



**IDA's Compilation of CRPD
Committee's Concluding
Observations**

Article 16 CRPD

*(Freedom from exploitation, violence
and abuse)*

October 2022

Article 16 - Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including their gender-based aspects.
2. States Parties shall also take all appropriate measures to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse by ensuring, inter alia, appropriate forms of gender- and age-sensitive assistance and support for persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers, including through the provision of information and education on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse. States Parties shall ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive.
3. In order to prevent the occurrence of all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, States Parties shall ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities.
4. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons with disabilities who become victims of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse, including through the provision of protection services. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment that fosters the health, welfare, self-respect, dignity and autonomy of the person and takes into account gender- and age-specific needs.
5. States Parties shall put in place effective legislation and policies, including women- and child-focused legislation and policies, to ensure that instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are identified, investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted

Bangladesh
China
Indonesia
Japan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
New Zealand
Republic of Korea
Singapore
Hungary
Jamaica
Mexico
Venezuela
Djibouti
France
Estonia
Albania
Australia
Ecuador
El Salvador
Greece
India
Iraq
Kuwait
Myanmar
Cuba
Niger
Norway
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Spain
Vanuatu
Algeria
Bulgaria
Malta
Philippines
Poland
South Africa
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Haiti
Nepal
Oman
Russian Federation
Seychelles
Slovenia
Sudan
Latvia

Luxembourg
Montenegro
Morocco
Panama
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Armenia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Canada
Cyprus
Honduras
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Jordan
Bolivia
Colombia
Ethiopia
Guatemala
Italy
Uruguay
Chile
Lithuania
Portugal
Slovakia
Thailand
Uganda
Brazil
European Union
Gabon
Kenya
Mauritius
Qatar
Ukraine
Cook Islands
Czech Republic
Dominican Republic
Germany
Mongolia
Turkmenistan
New Zealand
Denmark
Republic of Korea
Belgium
Ecuador
Mexico
Sweden
Costa Rica
Australia
Austria

El Salvador
Paraguay
Argentina
China
Hungary
Tunisia

There are no recommendations on Azerbaijan, Peru and Spain.

Bangladesh

(a) Adopt concrete measures to provide protection for persons with disabilities subjected to exploitation, violence and abuse, particularly older women and girls with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including by constituting accessible shelters.

(b) Introduce mechanisms for effective complaints, sanctions, remedies and redress for victims and establish an independent mechanism to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, with the mandate to monitor facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities, and provide them with adequate resources to make them functional and effective;

(c) Adopt concrete and effective measures to ensure that children with disabilities are protected from all forms of violence, abuse and harmful practices, particularly begging;

China

36. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports of violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities victims of domestic violence, trafficking and forced marriage;

(b) The lack of a rigorous evidence base and comprehensive data on the prevalence of exploitation, violence and abuse against all persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities victims of domestic violence, trafficking and forced marriage;

(c) The absence of effective measures for remedies such as compensation, rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims of violence, particularly women and girls with disabilities.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary steps to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, including:

(a) In keeping with the recommendation made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, following its consideration of the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of China (CEDAW/C/CHN/CO/7-8), systematically monitor and collect disaggregated data on the locations and prevalence of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities victims of domestic violence, trafficking and forced marriage;

(b) Strengthen measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence against persons with disabilities;

(c) Ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to confidential mechanisms for reporting violence; that reports of exploitation, violence and abuse are promptly investigated; that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished; and that appropriate remedies are provided to victims of abuse, such as redress and adequate compensation, including accessible shelters, gender- and age-sensitive physical and psychological recovery support, and rehabilitation;

(d) Revise the Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women with a view to including a disability perspective and addressing the specific risks of gender-based violence and the barriers to protection faced by women and girls with disabilities.

Indonesia

38. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The existence of practices related to exploitation, forced labour and trafficking of persons with disabilities, such as being traded as beggars, drug couriers, or low paid workers;

(b) The high levels of exploitation, violence and abuse experienced by persons with disabilities, in particular women and children with disabilities, and the lack of accessible victim support services, protective and complaints mechanisms and effective remedies;

(c) The ineffective application of the law on sexual violence due to the limited definition of rape and the lack of prohibition of marital rape in the Penal Code, the fact that the Penal Code does not reflect the experience of women and girls with disabilities and the lack of resources and financial aid to conduct forensic reports and DNA testing;

(d) The lack of information and disaggregated data regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities, including in relation to complaints.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Implement measures to prevent and punish exploitation, forced labour and trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation of persons with disabilities, including being traded as beggars, drug couriers and low paid workers;

(b) Adopt a comprehensive strategy, in close consultation with persons with disabilities, to prevent and respond to all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including specific gender and age-appropriate measures, an accessible independent complaint mechanism and appropriate remedies, and accessible victim support services;

(c) Amend the Penal Code to prohibit marital rape and to reflect broader definitions of rape that recognise the experience of women and girls with disabilities, and ensure resources and financial aid for forensic reports and DNA testing;

(d) Ensure robust disaggregated data is collected on violence against persons with disabilities, including gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, in the private and public spheres.

Japan

35. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reported sexual violence and domestic violence against children and women with disabilities, in particular, persons with intellectual or psychosocial or sensory disabilities, and those placed in institutional settings, and the lack of their protection against sexual violence and remedies for them;

(b) Lack of scope and effectiveness of the Persons with Disabilities Act on the Prevention of Abuse of Persons with Disabilities and Support for Caregivers, precluding the prevention of, the reporting and investigation on violence against persons with disabilities, including children and women with disabilities, in educational, medical and criminal justice settings;

(c) Lack of accessible support services for victims, accessible information and reporting mechanisms, including independent reporting systems in residential institutions, and the lack of expertise, accessibility and reasonable accommodations, in the judicial processes related to sexual violence;

(d) Absence of representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities in the "Study Group on Criminal Law Related to Sexual Crimes", established by the Ministry of Justice in 2020, regarding sexual crimes against children and persons with disabilities.

36. In line with its statement issued on 24 November 2021 calling to take action to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, now, and with targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Carry-out the fact-finding investigation on sexual violence and domestic violence against girls and women with disabilities and strengthen measures for combating all forms of violence against children and women with disabilities, providing them with accessible information about the complaint and redress mechanisms available to them, and ensuring that these acts are promptly investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, and that remedies are provided for victims;

(b) Review the Act on the Prevention of Persons with Disabilities and Support for Caregivers for extending the scope of prevention of violence against persons with disabilities in all settings, and for establishing measures to investigate violence and abuse against persons with disabilities and to their remedy;

(c) Develop strategies at all levels to ensure the accessibility of victim support services, information on support services and reporting mechanisms, including in residential institutions, and to provide professional development programmes for the relevant judicial and administrative officers on the human rights model of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodations, in the judicial processes;

(d) Ensure the meaningful participation of representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities in the “Study Group on Criminal Law Related to Sexual Crimes”.

Lao People’s Democratic Republic

28. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of provisions on disability-sensitive referral systems, recovery services and facilities, reintegration, accessible information, and education on exploitation, violence and abuse under Law No. 56 on preventing and combating violence against women and children;
- (b) The absence of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;
- (c) The lack of information and statistical data regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities and related complaints submitted by them;
- (d) The insufficient resources of the Centre for Counselling and Protection of Women and Children, as well as the lack of accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, and the lack of effective remedies and redress for persons with disabilities facing violence;
- (e) Inadequate training of the staff, carers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

29. In line with its statement issued on 24 November 2021 calling for action to be taken immediately to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and with targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that legislation and policies to prevent and combat all forms of violence include persons with disabilities, including the Law No. 56 on preventing and combating violence against women and children;**
- (b) Adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse targeting persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, women and girls belonging to ethnic and religious groups, persons affected by leprosy and victims of unexploded ordnance, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and that victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies;**
- (c) Collect data on violence against persons with disabilities, identifying gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, in the private and public spheres, and ensure budget allocations and access to support services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence;**
- (d) Ensure that shelters for victims of violence are accessible to persons with disabilities and provide the necessary resources to the Centre for Counselling and Protection of Women and Children;**
- (e) Provide continuous training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.**

New Zealand

28. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of provisions on disability-sensitive referral systems, recovery services and facilities, reintegration, accessible information, and education on exploitation, violence, and abuse under the Law No.56 on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Children;

(b) The absence of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;

(c) The lack of information and statistical data regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities and related complaints submitted by them;

(d) The insufficient resources of the Centre for Counselling and Protection of Women and Children, as well as the lack of accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, and the lack of effective remedies and redress for persons with disabilities facing violence;

(e) Inadequate training of the staff, carers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

29. In line with its statement [issued on 24 November 2021] calling to take action to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, now, and with targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that legislation and policies to prevent and combat all forms of violence include persons with disabilities, including the Law No.56 on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Children;

(b) Adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse targeting persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, women and girls belonging to ethnic and religious groups, persons affected by leprosy and victims of unexploded ordnance, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and that victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies;

(c) Collect data on violence against persons with disabilities, identifying gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, in the private and public spheres, and ensure budget allocations and access to support services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence;

(d) Ensure that shelters for victims of violence are accessible to persons with disabilities and provide the necessary resources to the Centre for Counselling and Protection of Women and Children;

(e) Provide continuous training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.

Republic of Korea

35. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of awareness among the general population and in particular among persons with disabilities about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and the lack of a comprehensive strategy to combat all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;

(b) That children with disabilities are exposed to higher rates of violence than other children and about the limited availability of information and statistical data regarding violence against children with disabilities and related complaints;

(c) The lack of accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, including women with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities;

(d) The inadequate training of the staff, caregivers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials on recognizing all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all necessary steps to raise awareness about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse targeting persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities and those who are institutionalized, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and that persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;**
- (b) Develop and implement a plan of action to eliminate all forms of violence and abuse against children with disabilities within and outside of institutions and collect disaggregated data in order to ensure effective implementation and monitoring;**
- (c) Ensure that services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence, such as support centres and emergency shelters, are accessible and that the required support is provided;**
- (d) Provide ongoing training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.**

Singapore

33. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of awareness among the general population including among persons with disabilities about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and the lack of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;**
- (b) The lack of specific measures to protect all women and girls with disabilities, in particular women and girls with intellectual disabilities and women and girls with psychosocial disabilities, against all forms of gender-based violence, the lack of accessible shelters for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of violence, exploitation and abuse, as well as the limited availability of information and statistical data regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities and related offenses.**

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take effective measures to raise awareness about the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities in institutions, ensure that persons with disabilities are provided with information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases violence, exploitation and abuse, and that persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, including rehabilitation;**
- (b) Collect data on violence, exploitation and abuse against persons with disabilities to identify all instances of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, in the private and public spheres, and ensure budget allocations and access to support services and shelters for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse.**

Hungary

33. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The systematic abuse, including sexual abuse, mistreatment and neglect of persons with disabilities, particularly of children with disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities, as a result of the perpetuation of institutional forms of care for persons with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of independent monitoring of residential care and psychiatric institutions;
- (c) The lack of well-defined investigation methods and procedures for combating hate crimes against persons with disabilities;
- (d) The lack of accessibility and required accommodations for women with disabilities in services for victims of domestic violence;
- (e) Insufficient consideration of the recommendations raised by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2020 on cases of child sexual abuse and maltreatment of children with disabilities in institutional care.

