# Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia (HWDI)

**Introduction**

HWDI is a national organization of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) that works on gender issues, advocacy, and empowerment of women with disabilities in Indonesia based on Law No. 19/2011 on the Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Law No. 8/2016 on Persons with Disabilities.

HWDI is the first and largest organization of women with disabilities in Indonesia that provides support, advocacy, and empowerment for women with disabilities throughout Indonesia. HWDI is committed to creating an inclusive, fair, and gender-just environment for women with disabilities, as well as improving their welfare and quality of life. HWDI offers various programs and activities that suit the needs and aspirations of women with disabilities, such as skill training, legal aid, counseling, policy advocacy, and awareness campaigns. HWDI also cooperates with various partners, both government, private, and civil society, to strengthen the capacity and network of women with disabilities. HWDI is a trusted, professional, and experienced organization in the field of women with disabilities. HWDI is the voice and friend of women with disabilities in Indonesia.

Vision and Mission

The vision of HWDI is to achieve social welfare and fulfilment of the rights of women with disabilities through advocacy of gender equality and empowerment of women with disabilities based on human rights that adhere to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Law No. 8 of 2016 on Persons with Disabilities in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The mission of HWDI is to represent women with disabilities as part of the society that strives for the implementation of rights in the economic, social, and legal protection domains, and to carry out the mandate of the work program through the processes of advocacy, empowerment, and service in a strategic, effective, responsive, and widely impactful manner towards an inclusive society.

Programs and Activities

HWDI has several programs and activities that aim at the rights of persons with disabilities, such as:

* Advocacy: monitoring and overseeing the implementation of programs and policies based on the CRPD and Law No. 8/2016 on Persons with Disabilities, such as accessibility and reasonable accommodation in the fields of education, work, legal protection, and public services.
* Service and Empowerment: providing skill training, counseling, legal aid, and awareness and skill enhancement for stakeholders and government officials related to disability perspectives and ethics of interaction with various disabilities.
* Research and Development: conducting studies and research as the basis for monitoring the implementation of Law No. 8/2016 as a form of contribution that becomes a reference for policy makers to make changes and build a more fair system for women with disabilities, such as the alternative report of CRPD-CEDAW.

Advocacy

HWDI advocates for the rights of women with disabilities, especially those who are victims of violence, abuse, and exploitation. HWDI ensures and encourages that various policies are implemented in accordance with the regulations in providing protection, fulfilment of rights, and equal opportunities, such as:

Building a mechanism to provide support for women victims of violence, based on the MOU with the Indonesian National Police and the Commission for the Protection of Indonesian Children in 2020 on “Accessibility of the Indonesian National Police Services for Persons with Disabilities”.

Overseeing Law No. 12/2022 on sexual violence crimes and its derivative regulations, providing assistance for women with disabilities who face the law.

## 1. What should Australia prioritise to advance disability equity and rights internationally?

Women and girls with disabilities in Indonesia and the region face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion based on their gender, disability, and other factors, such as age, ethnicity, religion, class, or location. [According to the 2022 Population Census, there are about 22.5 million people with disabilities in Indonesia, of whom 11.4 million are women1](https://www.hwdi.org/). [However, the actual number of women and girls with disabilities may be higher than in 2021, when there were 16.5 million people with disabilities, of whom 8.3 million were women](https://www.hwdi.org/tentang-hwdi). This is because many of them are hidden, neglected, or unregistered due to the stigma and shame attached to disability. Women and girls with disabilities experience various barriers and challenges in accessing and enjoying their rights, such as:

* lack of recognition and respect for their dignity and autonomy, as well as their diversity and specific needs.
* lack of access to information, education, health, work, social protection, and reproductive and sexual rights due to physical, attitudinal, communication, and institutional barriers.
* lack of participation and representation in decision-making processes at all levels due to the low level of awareness, capacity, and support for their involvement.
* high risk and prevalence of violence, abuse, and exploitation due to the power imbalance, dependency, isolation, and vulnerability of women and girls with disabilities.
* lack of access to justice, legal aid, and redress mechanisms due to the limited availability, affordability, and accessibility of these services, as well as the lack of awareness and sensitivity of the duty bearers and the service providers.
* lack of data, research, and evidence on the situation and needs of women and girls with disabilities, as well as a lack of monitoring and evaluation of the policies and programs that affect them.

At the same time, women and girls with disabilities have enormous potential and aspirations to contribute to the development and well-being of their communities and countries. They have valuable skills, knowledge, and experiences that can enrich and enhance the diversity and inclusiveness of society. They have the right and the responsibility to participate in and benefit from the development process and hold the duty-bearers accountable for their obligations and commitments. They have the vision and the courage to challenge the status quo and to create positive change for themselves and others.

