

Let's work together!

Empowering women and young persons with disabilities to exercise their right to bodily autonomy

1 Human rights law and the rights of persons with disabilities to bodily autonomy

Global conventions and agreements provide a framework that guarantees persons with disabilities have the right to exercise bodily autonomy.

1979

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

1994

The International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action

2015

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1989

The Convention on the Rights of the Child

2006

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

2 What can United Nations Member States do?

States that have ratified one or more of these treaties are bound by specific legal obligations:

To respect: Ensure nothing interferes with the enjoyment of these rights.

How? By eliminating laws that restrict access to sexual and reproductive health services and information.

To protect: Ensure no one violates these rights, either directly or indirectly.

How? By educating the public, by ensuring the right to justice is realized, and by ending practices such as “substituted decision making” and promoting “supported decision making” instead.

To fulfil: Create an enabling environment in which all rights can be realized.

How? By using all legal, policy, budgetary, administrative and other means to ensure that services and information are available, accessible, acceptable and high quality.

3 Concrete steps to ensure the bodily autonomy of persons with disabilities is fully realized

States and partners should ensure that women and young persons are fully included in all laws, policies and programmes, and create targeted programmes when necessary to address their specific needs and risks.

Nothing about us without us!

Ensure the participation and leadership of women and young persons with disabilities and the organizations that represent them.

Government agencies and civil society organizations should increase **opportunities for collaboration**.

States should commit to and implement **the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, and apply a **human rights-based approach to disability** based on principles of equal participation, non-discrimination, equality and autonomy.



For more information, please see *Disability and the Right to Bodily Autonomy, Advocacy Brief* (UNFPA, 2021). Available from: [\[insert link\]](#)

Key Messages for *The Path to Equality for Women and Young Persons With Disabilities* (UNFPA, 2020). Available [here](#)