



Inclusive Health Task Group

Health workers, human rights and disability inclusion

Submission to The Social Forum of the Human Rights Council on Human Rights, HIV and other communicable diseases and epidemics, October 2017

The International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) is appreciative of the opportunity to highlight issues regarding health workers and human rights, as they pertain to persons with disabilities.

We note that persons with disabilities comprise almost 1/7th of the world's population. As such, persons with disabilities must be a key focus for health worker education and service delivery.

Health worker training, health worker skill set and the nature of health worker activities should accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities, including the specific needs of women with disabilities who can face intersectional discrimination, including but not limited to respect for their sexual and reproductive rights.

The IDDC seeks to highlight that with current changes in the World Health Organisation's model of Community Based Rehabilitation (in which a clearer distinction and an organisational separation is being made between rehabilitation and inclusive development), there will be profound implications for community disability workers. We strongly advocate for the development and implementation of vocational programmes to train community rehabilitation and community disability workers, particularly in low and middle income countries.

Disability-relevant health education should permeate all levels, from school health education, water and sanitation, to vocational training, to university professional education. It should also cross disciplines from social to nursing and medical.

Disability-relevant health education should also encompass management, control and treatment of conditions which can cause disabilities, such as neglected tropical diseases and non-communicable diseases.

The IDDC Inclusive Health Task Group is available to formally contribute to discussions or planning on ensuring health worker training and deployment can better support the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

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