34. The Committee, recalling targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop a comprehensive strategy and legal safeguards to prevent and combat all forms of violence and exploitation against persons with disabilities, including by repealing section 126 (9) of the decree of the Ministry of Public Welfare 15/1998 (IV. 30) on the tasks and operational conditions of child welfare and child protection services and professionals providing personal care in order to abolish the use of isolation rooms for children with psychosocial disabilities in institutions for children;**
- (b) Ensure that all facilities, residential care and psychiatric institutions are subjected to independent monitoring in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention, through the involvement of civil society organizations, including disability rights-based organizations, in order to prevent exploitation and abuse of and violence against persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Establish well-defined investigation methods, protocols and procedures for combating hate crimes against persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Ensure that all services for girls and women with disabilities who are survivors of domestic violence, including support centres and emergency shelters, are accessible and the required support is provided;**
- (e) Ratify the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence adopted by the Council of Europe, with the aim of ensuring the necessary protection of the rights of women with disabilities, including access to support services and redress for victims of violence;**
- (f) Ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2020.**

Jamaica

32. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of awareness among the general population and particularly among persons with disabilities about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and the lack of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;
- (b) The limited availability of information and statistical data regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities and related complaints submitted by them;
- (c) The lack of accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, including women with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;
- (d) Inadequate training of the staff, carers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all necessary steps to raise awareness about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse targeting persons with disabilities,

especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and those who are institutionalized, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and that persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;

- (b) Ensure that data collected on violence against persons with disabilities identifies all instances of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, in the private and public spheres, and also ensure budget allocations and access to support services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence;
- (c) Ensure that shelters for victims of violence are established and that the National Shelter Strategy (2018), which guides the development of a nationwide system of safe spaces for victims and survivors, includes a requirement to ensure that facilities and services provided are accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly women and children;
- (d) Provide continuous training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.

Mexico

43. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) A lack of measures to identify and prevent all forms of violence against children and adults with disabilities, including gender-based violence, in particular obstetric violence, when accessing sexual and reproductive health services;
- (b) The omission of a specific reference to women with disabilities in the General Act to Ensure Women a Life Free of Violence, to measures ensuring accessibility and to procedural accommodations women with disabilities may require to access justice and protective measures on an equal basis with others;
- (c) The limited availability of accessible shelters for women with disabilities who are victims of violence, and the lack of effective remedies for persons with disabilities facing violence, including gender-based violence.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Reinforce the implementation of existing legislative and policy measures to prevent all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including gender-based violence, and to provide effective remedies and redress to victims, both inside and outside of institutions; and amend the General Act to Ensure Women a Life Free of Violence to establish specific standards to support women with disabilities, including support systems that include personal assistance;
- (b) Periodically compile disaggregated data on the situation of women and children with disabilities in respect of violence, exploitation and abuse, both inside and outside of public and private institutions;
- (c) Ensure that shelters for victims of violence are established and that the facilities and services provided therein are accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities;
- (d) Create an independent monitor and oversight mechanism, adhering to article 16 (3) of the Convention, with the involvement and full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, to effectively monitor and supervise public and private institutions, and publish its findings.

Switzerland

33. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The reported high incidence of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, including in institutions, and in particular against women and children with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of a rigorous evidence base and comprehensive data on the prevalence of exploitation, violence and abuse against all persons with disabilities, including older women,

children and refugees with disabilities; and the omission of women with disabilities from the prevalence study on violence against women and domestic violence under the 2030 Gender Equality Strategy and its action plan;

(c) The lack of accessible victim support services, the lack of accessible information on support services and reporting mechanisms, the lack of accessible reporting mechanisms, including independent reporting systems in institutions, and the lack of expertise, accessibility and reasonable accommodation provided by judicial authorities.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence, including stigmatization and stereotypes, against persons with disabilities and provide them with accessible, age-appropriate information about forms of violence and about the complaints and redress mechanisms available to them;

(b) Develop a robust evidence base on exploitation, violence and abuse against adults and children with disabilities, including through comprehensive disability-inclusive research and prevalence studies, and include women and girls with disabilities in the prevalence study on violence against women and domestic violence;

(c) Develop strategies at the federal and cantonal levels to ensure the accessibility of victim support services, information on support services and reporting mechanisms, to ensure the accessibility and independence of reporting mechanisms, including in institutions, and to provide professional development programmes for the relevant judicial and administrative officers on the human rights model of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation;

(d) Ensure that all persons with disabilities, including older women, children and refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities living in institutions, have access to confidential mechanisms for reporting violence, that reports of exploitation, violence and abuse, including in institutions, are promptly investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, and that remedies are provided for victims of violence, including redress, reparations and recovery.

Venezuela

30. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of specific provisions in the State party's legislation to prevent, investigate and punish violence, neglect and abuse in respect of persons with disabilities in institutions, in the home or in public spaces, and the lack of monitoring, redress and disaggregated data, particularly in respect of women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, who are often exposed to harassment, abuse and acts of sexual and other types of violence;

(b) Reports of violence against children with disabilities and the fact that corporal punishment against such children is tolerated.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all measures necessary to ensure that gender and disability are mainstreamed in legislation on the prevention of violence; the reform of mental health legislation is essential in this connection;

(b) Strengthen existing mechanisms and protocols by incorporating specific measures to prevent, eliminate, monitor, penalize and provide redress for all forms of violence, exploitation or abuse against persons with disabilities, including those who remain in or have left institutions, in the home or in public spaces;

(c) Establish a system for collecting data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, on complaints of violence and abuse committed against persons with disabilities and gather information on related preventive, protective, monitoring and reparative measures;

(d) Intensify its efforts to prevent and eliminate violence and corporal punishment against children in general and against children with disabilities in particular.

Djibouti

27. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of sufficient measures to ensure the effective implementation of Act No. 66/AN/719/8th L (2020) and Act no. 133/AN/16/7 L (2016) to protect persons with disabilities in all settings, particularly older persons with disabilities, women and children with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, from trafficking and all forms of violence, abuse and harmful practices, and the absence of measures for compensation and accessible services for their rehabilitation and social integration;
- (b) The lack of mechanisms for identifying, investigating and prosecuting cases of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, particularly refugees and migrants with disabilities, persons with albinism, and persons with disabilities fleeing armed conflicts.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures and programmes to protect all persons with disabilities, particularly older persons with disabilities, women and children with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, from trafficking and all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices, and to establish mechanisms for redress, compensation and accessible services for their rehabilitation and social integration;**
- (b) Establish a complaint mechanism to ensure the investigation and prosecution of cases of trafficking and exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities and conduct capacity-building programmes for law enforcement officials on the identification and response to abuse and violence victims of disabilities.**

France

34. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Violence against persons with disabilities in residential and mental health facilities, including humiliation and sexual abuse, and in families;
- (b) That women with disabilities are at a higher risk of harassment, gender-based violence, including sexual violence;
- (c) Complex reporting mechanisms for persons with disabilities facing ill treatment in residential and mental health facilities, fear of reprisals by applicants, the rejection of complaints about abuse, in absence of redress and remedy measures.

35. The Committee, recalling the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), and the Sustainable Development Goal 5, targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a strategy to prevent violence and abuse in residential and mental health facilities, including through development of mechanisms for reporting violence against persons with disabilities in all settings;**
- (b) Strengthen measures to prevent and protect women and girls with disabilities against gender-based violence, ensuring sustainability of these measures and periodic monitoring;**
- (c) Adopt measures to ensure access to justice and remedies for victims of violence, and redress including reparations and rehabilitation in the community, support for social inclusion, and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished.**

Estonia

32. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in family, school, and the workplace;
- (b) The absence of disaggregated information about gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and the lack of a gender-based and disability perspective

concerning support measures for women and girls with disabilities, including psychosocial support and legal counselling for them;

(c) The lack of information concerning all instances of exploitation and violence in all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities;

(d) The absence of information about measures to enforce the prohibition of corporal punishment against children with disabilities in all settings.

33. The Committee, recalling the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent and combat all forms of violence and exploitation against persons with disabilities, and ensure that the Violence Prevention Plan and other related violence prevention programmes explicitly include persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities still in institutions, women with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons with disabilities, providing support for victims, and sanctions of perpetrators. The State party should strengthen measures to combat disability stigma and stereotypes, and provide persons with disabilities with accessible information about all forms of violence, complaint mechanisms, and redress available for them;

(b) Ensure that data collection on violence against persons with disabilities, identifies all instances of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, in the private and public spheres, and ensure budget allocations and access to support services for women and girls with disabilities victims of gender-based violence;

(c) Ensure that all private and public residential care, psychiatric and penitentiary facilities are subject to independent monitoring, in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention, and ensure involvement of civil society organizations in independent monitoring mechanisms;

(d) Ensure that the prohibition of corporal punishment is adequately monitored and enforced in all settings, including schools, including in relation to children with disabilities and that positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child rearing and discipline are promoted through awareness campaigns and training programmes, and in accessible formats.

Albania

31. The Committee notes with concern reports of violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially in institutions, and about the absence of effective measures for remedies, such as compensation, rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims of violence, particularly children and women with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of information on the concrete results of the implementation of the Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations enacted in 2018 as well as about the lack of availability of comprehensive data and statistics of persons with disabilities victims of violence, sexual violence and abuse or multiple discrimination.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary steps to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, both inside and outside of institutions. The Committee further recommends that the State party:

(a) Revise the current monitoring and inspection procedures of social care homes and psychiatric institutions to prevent violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, and particularly of children and women with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that persons deprived of liberty have access to independent complaints mechanisms and that appropriate remedies are provided to victims of abuse, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;

(c) Ensure the implementation of the Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations, ensuring a disability perspective and addressing the specific risks of gender-based violence and the barriers to protection faced by women and girls with disabilities.

