

International Disability Alliance (IDA)

Member Organizations:

Disabled Peoples' International, Down Syndrome International,
Inclusion International, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People,
World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf,
World Federation of the DeafBlind,
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry,
Arab Organization of Disabled People, European Disability Forum,
Red Latinoamericana de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales de Personas con
Discapacidad y sus familias (RIADIS), Pacific Disability Forum

Suggestions for disability-relevant recommendations to be included in the Concluding Observations CEDAW Committee 50th Session (3-21 October 2011)

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) has prepared the following suggestions for the Concluding Observations, based on references to persons with disabilities to be found in the State Report, List of Issues, and Replies.

OMAN

Oman ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 6 January 2009.

State Report

3. Omani Nationality Law Article 2

A foreigner may request Omani nationality if the following conditions apply:

1. He is an adult able to read and write the Arabic language;
2. Before submitting his request, he has resided legally in the Sultanate for a continuous period of no less than 20 Gregorian years or 10 years if married to an Omani woman. Temporary periods of absence from the country on private business shall not prevent his residence from being considered continuous, on condition that the period of absence is no more than two months in any year;
3. He is of good conduct, of sound constitution, free of disabilities and has not been convicted of any crime against honour or trust, unless he has been rehabilitated;

7. Oman Parliament Law Article 22

In order to be nominated for or elected to membership of the Consultative Assembly, a person must meet the following conditions:

- (a) Be of original Omani nationality, in accordance with the law;
- (b) Be no less than 30 years of age;
- (c) Be of good standing and reputation in the province and not have received a criminal sentence or been convicted of a crime against honour or trust, unless rehabilitated;
- (d) Have been educated to an acceptable level and possess suitable practical experience;
- (e) Be registered in the electoral register;
- (f) Not be affiliated to a military or security body in the Sultanate;
- (g) Not have been declared bankrupt, unless rehabilitated;
- (h) Not be under judicial restraint;
- (i) Not be **mentally ill**.

12. Law on Combating Human Trafficking Article 1

The Law on Combating Human Trafficking defines exploitation as the unlawful use of a person, including prostitution, any form of sexual exploitation, serfdom, forced labour, enslavement or practices similar to slavery, bondage or the illegal removal of organs.

Article 9

The crime of human trafficking shall be punishable by a term of imprisonment of no less than seven years and no more than 15 years, and a fine of no less than 10,000 riyals and no more than 100,000 riyals in any of the following cases:

(a) If the victim is a minor or a **person with special needs**;

Equality in respect of benefits and social insurance

156. The law does not discriminate between men and women with regard to the number of years of service after which service may be ended. The retirement age is 60 for both sexes.

157. Both the system of post-service pensions and allowances and the social insurance system discriminate positively in favour of women. A widowed woman, unless she is in employment, has the right to the pension of her deceased husband. A widowed husband has the right to his deceased wife's pension, if he has a **disability** that prevents him from working or earning. The law grants the same right to an unmarried daughter of the deceased, regardless of her age, and his dependent sister.

158. Working women benefit from old age, **disability** and death insurance and insurance against work-related injuries and vocational illnesses.

List of Issues

26. Please provide information on women's mental health and access to psychosocial therapeutic services.

Disadvantaged women

27. Please elaborate on the measures taken to ensure that the rights of women with disabilities are enshrined in national policies, including health care, education, employment and social protection.

Recommendations from IDA:

- Collect adequate data on women and girls with disabilities and use disaggregated data and results of studies to develop policies and programmes to promote equal opportunities for them in society
- Adopt measures to ensure that women with disabilities are consulted and participate in leadership roles in policy development.
- Raise awareness and provide more information about women and girls with disabilities, who are often subjected to multiple forms of discrimination, especially with regard to access to education, employment, access to health care and protection from violence.
- Ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation in employment and vocational training for women with disabilities, including accommodations for different types of disabilities.
- Address the heightened risk for girls and women with disabilities of becoming victims of domestic violence and abuse, and adopt urgent measures to ensure that both services and information for victims are made accessible to women and girls with disabilities.
- Ensure the provision of support services, including psychosocial support services, to assist families, including both mothers with disabilities, and mothers or women in the family who are the lead caregivers in their care for children with disabilities. In particular, ensure that services and assistance are rendered to permit women in families with children with disabilities, as well as mothers with disabilities, to continue their careers with an appropriate work/life balance.

- Adopt measures to ensure that all health care and services, provided to persons with disabilities, including all mental health care and services, is based on the free and informed consent of the person concerned, and that involuntary treatment and confinement are not permitted by law in accordance with the latest international standards.
- Adopt measures in the law to ensure the implementation of inclusive education of children with disabilities, such as the obligatory training of all teachers (beyond special education teachers), to require individual education plans for all students, ensure the availability of assistive devices and support in classrooms, educational materials and curricula, ensure the accessibility of physical school environments, encourage the teaching of sign language and disability culture, allocate budget for all of the above. Include inclusive education as an integral part of core teacher training curricula in universities to ensure that the values and principles of inclusive education are infused at the outset of teacher training and teaching careers.
- Adopt measures to ensure that all information, healthcare and services relating to sexual and reproductive health, both including physical treatment and psychological counselling, are made accessible to women and girls with disabilities, and that they are respectful of the dignity and integrity of persons with disabilities based on the free and informed consent of the individual concerned, and that consensual treatment such as the administration of contraception, or fertility treatments are not denied, while all non-consensual treatment, including that for which consent is given by a third party, is not permitted by law (including *inter alia* forced abortions, forced contraception, and forced sterilisation).
- Guarantee in the law that women with disabilities, including those who have been restricted or deprived of their legal capacity, exercise their right to vote and to participate in public affairs on an equal basis with others in accordance with Article 7 CEDAW and Article 29 of the CRPD.
- Take steps to accede to the Optional Protocol to the CRPD.