

## International Disability Alliance (IDA)

Disabled Peoples' International, Down Syndrome International, Inclusion International, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, Rehabilitation International, 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

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### Suggestions for disability-relevant questions to be included in the list of issues 46<sup>th</sup> Pre-Sessional Working Group, 2-6 August 2010

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) has prepared the following suggestions for the list of issues, based on references to persons with disabilities to be found in the State reports submitted to the 46<sup>th</sup> Pre-sessional Working Group of CEDAW Committee.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

##### [State Report](#)

29. Overall, in South Africa, the strong political will and broad societal commitment has allowed for best practice measures to affirm the rights of women in critical areas and to advance the woman's agenda, for example:

□ The integrated poverty reduction and job creation programme through the EPWP which aims to create additional work opportunities for a minimum of one million people; at least 40% women, 30% youth and 2% **people with disabilities**, in South Africa between 2004 and 2009.

□ The provision of a social security net through a social grants programme including equal entitlement to social benefits such as grants for elderly persons, **people with disabilities**, and care-givers.

□ Increase the labour force participation rates of women, especially Black women and youth in the 15-34 year age group; decrease the unemployment and underemployment rates of women; increase opportunities to women in the labour force to be employed in larger numbers in higher levels of work and not be marginalized in the lowest job categories; eliminate wage disparities between men and women and actively promote equal pay for work of equal value; and increased hiring of **women with disabilities**.

□ Ensuring that all who are entitled to receive social grants are registered and receive the grants, especially the rural poor, elderly and **disabled women**.

According to the APRM Report, 2007, "five legacies of the apartheid era have persisted: a dualistic polity, pervasive poverty; large scale structural

unemployment; inequitable distribution of wealth and income; and a high incidence of crime". Unfortunately, black women, women in rural areas and **women with disabilities** are most acutely affected and bear the brunt of this unequal legacy in all aspects of life. The erosion of family life, the racial dimension to the feminisation of poverty and its impact on the health and well-being of marginalized women also severely challenges sustainable development and the creation of a peaceful society free from crime and violence.

### **Legislation and Developments since 1998**

10.6 The Adult Basic Education and Training Act, 2000 (Act 52 of 2000) provides for basic education to older persons who previously could not access education opportunities. This Act largely benefits women and black women in rural areas who were historically disadvantaged. In order to redress the inequities in education experienced by **persons with disability**, the Education White Paper 6: Special Needs Education, building an Inclusive Education and Training System (2001) encourages where possible the inclusion of learners with special needs into public mainstream schools.

### **Article 14 (b) (3): Direct Benefit from Social Security Programmes**

14.32 Government measures regarding access to the state provided social security services (social grants) have focussed on eradicating racial disparities in sizes and types of grants. In 2004 government initiated a major campaign with the aim of helping those who were deprived of IDs during the *apartheid* era, to obtain such. IDs are critical because they confirm a person's status and enable each person to access social services such as social grants, housing and development opportunities. Most of the affected persons are black rural residents with many of these being elderly women, single mothers, women looking after children of relatives and **women with disabilities**.

### **Suggestions for list of issues**

- Could the State provide detailed information on what measures are being taken to increase hiring of women with disabilities?
- The State report indicates that South Africa has adopted a number of measures to affirm the rights of women in critical areas. Please provide detailed information on progress achieved regarding the situation of women with disabilities.
- How is the State Party addressing the vulnerability of women with disabilities?
- What measures are being taken to increase the school attendance of girls and women with disabilities?
- Please provide detailed information on what measures are being taken to ensure the access to women with disabilities to employment, education, health care and basic social services.