Australia

31. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of additional oversight, complaint and redress mechanisms needed for persons with disabilities who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, older persons with disabilities and, particularly, women with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of resources and redress mechanisms available to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Persons with Disabilities;
- (c) The non-implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Australian Human Rights Commission *A Future without Violence*;
- (d) The lack of an explicit reference to women and girls with disabilities in the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022;
- (e) Insufficient expertise and structural barriers within services dealing with domestic violence, sexual assault and related crises to adequately support women and girls with disabilities;
- (f) The fact that the instruments to collect data on violence against women and girls with disabilities are limited in both number and scope.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish a national accessible oversight, complaint and redress mechanism for persons with disabilities who have experienced violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect in all settings, including all those not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and, particularly, older women with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure adequate resources and a redress mechanism for the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Persons with Disabilities;**
- (c) Implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Australian Human Rights Commission *A Future without Violence*;**
- (d) Ensure the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022, beyond project-based programmes and activities;**
- (e) Ensure gender- and age-sensitive services to address gender-based violence that are inclusive and accessible to all women and girls with disabilities and ensure that staff are adequately trained;**
- (f) Address the methodological restrictions in data-collection instruments used to capture data on violence against women and girls with disabilities.**

Ecuador

31. The Committee is concerned because:

- (a) Ecuadorian law lacks specific provisions for the prevention of gender-based violence, neglect and abuse directed at persons with disabilities that take into account multiple and intersectional discrimination, especially such discrimination against girls and women with psychological or intellectual disabilities, Montubio persons, indigenous persons, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities in the public and private institutional and other spheres;
- (b) Persons with disabilities who are still living in institutions, particularly women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, continue to be exposed to harassment, abuse and acts of sexual and other types of violence;
- (c) Ecuadorian law does not explicitly prohibit the corporal punishment of children, including children with disabilities, in all settings;
- (d) No data disaggregated by sex, age and ethnic origin are available on cases and complaints of violence or abuse committed in the public and private spheres against persons with disabilities, especially girls and women, and there is a lack of information on preventive, case management, protective and reparative measures, including sanctions.

32. Taking into account the recommendation made in paragraph 32 of its concluding observations on the State party's initial report (CRPD/C/ECU/CO/1), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt all necessary measures, and review those measures already in place, to ensure that gender and disability are mainstreamed in its legislation on the prevention of violence and reinforce existing mechanisms and protocols by incorporating specific measures for preventing, eliminating, monitoring, penalizing and providing redress for all forms of violence, exploitation or abuse of persons with disabilities, especially children, women and older adults with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, indigenous persons, migrants and refugees, persons of African descent and persons in poverty and persons living in rural areas who have disabilities;**
- (b) Guarantee full access for all girls and women with disabilities to assistance programmes for victims of gender-based violence, including shelters that ensure the accessibility of the physical environment and of information and communications and that are staffed by trained personnel;**
- (c) Introduce legislation that explicitly prohibits the corporal punishment of children, especially indigenous children with disabilities, both in the home and in shelters, in line with targets 5.2 and 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals;**
- (d) Compile data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and ethnic origin, on complaints of violence and abuse committed in the public and private spheres against persons with disabilities and on preventive, protective, follow-up and reparative measures.**

El Salvador

32. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The persistence of violence against persons with disabilities, especially sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, at home and in institutions, violence against older persons with disabilities, persons of African descent with disabilities, and persons with disabilities living in conditions of hardship in rural or remote areas;**
- (b) Insufficient rehabilitation services and ineffective complaint and redress mechanisms for persons with disabilities who are victims of violence, as well as a lack of protection against reprisals against persons with disabilities who are victims of violence and of human and organ trafficking which may arise from filing complaints against the perpetrators;**
- (c) Ineffective preventive measures taken against trafficking in persons with disabilities and in organs;**
- (d) A lack of data on cases of sexual and gender-based violence against persons with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals, detention facilities and in the home, and on complaints reported and cases decided on trafficking in persons with disabilities and in organs.**

33. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and taking into account target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, take measures to:

- (a) Protect persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, in the home and in institutions, older persons with disabilities, persons of African descent with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and persons with disabilities living in conditions of hardship in rural or remote areas, from all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence;**
- (b) Provide rehabilitation services, including emergency shelter and medical and psychological assistance, and effective complaint and redress mechanisms, including protection against reprisals arising from filing complaints against perpetrators, to persons with disabilities who are victims of violence and of human and organ trafficking;**
- (c) Prevent trafficking in persons with disabilities and in organs, by, inter alia, providing gender-sensitive training on preventing and identifying trafficking in persons with disabilities and in organs to public officials, including the National Civil Police, the judiciary and health and social workers;**

(d) Collect data, disaggregated by age, sex, form of violence and disability, on victims of violence against persons with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals, detention facilities and in the home, and on the number of complaints reported and cases decided on trafficking in persons with disabilities and in organs.

Greece

26. The Committee is concerned that there are insufficient measures to detect, prevent and combat domestic violence against and sexual exploitation of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party implement an effective framework to prevent violence, particularly domestic violence and sexual exploitation, against persons with disabilities, especially women and children with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party provide specific training to law enforcement authorities, medical personnel and social workers on methods to detect and address violence against and sexual exploitation of persons with disabilities. The Committee further recommends that the State party develop an action plan to implement the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, with a special focus on women and children with disabilities.

India

34. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) All forms of violence against children and adults with disabilities, including gender-based violence against women and girls, particularly physical, sexual and psychological violence, harassment, financial exploitation and abuse, trafficking, kidnapping, neglect and corporal punishment and other forms of violent punishment in all settings;

(b) The lack of measures to identify, prevent and combat all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including the delay in enforcing legislative provisions to tackle such violence;

(c) The lack of disaggregated statistical data in the National Crime Records Bureau on cases of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, including violence inflicted by intimate partners;

(d) The limited availability of accessible shelters for women with disabilities who are victims of violence, and the lack of effective remedies and redress for persons with disabilities facing violence, including rehabilitation and compensation.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt and implement national and state strategies to identify, prevent, combat and end all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including against women, girls and boys with disabilities. This process should involve organizations of persons with disabilities, particularly of women with disabilities, in adopting measures to identify instances of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities;**

(b) **Ensure the prompt implementation of the legal remedies to address the situation of women and girls with disabilities facing gender-based violence against women that are included in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (2015) and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005);**

(c) **Ensure that the National Crime Records Bureau collects data disaggregated by gender, age, place of residence, relationship with perpetrator and disability in cases of violence and exploitation, including gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities and violence inflicted by intimate partners;**

(d) **Ensure remedies for violence, including sexual violence, accessible complaint mechanisms and access to justice for persons with disabilities, including those who reside in institutions;**

(e) Ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention, and that civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, are involved in oversight activities.

Iraq

31. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports of violence against persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, including gender-based violence, and the absence of information on criminal prosecutions and convictions of the perpetrators of such acts and on redress mechanisms for the victims;

(b) The lack of statistical data on monitoring visits undertaken by the High Commission for Human Rights, the Commission for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs and special units of the Ministry of Health in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention and on the measures taken to address potential protection gaps identified through such monitoring;

(c) The lack of information on mainstreaming the disability perspective in legislation, policies and programmes to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Investigate promptly and effectively incidents of violence against persons with disabilities, prosecute suspects, duly sanction perpetrators and provide victims with effective redress, including compensation and rehabilitation;

(b) Strengthen the mechanisms for independently monitoring all facilities and programmes for persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention, particularly with regard to data collection and the documentation of protection gaps and the ways in which they are being addressed;

(c) Ensure that any legislative and policy measures taken by the State party to prevent violence, exploitation and abuse, such as the operation of a hotline for cases of domestic violence, are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Kuwait

32. The Committee is concerned about the lack of:

(a) A law specifically prohibiting domestic and sexual violence, including marital rape;

(b) Measures to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, including an independent mechanism for monitoring facilities and programmes for persons with disabilities;

(c) Training on preventing, identifying and addressing violence against persons with disabilities;

(d) Complaints of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, including in private settings, which does not necessarily mean that such phenomena do not occur;

(e) Data on the protection of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, from exploitation, violence and abuse.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take the legislative measures necessary to prohibit domestic and sexual violence, to criminalize acts of domestic and sexual violence, including marital rape, to prosecute those responsible and to end practices that force victims to marry their perpetrators;

(b) Establish an independent monitoring mechanism, involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, to monitor all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities, including institutions;

(c) Provide training to persons with disabilities, their families, health personnel and law enforcement officials on recognizing all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse and on seeking redress;

(d) Establish independent, accessible and available complaints mechanisms and hotlines, effectively investigate cases of exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, prosecute and punish those responsible and strengthen the collection of data on violence against persons with disabilities;

(e) Ensure the provision, including in institutions, of inclusive victim support services that are sensitive to the age, gender and disability of the victim.

Myanmar

29. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Delays to the adoption of the draft law on the prevention of violence against women;

(b) The lack of specific legislation, policies and programmes to protect persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based violence and corporal punishment;

(c) The inadequate services for the physical and psychological recovery and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, who are survivors of exploitation, violence and abuse;

(d) The absence of effective measures for identifying, investigating and prosecuting cases of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities and the lack of disaggregated data on related reports, investigations and prosecutions in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Expedite the adoption of the draft law on the prevention of violence against women and ensure its full compliance with article 16 of the Convention so as to tackle gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Adopt and implement legislation, policies and programmes to protect all persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based violence and corporal punishment;

(c) Ensure that persons with disabilities who are survivors of exploitation, violence and abuse are provided with effective redress, including compensation and comprehensive protection, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration services, and ensure that victims have access to age- and gender- appropriate reporting channels that respect their privacy;

(d) Promptly conduct investigations into cases of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, prosecute suspects, duly sanction perpetrators, and collect disaggregated data on abuse, exploitation and violence against persons with disabilities, and on the outcomes of related complaints.

31. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities have become victims of conflict-related violence and that conflict related violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, has led to physical, psychosocial and other disabilities, disproportionately affecting a large number of Rohingya women and girls. The Committee is also concerned about the absence of investigation of the serious rights violations and prosecution of the perpetrators. It is furthermore concerned about the lack of support and services to persons with disabilities who are survivors of conflict related violence.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party promptly investigate and prosecute security personnel, including senior officials, for serious international crimes, crimes against humanity, war crimes and conflict-related violence, taking into consideration the findings of the United Nations fact finding mission on Myanmar (A/HRC/39/64) . The Committee further recommends that the State party cooperate with the governments of countries in the region, UN entities and other international and national partners to provide all necessary specialized, inclusive, accessible and gender- and age-appropriate support and services to persons with disabilities who are survivors of conflict related violence.