## 2. What are the most effective approaches to progress these priorities?

[We applaud Australia for its leadership and commitment to advancing equality and disability rights internationally, as demonstrated by its ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)](https://www.hwdi.org/), its endorsement and support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and its development of the new International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy. We believe that Australia has a unique and strategic role to play in promoting and protecting the rights and interests of women and girls with disabilities in the region and globally as a major donor, partner, and advocate. We recommend that Australia prioritize the following to advance equality and disability rights internationally:

* Support the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD at national, regional, and global levels, involving organizations of persons with disabilities as key partners. Australia should continue to provide technical and financial assistance to the governments and civil society in the region and globally to ratify and implement the CRPD, as well as to report and follow up on the recommendations of the CRPD Committee. Australia should also support the participation and representation of organizations of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, in the CRPD processes, such as the Conference of States Parties, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.
* Align the International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy with the SDGs and the CRPD, and ensure that it is gender-responsive, inclusive, and participatory. Australia should ensure that its new strategy is consistent with the principles and provisions of the SDGs and the CRPD, and that it addresses the specific needs and priorities of women and girls with disabilities. Australia should also ensure that its strategy is developed and implemented with the meaningful involvement and consultation of organizations of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, and that it is monitored and evaluated using disaggregated data and indicators.
* Increase the funding and support for the empowerment and capacity building of organizations of women and girls with disabilities in the region and globally. Australia should recognize and value the role and contribution of organizations of women and girls with disabilities as agents of change and as experts on their own lives. Australia should increase its funding and support for the empowerment and capacity building of these organizations, especially at the grassroots level, to enable them to advocate for their rights, participate in decision-making processes, access services and opportunities, and collaborate with other stakeholders. Australia should also support the networking and alliance building of organizations of women and girls with disabilities at the national, regional, and global levels, to strengthen their voice and influence.
* Promote and support the mainstreaming and integration of disability and gender perspectives in all aspects of development cooperation and humanitarian action. Australia should ensure that its development cooperation and humanitarian action are inclusive and accessible for all, and that they address the specific needs and challenges of women and girls with disabilities. Australia should also ensure that its development cooperation and humanitarian action promote and support the mainstreaming and integration of disability and gender perspectives in all sectors and areas, such as education, health, work, social protection, climate change, peace and security, etc. Australia should also advocate for and support the inclusion and participation of women and girls with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of development and humanitarian programs and policies

**3. How can DFAT support the role of, and partner with, organisations of persons with disabilities?**

We hope that DFAT can support the role and partnership with organisations of persons with disabilities in the following ways:

Provide adequate and sustainable technical and financial support to organisations of persons with disabilities, especially those based in developing countries, to strengthen their capacity, advocacy, and influence.

Recognise and appreciate organisations of persons with disabilities as equal and legitimate development partners, and involve them in policy dialogue and consultation, both at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels.

Encourage and facilitate the formation and strengthening of networks and alliances of organisations of persons with disabilities, both at national, regional, and global levels, to enhance their coordination, collaboration, and representation.

Build the capacity and awareness of DFAT staff and their implementing partners on disability issues, and ensure that they follow relevant standards and guidelines to promote disability inclusion in their work.

Monitor and evaluate the impact and outcomes of DFAT’s support and partnership with organisations of persons with disabilities, and share the learning and best practices with other stakeholders.

**4. Challenges and Opportunities**

We acknowledge that there are some challenges and opportunities in advancing equality and rights of persons with disabilities, such as:

The lack of reliable, detailed, and disaggregated data and information on the situation and needs of persons with disabilities, especially in developing countries, which hinders evidence-based planning, decision-making, and resource allocation.

The lack of awareness, understanding, and commitment from governments, civil society, private sector, and multilateral institutions on disability issues, as well as the existence of stigma, stereotypes, and discrimination against persons with disabilities, which hinder their participation and inclusion in all aspects of life.

The lack of accessibility and affordability of infrastructure, services, information, and technology for persons with disabilities, especially in rural and remote areas, which limit their mobility, independence, and opportunities.

The lack of protection and fulfilment of human rights for persons with disabilities, especially for vulnerable groups, such as women, children, elderly, and persons with multiple disabilities, who face higher risks of violence, abuse, and exploitation.

The lack of readiness and response that are inclusive of the needs and emergency situations of persons with disabilities in the context of humanitarian, disaster, and conflict, which increase their vulnerability and isolation.

**To overcome these challenges and take advantage of these opportunities, we suggest that DFAT can:**

Support the collection, analysis, and dissemination of quality data and information on disability, using standard and agreed tools and methodologies, and ensure that the data and information are used to inform policies and programs related to disability.

Conduct campaigns and advocacy activities to raise awareness, understanding, and commitment to equality and rights of persons with disabilities, and challenge stigma, stereotypes, and discrimination against persons with disabilities, by involving persons with disabilities as agents of change and role models.

Support the implementation and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and other relevant human rights instruments and frameworks that protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as the accountability and redress mechanisms for violations of these rights.

Increase the allocation and coordination of resources and support for disability-inclusive development and humanitarian action, and ensure the coherence and complementary among different actors and sectors involved in these efforts