the running people in different parts of the country and have shared their experiences.What impressed violence are now turning to the disabled for help. I have had discussions with the president about the health and education issues of the disabled people where increased allocation has been



Barrister Nazmul Huda

Minister Ministry of Communications I believe this is the largest gathering of disabled women in the world. Today we will receive ideas from the participants that will guide the government to move in the right direction. I am very pleased that ADD has formed a federation of disabled women with disabled women. Participation of disabled women from all sectors of the society has to be ensured. 93 women federations in district and union level have been formed but there are 70 lakh country who discriminated against. The aim of this convention is to highlight their rights and aspirations to the country. PRSP have mentioned 7 which the rights to health, education, employment for the disabled people as well as their rights to participate at all levels of society will be ensured. Government has taken steps to ensure political, economical empowerment of women so and appropriate steps to



Akhter Hossain President National Grass-roots Disabled Organization

Since 1995, the grass-roots disabled people have been united and improved their situation, getting respect and participate in representative activities. We call for the amendment. implementation of the disability welfare act 2001. We demand allocation of 10% in the education budget and increase in national budget for disabled people. To develop as a nation, we must at first develop the condition

of our disabled people. Abdus Sattar Dulal Chairperson Nadpo

Counting the disabled and their families and neighbours fully 20% people of this country are closed to the disability issues. Each policy formulated to alleviate



poverty must include the disabled persons who the poorest of the poor if we are ever to eliminate poverty. Policies should be formed so that the disable people can obtain their rights at every step. In addition the disabled should be enabled to have free access everywhere.



Bilkis Islam

It is the constitutional right of the disable people to be treated equally. To eliminate discrimination they must be included in the political parties. If they take part in the national election and policymaking then the issue of their participation will be resolved.



Asaduzzaman Nur

MP Neelphamari-2 There is disable person in my family, I understand their helplessness and sorrow. We have to fight to achieve our constitutional rights and nothing is handed to us without a struggle. I feel that we have to work dedicatedly to create a united move towards obtaining our rights.



Shahjahan Khan MP Madaripur-2

Any budget that is brought by the disable people will be supported by the present opposition party in the parliament.



Gulam Mohammad Quader

MP Rongpur-3 We must keep reserved seats for disable people in the parliament. The disable people must be brought into mainstream politics for implementation of the



Barrister Md. Shahjahan Omar State Minister Ministry of Law We can initiate some action

for the disable people personally. This action will encourage others because proper use of allocated funds is just as necessary.



Colonel (Retd) Faruk Khan Whip of the Opposition & MP Gopalganj-1

To have success the 1.5 crore disabled people of this country must be mobilised into an united organisation with dedicated leaders. Accidents have resulted in 1 lakh 88 thousand people becoming physically impaired



Ayesha Khanam General Secretary Bangladesh Mosila Parishad

All disabled people face some restriction in one way or another. Even the abled are politically disabled. We need policy makers who will prioritize the needs of the people and will not only work for their personal benefit only.



Rina Rai

Director Rights Manusher Jonno I have been greatly impressed by the active role played in the women in Kushtia.



Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul Executive Editor Daily Sangbad This government is disabled too because it cannot provide the constitutional rights to its people. The journalists of Bangladesh will always be with the disable women of the country and give their success stories



Nilufar Ahmed Senior Social Scientist World Bank The disable, non-disable people and the government must work together to eliminate all barriers in the lives of the disable people.



Kim Mc Quay

Country Director Asia Foundation The most important aspect is to raise awareness and ensuring that the disable people take part in the electoral process. Through this it can be ensured that the issues of the disable people will reach the law and policy makers.



Sultana Kamal Executive Director Ain o Salish Kendra The disable people are very much a part of the civil society and thus all of us have to work hand in hand to help each other out. Atiur Rahman

Chairperson Unnayan Shamannay In the name of development,





policymakers are misusing taxpayers money. The allocation of the budget is inappropriate to the demands. Only 60,000 additional disabled people have been brought under the benefit scheme of 200 tk. In a budget of 70,000 crore, only 40 crore have been allocated for the disabled. Disabled freedom fighters have to beg to survive. Therefore to achieve any of our rights we must



Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad Bangladesh Chairperson Economich Association

We are the citizens of this country and according to the constitution, we are the owners of this state. The policy makers tend to forget this fact. In this regard it must be said that the 25 crore tk society by the disabled that was previously allocated was not spent, therefore it makes the issue of the amount of allocation redundant. Many people have talked about the nonimplementation of the disability welfare act-2001. This is because in this country laws are traded. We have to be vocal and visible on these issues and if necessary have to start movements to press



Selina Hossain

Writer The disabled people, given proper opportunities can prove themselves worthy, now also we must prove



Nawazesh Ali khan Senior Vice President ATN Bangla I request the media persons here to try and air news and educational programmes in sign languages. This is done in many countries of the world and will lead to a greater participation of the disabled population at the



The political instab ility in this country has made survival of disabled women very difficult. People must coordinate from

all sectors if this situation is to improve.



Jalal Uddin Ahmad Chief Metropolitan Magistrate awareness about what

Last year we have done a workshop on the disability welfare Act-2001 with the disable people to increase measures can be taken legally if this law is not followed. We hope this act will soon emerge as a fullfledged law.



Anna-Campbell Johnston Programme Coordinator ADD UK Compared to the past I see now that the disabled people have grown in confidence, are more aware of their rights and are ready to fight for them. The disability welfare act 2001 is an example of this. In Bogra I met a group of disabled women who have been trained in how to conduct legal actions where necessary and take proper procedures. Thus nondisabled women now come to this group to seek cooperation and legal advice. The movement of the disabled people is growing very quickly as we have realised that the rights of the disabled people are human rights.



Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury

Ecective Director BRAC A ramp was built in our Shahid Minar only in 2006. Before this, the disabled people could not pay homage to martyrs of the language movement. We have to keep the needs to the disabled in mind while constructing any structure. The disabled people must also ensure that their names are included in the 2006 voters' list so that



Dr. Hameeda Hossain Founder Member Ain o Salish Kendra The demands of the disabled people are internationally recognized and we have the disability welfare act 2001 in Bangladesh. We have established some schools for children in some of the rural areas of the country and we will only recruit disabled women as teachers there. I think affirmative actions are necessary to take the



Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud Former Adviser to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh This convention will be a

landmark for the women of this country. I hope that example of fair election that is given by the disabled women today will be followed by the national election commission. Though this budget has largely ignored the needs of the disabled, future budgets will be unable to do so because the disabled people will prove that in the future it will be impossible to win an election without their support.

National Disabled Women's Council ADD Action on Disability and Development