Cuba

31. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of awareness by the general population and persons with disabilities about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse;
- (b) Reports of incidence of reprisals against persons willing to provide information in legal proceedings as witnesses in cases of exploitation, violence and abuse of the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (c) The limited information and statistical data available regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities and related complaints submitted by them;
- (d) The lack shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, including women with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all necessary steps to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial disabilities or intellectual disabilities and those who are institutionalized without their consent, and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies to victims of abuse, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;**
- (b) Ensure protection of any individuals testifying in cases concerning exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Create a mechanism to gather disaggregated data on the situation of women and girls with disabilities, in consultation with organizations of women with disabilities, particularly with regard to violence against women and girls with disabilities;**
- (d) Ensure that shelters for victims of violence are established and that the services provided there are accessible to persons with disabilities**

Niger

27. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities; domestic violence, gender based violence, sexual violence against women, girls and children with disabilities in institutions; and the absence of measures for compensation, and accessible services for their recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration;
- (b) The lack of training of families, caregivers, health personnel and law enforcement officials, regarding exploitation, violence and abuse, against persons with disabilities, particularly women, children and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;
- (c) The lack of disaggregated data on violence and abuse committed in hospitals, particularly psychiatric institutions, and places of detention.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities victims of gender based violence and abuse, have access to complaint mechanisms and compensation, and to services and information including hotlines, shelters, victim support services, counselling; and sanction the perpetrators;**
- (b) Provide training for families, caregivers, health personnel and law enforcement officials regarding exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, and communicate and work effectively with the victims;**
- (c) Set up an independent mechanism to prevent violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, particularly against persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and monitor facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities in line with article 16.3 of the Convention.**

Norway

27. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of training for families, caregivers, health personnel and law enforcement officials on recognising all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;

(b) Cases of violence, including sexual violence, abuse and exploitation against persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, that often go unreported and without reparation and the lack of specific measures to protect women and girls with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities from gender-based violence;

(c) A high number of persons with disabilities who are subjected to bullying, hate speech and hate crimes, which are often neither identified nor investigated as hate crimes.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to:

(a) Provide regular training for families, caregivers, health personnel and law enforcement officers on recognising all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse;

(b) Conduct investigations into all allegations of violence and abuse, including sexual abuse, of persons with disabilities, especially gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, particularly those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and impose appropriate sanctions, and that victims have access to services and information, complaint mechanisms and reparation and ensure that victims have access to immediate protection and support services including mainstream services and shelter facilities, without discrimination, including individualized supports to prevent the denial of reasonable accommodation;

(c) Take all measures necessary to prevent persons with disabilities from being subjected to bullying, hate speech and hate crimes and ensure that the law enforcement and judicial system identify, investigate and sanction the hate crimes against persons with disabilities.

Rwanda

29. The Committee is concerned about prevailing violence, abuse and neglect against persons with disabilities, particularly women and children, and those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, within health care and corrective institutions. It is also concerned about the lack of effective measures to prevent violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, particularly in homes, institutions, communities and refugee camps where persons with disabilities live, and measures to monitor such prevention measures. It is also concerned about:

(a) The lack of effective protection and support services for persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse;

(b) The absence of concrete data on cases of violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;

(c) The lack of dedicated mechanisms for identifying, investigating and prosecuting instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;

(d) The lack of a direct ban on corporal punishment of children with disabilities in all settings.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, particularly women and children. It recommends that the State party ensure that members of the police, judiciary, health and social services receive regular and mandatory training on the prevention of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt effective measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, who are victims of violence have access to accessible services and information, including hotlines, shelters, victim support services, consultation and counselling;

- (b) Collect and publish data, disaggregated by sex and age, on violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in all settings, including the number of prosecutions, convictions and sentences imposed on the perpetrators;**
- (c) Establish accessible and inclusive complaints mechanisms that have a mandate to, inter alia, provide compensation and impose sanctions against perpetrators, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention;**
- (d) Enact and enforce legislation which explicitly prohibits all corporal punishment of children, however light, in all settings, including the home and in institutions in accordance to target 16.2 on ending violence against children in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.**

Saudi Arabia

29. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The absence of complaints of cases of exploitation, violence and abuse of adults and children with disabilities, which may point to insufficient knowledge among the population, particularly women, children and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and those who are living in institutions, about their rights and the available measures to complain about discrimination;
- (b) The absence of independent legal aid preventing the effective investigation, prosecution and punishment of instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in institutions;
- (c) Inadequate services for the physical and psychological recovery and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, survivors of exploitation, violence and abuse.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party implement the recommendations issued by the Saudi Human Rights Commission after visits made to detention centers, and that it:

- (a) Raise awareness on available complaint mechanisms and hotlines among persons and children with disabilities, including those living in institutions, guarantee the accessibility and availability of these mechanisms and effectively investigate, prosecute and punish cases of exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, particularly of women, children and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and those who are living in institutions;
- (b) Guarantee the access of persons with disabilities victims of exploitation, violence and abuse in institutions to independent and accessible legal aid;
- (c) Reinforce efforts to ensure the access of persons with disabilities victims of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse, including in habilitation and residential centers, day-care centers and family homes, to age-, gender- and disability-sensitive physical, cognitive and psychological protection, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration services;
- (d) Collect disaggregated data and statistics on abuse, exploitation and violence against persons with disabilities, and on the outcomes of related complaints

Senegal

29. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of specific legislation, policies and programmes to protect persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, persons with albinism and children with disabilities from all forms of violence, abuse and economic exploitation;
- (b) The lack of accessible information on access to counselling, redress, including compensation and rehabilitation;
- (c) The lack of mechanisms for identifying, investigating and prosecuting instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities as well as lack of

disaggregated data on related reports, investigations and prosecutions in line with article 16, paragraph 3.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement legislation, policies and programmes to protect all persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with albinism from all forms of violence and abuse, including corporal punishment;

(b) Promptly conduct investigations into incidences of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, prosecute suspects and duly sanction perpetrators and ensure that victims are provided with effective redress, including compensation and rehabilitation, and ensure that child victims have access to age- appropriate reporting channels which respect privacy, physical and psychological rehabilitation and health services, including mental health services;

(c) Expedite the implementation of article 16, paragraph 3, and Act No. 2005-02 of 25 April 2005 on trafficking in persons.

Spain

31. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Persons with disabilities still living in institutions, and in particular women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, are exposed to higher risks of humiliation, abuse and violence including sexual violence;

(b) The absence of concrete data, disaggregated by sex and age, on cases of violence and abuse committed in hospitals, particularly psychiatric hospitals, and places of detention;

(c) Women with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence, are in some cases excluded from support programmes due to the lack of accessibility of shelters and that a diagnosis of “mental impairment” may be considered as a criteria for denial of support services;

(d) The overall lack of a strategy to prevent and detect cases of gender-based violence for mental health services;

(e) The lack of official records and data on the situations of violence and discrimination to which persons with disabilities, particularly women, are exposed to in both the public and private spheres, including in the workplace and in specialized mental health institutions.

32. In light of the State party’s efforts to end the institutionalisation of persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all possible measures to ensure that institutions currently operating in the State party ensure safety and dignity for all persons with disabilities;

(b) Strengthen the mechanisms and protocols already in place to prevent violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, and to monitor, in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention, facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities;

(c) Ensure full access for all women with disabilities to assistance programs, including accessible shelters for victims of gender-based violence, and remove all eligibility criteria that may deny access to support services for women with psychosocial disabilities;

(d) Mainstream a gender perspective in policies related to mental health services and implement strategies aimed at prevention, detection and appropriate interventions in cases of gender-based violence;

(e) Collect data on and monitor the situation of violence and discrimination to which all women with disabilities are exposed, both in the public and private sphere, including in the workplace and in mental health services.

Turkey

34. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a strategy to identify situations of heightened risk of abuse and to address cases of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, particularly in the family, residential facilities, and schools;
- (b) The limited accessibility of shelters in particular the 'violence prevention and monitoring centers' by women with disabilities at risk or victims of different forms of gender-based violence;
- (c) The lack of public and available information on the monitoring mechanism of the Ombudsman office (KDK) on institutions and its reports on findings as well as by the monitoring activities conducted by the Provincial Directorates, the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services, and the National Human Rights and Equality Institution.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Release regular information about gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, promote awareness raising and training from peers and from organizations of women with disabilities about situations of risk and violence, and allow the establishment of community networks that provide women and girls with disabilities with reporting mechanisms of violence that complement the 'Women support mobile application'. The State party should adopt clear legal and administrative safeguards and non-discriminatory measures to address all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, including sexual violence, and domestic violence;**
- (b) **Increase human, technical and financial resources allocated for accessibility of shelters and, in consultation with civil society organizations, including organizations of women with disabilities, improve information available, identify remaining attitudinal, procedural and physical barriers to accessibility of shelters by women and girls with disabilities at risk or victims of different forms of gender-based violence;**
- (c) **Ensure the functional, structural and financial independence of the National Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey, and that its duties as the national mechanism for the prevention of torture cover monitoring and prevention of torture in psychiatric hospitals and any other institution where persons with disabilities reside, in line with the provisions of article 16 (3) of the Convention.**

Vanuatu

28. The Committee is concerned at the incidence of violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, especially women and children, both in the home and in the community. In particular, it is concerned that:

- (a) The Family Protection Act, which is the legislative framework to protect victims of domestic violence, including persons with disabilities, is not aligned with the Convention;
- (b) The abuse and violence against children with disabilities, including corporal punishment;
- (c) Complaints mechanisms are inaccessible;
- (d) There is no mechanism for monitoring cases of violence against persons with disabilities and that the State party's intervention to domestic violence against persons with disabilities largely depends on the Vanuatu Women's Centre;
- (e) Violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are not properly investigated and that the perpetrators are not punished, including the fact that sexual abuse against women with disabilities, especially women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities is dealt with through reconciliation in their village, which imposes a fine as a sanction against a perpetrator.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Amend the Family Protection Act (2008) in line with the Convention and improve protection of persons with disabilities from violence and abuse against them;**
- (b) **Protect children with disabilities from all forms of violence and abuse, including through expediting the enactment of the Child Protection Bill, ensuring it is in line with the Convention to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings;**

- (c) **Establish accessible mechanisms for persons with disabilities to report violence and abuse against them and ensure that they know where to seek assistance;**
- (d) **Strengthen the capacity of the Vanuatu Women's Centre, as well as the Authorised Persons and Registered Counsellors under the Family Protection Act (2008) to protect and provide support to persons with disabilities and effectively monitor situations of persons who are victims of violence, particularly women;**
- (e) **Adopt measures to increase the capacity of the Family Protection Unit in the Police to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of violence against persons with disabilities, in particular against women and girls with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.**

Algeria

30. The Committee is concerned about the absence of complaints of cases of exploitation, violence and abuse of adults and children with disabilities, which does not necessarily mean that such cases do not occur. It is also concerned that:

- (a) There is no independent mechanism to investigate and monitor cases of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities still living in institutions;
- (b) Persons with disabilities still living in institutions do not have access to independent legal aid and are not offered alternative independent living services in the community;
- (c) Services for the physical and psychological recovery of survivors of exploitation, violence and abuse are not always accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party increase measures to ensure the accessibility and availability of complaint and mechanisms and raise awareness among persons with disabilities, including children. It also recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Establish an independent mechanism to investigate and combat exploitation and violence against persons with disabilities still living in institutions, in particular women and girls and persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) **Introduce policy measures to allow persons with disabilities still living in institutions to access independent and accessible free legal advice and counseling to assert their rights and adopt measures to ensure the right of all persons with disabilities to independent living, support and inclusion in the community;**
- (c) **Adopt additional measures to ensure that all services for the physical and psychological recovery of survivors of exploitation, violence and abuse, including temporary shelters, are accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls;**
- (d) **Increase efforts to ensure recovery, rehabilitation, reintegration, empowerment and independence of persons with disabilities, survivors of exploitation, violence and abuse.**

