



**METRO MANILA PERSONS WITH DISABILITY  
VENDORS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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To: **THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE**

GENDER, EQUALITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION BRANCH

Australia Branch

RG Casey Building, John McEwen Crescent

Barton ACT 0221

**Australian Embassy Philippines**

Level 23 Tower 2, RCBC Plaza Tower 2

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Philippines

**Dear DFAT Team;**

Good day!

The undersigned would like to participate in the “Call for Submissions” to the New International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy 2023”. Thus, this letter attached below are the questions provided by DFAT and corresponding answers from our end as a prerequisite for possible partnership with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Question 1:

What are the most important things we should work on for disability equity and rights?

**Our answer to Question No. 1**

Achieving equity involves creating fair conditions for all people to have access to the same opportunities. It goes beyond treating everyone equally; it acknowledges that we do not all start from the same place due to historical and systemic inequalities. Here's how to work towards achieving equity:

1. Recognize Inequality: Understand that inequalities exist in society due to various factors such as race, gender giving priority to women with disability, socioeconomic status, and religious background.
2. Educate Yourself and Others: Learn about the issues that contribute to inequity and educate others to raise awareness.

3. Listen to Affected PWD Communities: Give voice to those who are directly impacted by inequities. Understand their experiences and needs.
4. Address Systemic Barriers: Work on changing policies, laws, and practices that perpetuate inequality.
5. Advocate for Fair Treatment: Support measures that ensure all individuals are treated fairly and have equal access to opportunities.
6. Provide Support: Offer resources, support, and opportunities to those who lack them due to systemic barriers.
7. Promote Diversity and Inclusion: Encourage diverse representation in all areas of society, including in leadership and decision-making roles.
8. Measure Progress: Keep track of outcomes to ensure that efforts are leading to equitable results.
9. Adjust Strategies: Be willing to change tactics if certain approaches are not effectively promoting equity.
10. Commit Long-Term: Understand that achieving equity is an ongoing process that requires sustained effort and commitment.

In conclusion, achieving equity is about creating a society where everyone has the necessary support and opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of their disability, starting point, or background. Reference: UNCRPD, RA 9442

Question 2:

What are the best ways we can do this?

**Our answers to Question Number 2:**

1. Raise awareness and educate the public about disability rights and the importance of inclusion.
2. Implement policies and laws that protect the rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure their full participation in society.
3. Provide accessible infrastructure and services such as transportation, building, and communication technology.
4. Promote employment, livelihood, and job training programs for Persons with Disabilities.

5. Support organizations and initiatives that advocate for disability rights and inclusion. Reference UNCRPD

Question 3 Part 1:

How can we support people with disabilities to do this work?

**Our answer to Question Number 3 Part 1:**

To support People with Disabilities to do this work to achieve equity in society by way of helping them in the following steps:

1. Support Persons with Disabilities access to employment and livelihood. Access to inclusive and affordable healthcare to ensure health and long life.
2. Access to a Barrier-Free environment to go out.
3. Access to education to help them grow intellectually, creatively, and productively.
4. Access to opportunities for personal growth.
5. Access to a loving relationship through acceptance of one's disability.
6. The right to choose one's spouse for marriage and procreation.
7. Opportunity to form a family and be great parents.
8. The right to be happy
9. The right to be stylish and unique in his/her preference.
10. The right to choose one's own choices.

Reference UNCRPD

Question 3 Part 2:

How can we support organizations working with people with disabilities to do this work?

**Our Answers to Question No. 3 Part 2**

One way to support self-help organizations working with People with Disabilities is to provide financial support through the following initiatives:

1. Donations
2. Fundraising

### 3. Grants

This can help self-help organizations like us to continue the development of our respective advocacies for Persons with Disabilities grassroots level.

Additionally, you can support self-help organizations like ours by volunteering time and skills. Many organizations rely heavily on volunteers to help with various tasks and activities to achieve significant impact.

Lastly, you can support these organizations by advocating policies and initiatives that promote inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities. These involve collaboration with lawmakers involved in advocacy campaigns and raising awareness about the issues facing People with Disabilities this can be done by the following steps.

1. Sharing/ storytelling about Persons with Disability advocacy or content on social media.
2. Participating in their events.
3. Encouraging others to get involved to help improve the lives of Persons with Disabilities through an Inclusive-disability approach.

Question 4 Part 1:

What could stop us from improving disability equity and rights?

**Our answer to Question No. 4 Part 1.**

1. No accurate Persons with Disability updated and reliable data at the grassroots level.
2. Limited participation/ engagement of People with Disability organizations at the grassroots level.
3. Limited resources to fund all the applicants for Persons with Disability (PWD) empowerment/development aid.

Question 4 Part 2:

What could help us to improve disability equity and rights?

Our answer to Question no 4 Part 2:

There are 5 basic needs of every citizen of this world to be able to live decently and equitably.

1. The right to shelter- Decent housing for PWDs (safe, clean water and electricity)
2. The right to Education – Inclusive and mainstream education for PWDs must be implemented at all school levels.
3. The right to work and have their businesses sustain their daily living needs.

Strictly enforce duty-bearers to increase of PWD open employment in the government and private sectors.

4. The right to avail of government-sponsored social pension, especially for those with severe disabilities.
5. The right to inclusive health care must be available to PWDs.

Reference: UNCPRD, RA 9442

Very respectfully yours;



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