

NOTES ON THE UNCRPD 4 - Article 6 Women with Disabilities, Article 7 Children with Disabilities, Article 8 Awareness-raising and Article 9 Accessibility.

Article 6 Women with disabilities

This article notes that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discriminations, and that Governments are to take appropriate measures to ensure the development, advancement and empowerment of all women, as a way to enable women with disabilities to enjoy all their human rights and freedoms as set out in the Convention.

Article 7 Children with disabilities

This article obliges Governments to take all necessary measures to ensure that children with disabilities can enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms, equally with other children.

It states that quote “In all actions concerning children with disabilities, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration” unquote.

It goes on to require Governments to ensure that children with disabilities have the right to express their views on all matters affecting them; that their views be given due weight on an equal basis with other children; and that they be provided with assistance as appropriate to exercise these rights.

Article 8 Awareness-raising

This article obliges Governments to adopt measures to:

1. Raise awareness in society, including within families, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of people with disabilities;
2. Combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to people with disabilities; and
3. Promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of people with disabilities.

It suggests that this might include:

- Public awareness campaigns
- Fostering an attitude of respect for people with disabilities throughout the education system
- Encouraging the media to portray people with disabilities positively
- Promote awareness-training programs on people with disabilities and their rights.

Article 9 Accessibility

This article obliges Governments to take measures to enable people with disabilities to access:

- The physical environment;
 - Transport systems;
 - Information;
 - Facilities and services open to the public,
- in both urban and rural areas. The measures shall include the identification and elimination of barriers to accessibility.

Other measures to be taken include:

- Developing minimum standards for accessibility;
- Ensuring private facilities that offer services to the public take accessibility into account;
- Providing training to stakeholders on accessibility;
- Providing signage in Braille and easy-read forms in buildings and facilities open to the public;
- Providing forms of live assistance eg sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to events open to the public;
- Promoting appropriate forms of assistance to support people with disabilities to access information;
- Promoting access for people with disabilities to new information and communication technologies, including the internet; and
- Promoting the design, development, production and distribution of accessible technologies at an early stage so they become accessible at minimum cost.

Note 5 will deal with Articles 10 to 13.