Bulgaria

37. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information on measures taken to protect persons with disabilities, especially women, girls and boys with disabilities, and persons still placed in institutions, from all forms of violence and abuse, and lack of disaggregated data;
- (b) The lack of sufficient coverage and accessible shelters and services for rehabilitation of women and girls with disabilities exposed to gender-based violence against women;
- (c) Risks of violence and abuse that persons with disabilities still face, and that some past instances of violence that resulted in death of persons with disabilities have not yet been properly investigated and perpetrators processed.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Collect disaggregated data on persons with disabilities, especially women, girls and boys with disabilities, and persons still placed in institutions, exposed to violence.**

- (b) Allocate human, technical and financial resources to improve accessibility of shelters and provide rehabilitation services for women and girls with disabilities exposed to gender-based violence against women;**
- (c) Intensify its efforts to protect all persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, including by conducting effective official investigations in all cases of alleged violence and abuse, and establishing working groups to give priority to the prosecution of cases of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and conviction of perpetrators;**
- (d) Strengthen the mechanisms for independent monitoring of all facilities and programmes for persons with disabilities, in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention.**

Malta

27. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, are subject to violence and abuse, including domestic violence, and that laws in this regard, including the Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act (Cap. 581), lack a disability perspective and monitoring mechanisms to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home, especially where cases are not reported;
- (b) Shelters for persons exposed to violence are not fully accessible, including a lack of information in accessible formats and care for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, in the shelters.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act (Cap. 581) to ensure that it has a disability perspective, to enact other relevant legislation, such as the planned Protection of Vulnerable Older Persons and Adult Persons with Disability Bill, and to ensure that the perpetrators of violence and abuse are prosecuted and given penalties commensurate to the gravity of their acts, if found guilty;**
- (b) Ensure the availability of accessible and inclusive support services for the psychological and physical recovery of persons with disabilities subjected to violence.**

Philippines

30. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The high level of violence against children with disabilities in family and schools, in particular reports of children subject to restraint in their homes, and the information about the cases of deaf girls and boys with disabilities victims of sexual violence, including rape and sexual assault by male teachers or principals in public and private schools, in absence of criminal prosecutions and conviction of perpetrators and redress mechanisms for victims;
- (b) The information about violence, including sexual violence against persons with disabilities who live in the streets;
- (c) The information about risks of trafficking faced by women with disabilities and violence on the Internet.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Intensify its efforts to address domestic violence and abuse, including sexual exploitation of women and children with disabilities in the private sphere and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to independent complaints mechanisms and appropriate remedies to victims of abuse, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;**
- (b) Adopt mechanisms to monitor all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities with the aim to prevent violence, especially sexual violence against persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention;**
- (c) Ensure that any strategies for the prevention of trafficking take into account and address the particular risks of women and girls with disabilities to different forms of**

trafficking and exploitation, and ensure that information and awareness raising concerning trafficking is provided in accessible formats and cover all urban and rural areas of the country.

Poland

28. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Accounts of violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities in care and psychiatric institutions, especially of women with intellectual disabilities;
- (b) Underreporting of violence against persons with disabilities in all settings, and the lack of disaggregated statistics on violence against them;
- (c) The lack of specific protection measures, including legal and psychosocial assistance for women with disabilities at risk of domestic, institutional violence and violence in public spaces and at work.

29. The Committee recommends to:

- (a) Implement legislative and practical measures, including independent human rights-based monitoring, to protect persons with disabilities who remain institutionalized and to eliminate any risk of violence or abuse;**
- (b) Develop mechanisms for reporting violence against persons with disabilities in all settings, as well as to ensure disaggregated data collection on this issue;**
- (c) Develop legal obligations and specific measures for protection of persons with disabilities victims of violence, including accessible communication hotlines as well as services for their psychological and physical recovery, especially for women with disabilities.**

South Africa

30. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of legislation, policies and programmes to protect all persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and children with disabilities from all forms of violence and abuse, including corporal punishment, and the lack of accessible and age-friendly information on access to counselling, redress, including compensation and rehabilitation;
- (b) The lack of dedicated mechanisms for identifying, investigating and prosecuting instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities as well as lack of disaggregated data on related reports, investigations and prosecutions in line with article 16, paragraph 3.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement legislation, policies and programmes to protect all persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and children with disabilities from all forms of violence and abuse, including corporal punishment, as well as expedite the implementation of article 16, paragraph 3, and the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act (2013);**
- (b) Investigate promptly and effectively incidents of violence against persons with disabilities, prosecute suspects and duly sanction perpetrators and that victims are provided with effective redress, including compensation and rehabilitation, and ensure that child victims have access to child-friendly reporting channels, physical and psychological rehabilitation and health services, including mental health services;**
- (c) Raise awareness about the 24-hour Gender-Based Violence Command Centre(GBVC), aimed at providing support and counselling to persons with disabilities and their families exposed to gender-based violence, and ensure its accessibility and the provision of accessible information and victim support services in all parts of the State party, in particular for women and children with disabilities.**

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

30. The Committee is concerned that the Law on Prevention and Protection against Domestic Violence is not explicit on the prohibition of exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the shelter centres for victims of family violence, including their services, are not accessible to persons with disabilities.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to:

- (a) Review the existing legislations and policies to incorporate remedies and sanctions that prevent all forms of violence, abuse and ill-treatment, in public and the private spheres against persons with disabilities, in particular women, girls and children with psychosocial disabilities and or children with intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) Train shelter personnel and workers on the human rights-based approach to disability;**
- (c) Ensure that shelters centres for victims of violence and their services are accessible to persons with disability;**
- (d) Conduct investigations into all allegations of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, and suspicious causes of deaths of residents in institutions.**

Haiti

30. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities, particularly women and children face intersectional discrimination, abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence, especially sexual assault and violence in institutions and in post-earthquake camps. It is particularly concerned by:

- (a) The absence of laws on protection from violence with a disability perspective and of monitoring mechanisms to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home;
- (b) The lack of redress or compensation for victims, the inaccessibility of shelters for victims of domestic violence and insufficiency of health, psychosocial and legal services;
- (c) Inadequate training of the staff, carers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, particularly with respect to children with disabilities who are orphans and engaged in domestic work;
- (d) The absence of concrete data, disaggregated by sex and age, of cases of violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, particularly regarding women and children;
- (e) The absence of measures to protect and offer support to victims of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities in all contexts.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and develop a strategy with targeted time frames and adequate funding to provide security, health and safety for women and children with disabilities in post-earthquake camps. In particular, it recommends that the State party:

- (a) Enact legislation, including monitoring mechanisms, to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home of persons with disabilities, especially for women and children with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure the availability of accessible and inclusive support services to those subjected to violence, including police reporting, independent complaints mechanisms, accessible shelters and other support services, and that all reported cases of abuse or violence are appropriately investigated, victims are legally entitled to and provided with redress and adequate compensation and perpetrators are prosecuted;**
- (c) Provide continuous training to families of persons with disabilities, their careers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence;**

(d) Collect and publish data on intersectional discrimination, abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence including sexual violence towards women and children with disabilities and follow-up with national anti-violence initiatives, in close collaboration with persons with disabilities and their organizations, in order to design appropriate policy responses;

(e) Implement effective mechanisms to ensure that women and girls with disabilities who are victims of violence and abuse are protected and that they can benefit from medical care, psychological support and legal services to ensure their rehabilitation and their reintegration;

(f) In accordance with its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, take measures to end all forms of violence against women and girls with disabilities in both public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other exploitation.

Nepal

27. The Committee is concerned about the absence of any monitoring mechanism to collect disaggregated data on prosecution of cases of violence, abuse and exploitation of persons with disabilities; in particular data on the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and women with disabilities.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate measures to protect persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse both within and outside the home.

Oman

31. The Committee is concerned about insufficient measures to prevent abuse and violence against persons with disabilities in the home, institutions, alternative care and day care settings, that corporal punishment of children is widespread in the State party and that there is insufficient awareness about complaint mechanisms and support services for victims.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement legislation, policies and programmes to protect all persons with disabilities, in particular women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and children with disabilities from all forms of abuse and violence, including corporal punishment, in particular by stepping-up implementation of the national strategy for protecting children from all types of abuse s, and adopting the draft Regulations to the Child Act on female genital mutilation;

(b) Raise awareness about the telephone hotline to report cases of abuse, neglect and violence, and ensure that the e-service complaint mechanism is accessible and inclusive, raise-awareness about the complaint mechanism to persons with disabilities and their families, and ensure the provision of accessible information and victim support services in all parts of the State party, in particular for women and children with disabilities;

(c) Ensure that all cases in which persons with disabilities are exposed to abuse and violence, in particular children, are reported and fully investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and appropriately punished and that victims are provided with effective redress, including compensation and rehabilitation;

(d) Ensure regular training on preventing and addressing violence against persons with disabilities for all relevant authorities and other stakeholders, including law enforcement officials, judges, social workers, health professionals and teachers, as well as promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline as an alternative to corporal punishment, and expand parenting education programmes and support for families with children with disabilities.

Russian Federation

36. The Committee is concerned about the reported physical and psychological violence against persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psycho-social disabilities, including autistic persons, and children, with the use of physical and chemical restraints of such persons in institutions.

37. The Committee recommends that the State Party collect disaggregated data on persons with disabilities, especially women, boys and girls with disabilities, including those placed in institutions, who are exposed to violence and calls upon the State party to intensify efforts to protect all persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse. It also recommends that the State party investigate the reports of maltreatment and abuse of persons with disabilities, in particular children in institutions and bring those responsible for such maltreatment and abuse to justice.

Seychelles

27. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) Allegations of physical, psychological and sexual violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities in family and in institutional settings;

(b) The reported lack of measures of protection and redress to victims of violence, and the absence of sanctions against perpetrators;

(c) The reported lack of monitoring and investigations in order to determine the causes of death of persons with disabilities in institutions and the absence of information on prosecutions on suspicion of criminal offenses and/or abandonment.

28. The Committee, in line with the commitment made by the State party in the Universal Periodic Review of Slovenia in 2014 (see A/HRC/28/15), and recalling the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see CEDAW/C/SVN/CO/5-6, paras. 19 and 20) recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt a strategy to prevent all forms of violence, abuse and ill-treatment, in public and private spheres against persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities. The State party should ensure that such strategy includes information in Easy Read and other accessible formats, and awareness-raising for persons with disabilities and their families;**

(b) **Provide persons with disabilities with early warning mechanisms that allow them to identify and report any situation of risk of violence, abuse and neglect. The State party should establish an expedite procedure to respond on allegations of violence by persons with disabilities and adopt preventive measures that are gender-sensitive and age-appropriate;**

(c) **Ensure that women and girls with disabilities who are exposed to violence can access the network of shelters and crisis centres as well as legal, medical and psychological assistance, effective remedies and adequate compensation;**

(d) **Ensure an investigation of all allegations of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities in institutions, expedite the investigation of suspicious causes of deaths of residents of institutions; providing redress to victims and sanction perpetrators. The State party should collect statistical data on the number of prosecutions and convictions and the sentences imposed on perpetrators.**

Slovenia

27. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) Allegations of physical, psychological and sexual violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities in family and in institutional settings;

(b) The reported lack of measures of protection and redress to victims of violence, and the absence of sanctions against perpetrators;

(c) The reported lack of monitoring and investigations in order to determine the causes of death of persons with disabilities in institutions and the absence of information on prosecutions on suspicion of criminal offenses and/or abandonment.

28. The Committee, in line with the commitment made by the State party in the Universal Periodic Review of Slovenia in 2014 (see A/HRC/28/15), and recalling the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see CEDAW/C/SVN/CO/5-6, paras. 19 and 20) recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a strategy to prevent all forms of violence, abuse and ill-treatment, in public and private spheres against persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities. The State party should ensure that such strategy includes information in Easy Read and other accessible formats, and awareness-raising for persons with disabilities and their families;

(b) Provide persons with disabilities with early warning mechanisms that allow them to identify and report any situation of risk of violence, abuse and neglect. The State party should establish an expedite procedure to respond on allegations of violence by persons with disabilities and adopt preventive measures that are gender-sensitive and age-appropriate;

(c) Ensure that women and girls with disabilities who are exposed to violence can access the network of shelters and crisis centres as well as legal, medical and psychological assistance, effective remedies and adequate compensation;

(d) Ensure an investigation of all allegations of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities in institutions, expedite the investigation of suspicious causes of deaths of residents of institutions; providing redress to victims and sanction perpetrators. The State party should collect statistical data on the number of prosecutions and convictions and the sentences imposed on perpetrators.

Sudan

33. The Committee is concerned about the absence of information on the investigation, prosecution and sanctioning of cases of violence against persons with disabilities.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party duly record, investigate, prosecute and sanction cases of violence against persons with disabilities throughout the criminal and judicial processes.

Latvia

28. The Committee is concerned by:

(a) The high number of deaths occurring in residential institutions of adults with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and the lack of, first, information regarding any investigations that have been conducted to establish the cause of death and, second, prosecutions for criminal acts;

(b) Allegations of violence and abuse, including sexual violence, of persons with disabilities living in institutions;

(c) The excessive use of neuroleptic medication, poor living conditions, including insufficient nutrition, and limited meaningful activities in institutions.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Promptly investigate all cases of death occurring in residential institutions for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including allegations of violence and abuse, ensuring that the perpetrators of criminal acts are prosecuted and sanctioned;

(b) Provide regular and mandatory training to staff working in institutions on the prevention of violence against, and abuse of, persons with disabilities;

(c) Ensure independent human rights-based monitoring of all residential institutions in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention.

Luxembourg

32. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, may be subject to violence and abuse, including domestic violence, and that laws in this regard, including the Domestic Violence Act of 2003, lack a disability perspective and lack monitoring mechanisms to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home;
- (b) In cases of suspected abuse or violence, persons with disabilities receiving inpatient care in hospitals are not guaranteed legal protection through legal representation;
- (c) Statistical data of persons with disabilities victims of violence, sexual abuse or multiple discrimination is lacking.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the Domestic Violence Act 2003 to ensure it has a disability perspective;**
- (b) Enact legislation, including monitoring mechanisms, to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home of persons with disabilities, especially for women and children with disabilities. It encourages the State party to expedite the ratification of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention);**
- (c) Collect and publish disaggregated statistics on violence;**
- (d) Ensure that all reported cases of abuse or violence are appropriately investigated, and perpetrators are prosecuted, and that all persons with disabilities receiving inpatient care in hospitals are guaranteed legal representation;**
- (e) Ensure that members of the police, judiciary, health and social services receive regular and mandatory training on the prevention of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities;**
- (f) Ensure the availability of accessible and inclusive support services to those subjected to violence, including police reporting, complaints mechanisms, shelters and other support measures;**
- (g) Ensure the effective, independent human rights-based monitoring of all remaining residential institutions.**

Montenegro

32. The Committee notes with concern that violence against persons with disabilities, particularly women and children, is prevalent and that effective measures to prevent violence, including sexual violence, in all settings and to monitor violence prevention, is lacking. It notes with concern that:

- (a) Relevant professional groups, such as social workers, teaching staff, medical staff and members of the judiciary, are insufficiently trained in the prevention of violence against persons with disabilities;
- (b) The State party does not collect and publish any data on violence against persons with disabilities.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the availability of accessible, effective and independent monitoring of facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities, and of complaint mechanisms, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention, to enable the authorities to identify, investigate and prosecute all cases of violence against persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish accessible and anonymous services for persons with disabilities who are experiencing violence, whether inside or outside the home, such as shelters, victim support services, hotlines and complaint mechanisms, including at the local level, and include therein a gender and a child rights perspective;**
- (b) Provide training for all relevant professionals, particularly police officers, justice personnel, prison staff, social workers and health professionals, to ensure protection from and prevention of exploitation and abuse of and violence against persons with disabilities. The training should include effective reporting measures with a view to ensuring that persons who are exposed to violence are taken seriously and that investigation,**

prosecution and sanctioning of perpetrators are conducted effectively to prevent recurrence;

(c) Conduct research and set up a system of collection and publication of data and statistics on violence against persons with disabilities, disaggregated by age, sex, type of violence and the setting of the act of violence.

Morocco

34. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, including the forcible use of children with disabilities in begging, and the rape of women, girls and children with disabilities in institutions, and about the absence of effective measures for compensation for and rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims of violence, particularly women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The absence of training for families, caregivers, health personnel and law enforcement officials on recognizing all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, especially involving orphans, including in the labour market;

(c) The absence of concrete data, disaggregated by sex and age, on cases of violence and abuse committed in hospitals, particularly psychiatric hospitals, and places of detention, including on budgetary allocations aimed at making those institutions functional.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt concrete and effective measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence and children with disabilities who are victims of ill-treatment, have access to services and information, including hotlines, shelters, victim support services, consultation and counselling, and to complaint mechanisms that have a mandate to, among other things, provide compensation and impose sanctions against perpetrators;

(b) Provide training for families, caregivers, health personnel and law enforcement officials on recognizing all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and communicate and work effectively with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence;

(c) Set up an independent mechanism to prevent violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities; monitor, in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention, facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities; and provide requisite budgetary allocations to ensure that such facilities and programmes are functional and effective.

Panama

38. The Committee is concerned at the incidence of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in the State party, especially women, children, Afrodescendants and indigenous persons. It is also concerned that so-called “safe havens” are used for long periods of time and thus come to resemble institutional settings.

39. The Committee urges the State party to take all necessary steps to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, both inside and outside of the home. In addition, it recommends that the State party adopt measures to prevent so-called “safe havens” from being turned into institutions and becoming yet another barrier to the achievement of independent living by persons with disabilities and to their inclusion in society.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

38. The Committee is concerned about abuse, ill-treatment, sexual violence and exploitation of women, children, intersex persons and elderly persons with disabilities, and the insufficient measures to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities. It is also concerned at reports of cases of disability hate crime, in

the absence of consistent data collection and differences in legal provisions for sentencing different types of hate crime, particularly in England and Wales.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, and in line with target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Establish measures to ensure equal access to justice and to safeguard persons with disabilities, particularly women, children, intersex persons and elderly persons with disabilities from abuse, ill-treatment, sexual violence and exploitation;

(b) Define comprehensively the offence of disability hate crime, and ensure appropriate prosecutions and convictions;

(c) Ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention.

Armenia

27. The Committee is concerned about the high incidence of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities in institutions, including reported cases of neglect resulting in the death of children and adults with disabilities. It is further concerned about the labour and sexual exploitation of persons with disabilities.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party take legislative and practical measures to protect persons with disabilities who remain institutionalized and prevent and combat neglect, violence, abuse and exploitation. It also recommends that the State party investigate cases of violence, abuse and exploitation of persons with disabilities, prosecute perpetrators and provide the staff of institutions with regular and mandatory training sessions on the prevention of such violence, abuse and exploitation. It also recommends that the State party ensure effective and independent human rights-based monitoring of all residential and specialized institutions in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

30. The Committee is concerned about the lack of data on effective measures to prevent violence against persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, and violence against children with disabilities, including sexual violence, in all settings, and about the lack of mechanisms for making complaints against perpetrators and legal remedies.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the monitoring and inspection of social care homes and psychiatric institutions to prevent violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, and children with disabilities, in particular those still living therein. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that persons deprived of liberty have access to independent complaints mechanisms and that it provide appropriate remedies to victims of abuse, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation.

Canada

33. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Different forms of violence against women and girls with disabilities, in particular indigenous women and women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

(b) Violence and abuse, including sexual violence, against children with disabilities, and the lack of mechanisms to access justice, remedies and redress;

(c) The lack of information about measures to prevent violence against persons with disabilities in family settings and against persons living in institutions.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the federal strategy against gender-based violence includes provisions for medical, legal and social work interventions to address gender-based violence against women with disabilities;
- (b) Strengthen support and services for parents of children with disabilities in order to prevent abuse and violence;
- (c) Set up a mechanism to monitor federal-, provincial- and territorial-level facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention.

Cyprus

39. The Committee is concerned about the insufficiency of legal provisions and accessible mechanisms to detect, report, prevent and combat all forms of violence, including sexual violence in private and public spheres against persons with disabilities, including children.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen and implement legislation and provide for accessible monitoring and reporting mechanisms to detect, prevent and combat all forms of violence, including sexual violence, against persons with disabilities in all settings, including all types of institutions, with a particular focus on women and children with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party ensure capacity-building among employees within the judiciary, police, health and social sectors to ensure accessible and inclusive support services, including confidential complaint mechanisms, as well as shelters and other support measures. The Committee furthermore recommends that the State party, without further delay, ratify and implement the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention).

Honduras

41. Al Comité le preocupan los casos de maltrato físico y/o psicológico, violencia sexual y/o explotación y abuso cometidos contra las personas con discapacidad, especialmente mujeres, niños y niñas, afrohondureños e indígenas, incluyendo la explotación a través de la mendicidad, así como la ausencia de medidas para su protección, recuperación y reparación de daños. Le preocupa también que los casos de estas personas no se investiguen debidamente y que, en consecuencia, los autores de tales hechos permanezcan en la impunidad.

42. El Comité recomienda que se adopten todas las medidas necesarias para prevenir y proteger a todas las personas con discapacidad de la explotación, la violencia y el abuso, incluyendo la explotación a través de la mendicidad, así como para asegurar la debida recuperación de las víctimas en entornos adecuados para ellas. Asimismo, recomienda investigar debidamente todos los casos de explotación, violencia y abuso cometidos contra personas con discapacidad, especialmente mujeres, niños y niñas, afrohondureños e indígenas, a fin de garantizar que sean detectados, investigados y, en su caso, juzgados.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

34. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information about measures to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based violence against women and children with disabilities;
- (b) The absence of information about prosecutions and convictions in cases of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities; and
- (c) The absence of remedies and redress for all persons with disabilities who have faced any form of exploitation, violence and abuse, including psychosocial counselling, reparations, and compensation.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a strategy to prevent and combat all forms of exploitation, violence, and abuse against persons with disabilities, including through early identification of instances of

exploitation, and specific risks of gender-based violence against women and children with disabilities;

(b) Strengthen its efforts aimed at ensuring that religious leaders participate in strategies to prevent any form of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;

(c) Introduce guidelines for private non-governmental organizations about how to file complaints in cases of exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based sexual violence against women and girls with disabilities;

(d) Set-up a comprehensive data collection system on cases of exploitation, violence and abuse, disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnic background, and type of impairment; and

(e) Enforce article 66 of the Criminal Procedure Code and ensure prosecutions and convictions in cases of violence against persons with disabilities. Provide early recovery, legal remedies, counselling and accessible services for victims.

Jordan

33. The Committee is concerned that articles 8 and 62 of the Criminal Code (Law No. 16 of 1960), which refers to “discipline and what is permitted by law and allowed by customs”, may in practice be used to justify acts of violence against women, girls and boys with disabilities.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:^[1]^[SEP]

(a) Repeal articles 8 and 62 of the Criminal Code to fully prohibit corporal punishment;

(b) Mainstream a disability-rights perspective in the work of the National Taskforce on Protection against Family Violence of 2016 and in the new draft law on protection against family violence.

Republic of Moldova

32. The Committee is concerned by reported cases of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities in institutions, including cases of neglect resulting in the deaths of children and adults with disabilities and cases of gender-based violence against women with disabilities.

33. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Implement legislative and practical measures, which take into account gender and age considerations, to protect persons with disabilities who remain institutionalized and to eliminate any risk of neglect, violence or abuse;

(b) Ensure that all reported cases are effectively investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted;

(c) Provide regular and mandatory training to staff in institutions on the prevention of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities;

(d) Ensure effective, independent human rights-based monitoring of all residential institutions.

Bolivia

41. The Committee is concerned that current legislation to combat violence does not recognize the specific forms of violence against persons with disabilities. It is further concerned that:

(a) There is a shortage of information on the situation with regard to violence against women and children with disabilities, and no records of acts of violence against them;

(b) There are no measures in place to prevent exploitation of persons with disabilities through begging, and no programmes for the rescue and compensation of victims;

(c) The lack of accessibility of programmes and institutions intended to provide protection against violence, exploitation and abuse.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation against violence to include the disability, gender and age perspectives. It also recommends that the State party adopt a due diligence framework of social and penal measures to combat exploitation of persons with disabilities through begging, and that it set up and maintain accessible programmes for the rescue, redress and comprehensive rehabilitation of victims; measures

should include social protection, access to justice with a gender and age focus, and psychosocial support.

Colombia

44. The Committee is concerned at the high levels of violence caused by the armed conflict, which have significantly affected women and girls with disabilities, including civilians and former combatants, displaced women with disabilities, and victims of the conflict, for instance, as a result of anti-personnel mines or paramilitary activity, particularly in rural and remote areas. It is particularly concerned that such acts are tried in military courts.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Identify women and girls with disabilities, both civilians and former combatants, who were the victims of sexual violence during the conflict;**
- (b) Investigate and initiate proceedings in civilian courts to determine the criminal liability of the military and self-defence groups in cases of sexual violence against women and girls with disabilities during the armed conflict and in the period of transition towards peace;**
- (c) Give priority to programmes for preventing, eliminating and recovering from violence against women and girls with disabilities in conflict areas, as well as the return of displaced populations.**

Ethiopia

35. The Committee is concerned about ineffective reporting and complaints mechanisms in which the testimony of persons with disabilities who are subjected to violence is not considered reliable and therefore not admissible, and about the lack of implementation of provisions that address violence, exploitation and abuse against persons with disabilities.

36. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen the protection of persons with disabilities against violence, exploitation and abuse, particularly women and girls, by:

- (a) Adopting a due diligence framework to combat impunity in cases of violence;**
- (b) Establishing inclusive and accessible victim support services, including accessible hotlines, shelters and reporting and complaints mechanisms that accept their testimonies;**
- (c) Introducing awareness-raising and training for, inter alia, police, health professionals and social workers on supporting persons with disabilities who are subjected to violence;**
- (d) Collecting information disaggregated by gender, age and disability, among other factors, with the necessary budget allocation.**

Guatemala

45. The Committee is deeply concerned that many persons with disabilities, especially women and children, frequently fall victim to exploitation, violence and abuse and that there are no measures for their protection, rehabilitation or compensation. It is also concerned that instances of exploitation, violence and abuse committed against such persons, especially within the family or in institutions, are not properly investigated and that the perpetrators therefore go unpunished.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party redouble its efforts and adopt a due diligence framework and all the necessary measures in its laws and policies to protect persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse and to ensure the proper recovery of victims in an appropriate environment. It also recommends the inclusive and accessible provision of support for victims, the implementation of a complaint mechanism and the provision of training for police, the judiciary, social workers and health professionals. In addition, the Committee urges the State party to investigate properly all instances of exploitation, violence and abuse committed against persons with disabilities, particularly against women and children, in order to ensure that they are identified,

investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted. Lastly, the Committee requests the State party to periodically compile data and statistics on the situation of persons with disabilities in respect of violence, exploitation and abuse, including information on trafficking, incest and femicide.

47. The Committee is concerned by the lack of protocols for the registration of orphanages, hospitals, prisons, shelters and other public or private residential centres for persons with disabilities and the monitoring of conditions there.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party set up an independent monitoring mechanism, in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention, to register and oversee conditions in residential institutions for persons with disabilities.

Italy

43. The Committee is concerned at the lack of legal provisions and monitoring mechanisms to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party enact legislation, including monitoring mechanisms, to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home of persons with disabilities, especially for women and children with disabilities, and that it produce an action plan to implement the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention), which specifically address women and girls with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party ensure that members of the police, judiciary, health and social services receive training, and the availability to those subjected to violence of accessible and inclusive support services, including police reporting, complaints mechanisms, shelters and other support measures.

Uruguay

39. El Comité nota con preocupación la insuficiente implementación de las medidas previstas para eliminar la violencia contra las mujeres con discapacidad en las políticas del Estado parte sobre discapacidad. Además, le preocupa que otras personas con discapacidad, especialmente los niños y niñas y las personas que viven en instituciones, no cuenten con los suficientes mecanismos de protección contra la violencia y el abuso.

40. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que redoble esfuerzos y adopte todas las medidas necesarias en su legislación y en sus políticas para garantizar la prevención y protección a todas las personas con discapacidad de la explotación, la violencia y el abuso, así como para asegurar la debida recuperación de las víctimas en entornos adecuados para ellas. Además, el Comité le insta a investigar debidamente todos los casos de explotación, violencia y abuso cometidos contra personas con discapacidad en el Estado parte, - fundamentalmente contra mujeres, niños y niñas- a fin de garantizar que todos los casos sean detectados, investigados y, en su caso, juzgados. Por último, el Comité solicita al Estado parte la recopilación periódica de datos y estadísticas sobre la situación de las personas con discapacidad ante la violencia, la explotación y el abuso.

41. Al Comité le preocupa la ausencia de protocolos para llevar registro, control y supervisión de las condiciones en que operan las instituciones donde viven personas con discapacidad.

42. El Comité insta al Estado parte a establecer el mecanismo independiente de seguimiento de acuerdo con el artículo 16, párrafo 3 de la Convención, que registre, controle y supervise las condiciones en que opera cualquier centro donde vivan personas con discapacidad.

Chile

39. Al Comité le preocupa que la legislación y las políticas de prevención y protección contra la violencia no incluyan a las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad. Particularmente le preocupa la ausencia del enfoque diferencial dados los mayores riesgos a los que se enfrentan por su

situación de discapacidad, de violencia sexual, incesto, maltrato físico y verbal, abandono y negligencia. También preocupa al Comité que no se cuente con un mecanismo independiente de protección y supervisión, ni con registros de los casos de violencia.

40. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que incluya a mujeres, niñas, niños y personas mayores con discapacidad en las políticas de protección contra la violencia, que consideren el enfoque de género, discapacidad y edad. Asimismo, solicita la designación de un mecanismo independiente de supervisión que también registre los casos denunciados y lleve a cabo monitoreo de los prestadores de servicios.

Lithuania

32. The Committee is concerned about reported violence and unwarranted restriction of freedom of movement, including isolation, as a form of punishment in social care and psychiatric institutions.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Improve monitoring and inspection of social care homes and psychiatric institutions to prevent violence against and abuse of residents with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that persons deprived of their liberty have access to independent complaints mechanisms;

(c) Provide adequate remedies to victims of abuse, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation.

34. The Committee is concerned by:

(a) The high number of reports of women, boys and girls with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities facing violence and abuse, including sexual abuse, at institutions and at home;

(b) The lack of targeted measures such as the provision of accessible victim support services, including shelters and complaints and reporting mechanisms;

(c) The absence of independent monitoring authorities assigned to comply with article 16 (3) of the Convention;

(d) The lack of statistical data on exploitation, violence, trafficking and abuse in homes, schools, institutions, hospitals and prisons disaggregated by, among others, sex, age and disability.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the protection of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, against violence, exploitation and abuse, as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/4), by establishing inclusive and accessible victim support services, including accessible hotlines, shelters and complaints and reporting mechanisms. The Committee also recommends that the State party strengthen awareness-raising efforts and the training of police officers, health professionals and social workers, among others, with a view to supporting persons with disabilities who have been affected by violence.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and allocate sufficient funds to awareness-raising measures, that it collect disaggregated data and that it designate independent authorities to monitor services and facilities.

Portugal

34. The Committee notes with concern that despite State party legislation and the measures taken to protect persons with disabilities, and especially women and children, from exploitation, violence and abuse, these have not been sufficient.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities, explicitly include the disability perspective in its legislation, strategies and programmes to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse, including the Law on domestic violence (Law 112/2009), and step up intensifying measures to protect persons with disabilities, and especially women and children, including the continuation of police training, prosecutors and judges in the implementation of a due diligence framework.

Slovakia

47. The Committee is concerned that measures to protect persons with disabilities from violence both within and outside the home are insufficient.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that legislation and policies on the protection of persons from violence incorporate specific references to persons with disabilities, including accessible reporting, victim support services and complaints mechanisms, and specialized training for the police, judges and prosecutors. It also recommends that the State party ensure that due diligence is applied in all cases of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, particularly women, girls, boys and older persons.

Thailand

33. The Committee is concerned about the situation of persons with disabilities living in poverty, who are often at risk of exploitation and abuse, including begging and human trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation. It is also concerned about violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, particularly girls and women with disabilities, and regrets the absence of a disability perspective in policies for protection from violence, abuse and exploitation.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a strategy for the protection of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, from violence, abuse and exploitation, inside and outside the home environment. It also recommends that the State party take the measures necessary to prevent persons with disabilities from exploitation through begging and human trafficking and to strengthen the general perception of the importance of human dignity. It further recommends that the State party guarantee that all persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, have access to justice when they have been subjected to violence, abuse or exploitation.

Uganda

30. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Cases of violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in particular the higher risk of women, girls and boys with disabilities, including deaf-blind women and children, of facing physical and sexual violence both in family settings and in institutions;
- (b) Abandonment, malnutrition and exploitation through the use of children with disabilities for begging;
- (c) The lack of accessibility of information and services available for women with disabilities, including hotlines, shelters, victim support services and complaints mechanisms;
- (d) The absence of mechanisms for monitoring institutions where persons with disabilities have been placed.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures to ensure that women with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence have access to both accessible services and information, including hotlines, shelters, victim support services and complaint mechanisms;**
- (b) Implement legislation and a due diligence framework to combat impunity concerning violence, exploitation and abuse through the opening of investigations and providing for sanctions for perpetrators as well as redress for victims of violence;**
- (c) Provide training to the police, judiciary, health professionals and other interlocutors to communicate and work effectively with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence;**
- (d) Set up an independent mechanism to monitor the conditions in all facilities designed to serve persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention.**

Brazil

32. The Committee is concerned at the lack of dedicated mechanisms for identifying, investigating and prosecuting instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities. The Committee also regrets the lack of disaggregated data on reports, investigations and prosecutions of abuse, exploitation and violence against women, men, girls and boys with disabilities.

33. The Committee recommends the State party to ensure the availability of accessible, effective and independent monitoring of facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities, and complaint mechanisms in alignment with article 16(3) to ensure that authorities can identify, investigate and prosecute all cases of violence against persons with disabilities. It also recommends to ensure that the Public Ministry and the attorney offices for persons with disabilities investigate cases related to violence and exploitation of persons with disabilities by allocating the necessary human, technical and financial resources. The Committee recommends that the State party collect disaggregated data and statistics on reports by persons with disabilities of abuse, exploitation and violence, and their outcomes.

European Union

44. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially women, girls and boys, and older persons with disabilities are subjected to violence, abuse and exploitation, especially in institutional settings.

45. The Committee recommends that the European Union take necessary measures to mainstream disability in all legislation, policies and strategies for combatting violence, abuse and exploitation, and to provide effective protection from violence, abuse and exploitation to all persons with all types of disabilities inside and outside of the home.

Gabon

38. The Committee is concerned that there is no law on violence against women, and women and girls with disabilities are not included in the process of consultation regarding proposed legislation on the matter and that frequently they are considered not to be credible witnesses by families, communities and the authorities leading to low reporting and investigation rates. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of accessible services for persons with disabilities experiencing violence, the lack of training of interlocutors working with those experiencing violence to raise their awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities, and the reluctance by authorities to open investigations and prosecutions, which lead to impunity of perpetrators.

39. The Committee recommends drafting and adopting new legislation on violence against women in line with (CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/6, para. 11), which specifically addresses women and girls with disabilities, and includes them in the consultation and drafting process. Furthermore, the Committee recommends establishing accessible services for persons with disabilities experiencing violence, such as shelters, victim support services, hotlines and complaint mechanisms including in rural areas. It also recommends the training of police, justice personnel, staff providing custodial care in prison or other places of detention, social workers, health professionals and other interlocutors to ensure protection from and prevention of exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities including on effective reporting channels with a view to ensuring that all interlocutors take victims seriously and provide support when requested, and that investigations, prosecutions and sanctioning of perpetrators are conducted effectively to prevent recurrence .

Kenya

31. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Cases of violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in particular the higher risk of women, girls and boys with disabilities to face physical and sexual violence both in family settings and in institutions;
- (b) Exploitation of children with disabilities through begging, particularly in urban areas; and
- (c) The limited coverage of Gender Violence Recovery Centers and the lack of information on accessibility of women with disabilities to temporary shelters.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Design and implement a strategy with adequate funding for the protection of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, from exploitation, violence and abuse. Such strategy must include prevention, early recovery, legal remedies including compensation and reparation, and accessible services and counselling for victims;**
- (b) **Set up an independent mechanism to monitor the conditions in all facilities designed to serve persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention;**
- (c) **Take the necessary measures to prevent children with disabilities from falling into exploitation by begging and create programmes at national, county and municipal levels for their rehabilitation, recovery and inclusion in family and community life; and**
- (d) **Ensure that Gender Violence Recovery Centers are established throughout the country and that are accessible for women with disabilities, and collect information about women with disabilities who have been benefited from the services at such centers.**

Mauritius

27. The Committee is concerned that limited measures have been taken to prevent and combat violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, especially sexual abuse of children with disability, which takes place, including within the family. The Committee is also concerned about reports indicating abuse and neglect of boys and girls placed in some NGO-run institutions. The Committee is further concerned that persons with disabilities who are subjected of violence and especially boys and girls hardly get any help to escape abusive situations and that the abuse does not lead up to prosecution.

28. The Committee urges the State party to take urgent measures to prevent violence against women, men, girls and boys with disabilities, to protect those who are subjected to violence and to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. The State party should in particular:

- (a) **Provide fully funded, accessible helplines and shelters for persons with disabilities who experience violence, whether inside or outside the home;**
- (b) **Provide specific training for all respective personnel to detect and report violence against persons with disabilities;**
- (c) **Ensure that persons with disabilities, who are subjected to violence, have access to effective remedies and receive all the necessary support for their mental and physical recovery.**

Qatar

31. The Committee is concerned about the lack of:

- (a) A specific law criminalizing domestic violence, which often goes unreported;
- (b) A disability perspective in policies for protection from violence, abuse and exploitation;
- (c) Data on the protection of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, from exploitation, violence and abuse.

32. The Committee reiterates the recommendations by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/QAT/CO/1, para. 24) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Establish a comprehensive domestic violence protection system, as envisaged in the National Development Strategy 2011-2016 and adopt specific legislation to criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls, mainstreaming the rights and needs of women**

and girls with disabilities therein, including through consulting with their representative organizations;

(b) Develop policies for protection from violence, abuse and exploitation, mainstream the disability perspective within it and step up measures to protect persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, from exploitation, violence and abuse;

(c) Guarantee the provision of accessible information and victim support services that are sufficient in number and location and accessible, in particular for women and girls with disabilities;

(d) Collect data on violence against persons with disabilities, especially women and conduct research on the issue.

Ukraine

32. The Committee is concerned about the various forms of abuse, including those that can amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against persons with disabilities, particularly boys and girls in condition of institutionalization.

33. The Committee recommends that the State Party evaluate the impact and effectiveness of its training programs for the prevention and absolute prohibition of torture and ill-treatment according to the concluding observations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/UKR/CO/6-PARA 18 (e)). These training programs should incorporate, explicitly, the prevention of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against persons with disabilities.

Cook Islands

29. The Committee is concerned that current legislation regarding domestic violence uses derogatory language, and does not ensure women and girls with disabilities are protected on an equal basis with others. It is also concerned that it does not provide accessible helplines or shelters, or training for health professionals, counsellors and police unit personnel to work with women and girls with disabilities.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide fully funded, accessible helplines and shelters for women with disabilities who experience violence both inside and outside the home.

(b) Provide specific training to health professionals, counsellors and personnel working in the Police Family Violence Unit to work with women and girls with disabilities victims of violence.

31. The Committee is concerned that current law authorises the use of force against children with disabilities 'by way of correction'.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party replace laws to prohibit all corporal punishment so children with disabilities are legally protected from all punitive assault including in the home.

33. The Committee is concerned about the lack of safeguards to prevent financial and psychological abuse of persons with disabilities by their "caregivers" as well as the lack of resources available to provide support services to persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party introduce appropriate caregiver training, safeguards and monitoring to prevent abuse of the Disability Allowance by "caregivers"; as well as the provision of resources for professional and accessible information and services for victims of violence and abuse, especially in remote areas.

Croatia

25. The Committee is concerned that mainstream services for victims of violence are not generally accessible to persons with disabilities, and that in particular women, girls and boys with disabilities are left unprotected. It is also concerned that, with the exception of the State Commission for the Protection of Persons with Mental Disorders, there is no independent monitoring mechanism in line with article 16 (3) for programmes and facilities serving persons with disabilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream services aimed at the protection of persons with disabilities from violence and that it make such services fully accessible. Furthermore, monitoring mechanisms should be developed in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention.

Czech Republic

34. The Committee notes with concern the lack of disability perspective in policies for protection from violence, abuse and exploitation and lack of data on protection of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, from exploitation, violence and abuse.

35. The Committee urges the State party to mainstream disability perspective in the existing policies and to step up measures to protect persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, from exploitation, violence and abuse, including the safe and supportive community-based service, by collecting data on violence against persons with disabilities and conducting research on the issue.

Dominican Republic

32. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on trafficking in persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, who are victims of exploitation through begging, and at the lack of information concerning incest. It is also concerned at the fact that women and girls with disabilities have little physical access to, or information and communication about, mechanisms for protection against all forms of physical, sexual, economic and other violence, including in shelters. The Committee is likewise concerned at the lack of an independent monitoring mechanism to protect persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Investigate the situation of persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities, who are abandoned and/or begging, and take the necessary measures for their rehabilitation, recovery and inclusion in family and community life;

(b) Design and implement mechanisms for the protection of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, from exploitation, violence and abuse, particularly incest, by ensuring that they have access to information and communication, to mechanisms for submitting complaints and recording such violations of their rights, and to shelters and measures for psychosocial recovery and reintegration into the community;

(c) Appoint an independent authority to promote the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, in accordance with article 16, paragraph 3, of the Convention.

Germany

35. The Committee is concerned about the lack of: a) The appointment of an independent monitoring authority to investigate violence and abuse of persons with disabilities both in and outside institutions where they face increased risks; b) Independent complaint mechanisms inside institutions; c) permanent State funding to protect women against violence.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party provide a comprehensive and effective strategy with adequate funding to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are effectively protected against violence in all public and private settings. It also recommends that the State party immediately establish or designate an independent body or bodies in accordance with Article 16 para. 3 and ensure independent complaint handling in institutions.

Mongolia

27. The Committee is concerned about information in the State party pointing to the high rates of violence, abuse and exploitation of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, and the lack of protection mechanisms against these human rights violations.

28. The Committee recommends the State party to:

(a) Make protection mechanisms, including shelters and legal redress, accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, who face exploitation, violence and abuse; and

(b) Appoint an independent authority to monitor and protect persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, in accordance with article 16.3 of the Convention.

Turkmenistan

33. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient measures to prevent violence against person with disabilities in all settings, and protect the victims, in particular women and children with disabilities.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the availability and accessibility of effective independent monitoring and complaint mechanisms in order to help the authorities to investigate and prosecute all cases of violence against persons with disabilities, in particular women and children;

(b) Collect disaggregated data on cases of violence against persons with disabilities, in particular in institutions;

(c) Provide accessible shelters, hotlines and information for victims of violence and abuse, and training for law enforcement officers and the judiciary.

New Zealand

35. The Committee notes the programmes under the Domestic Violence Act 2013 to assist persons with disabilities who suffer violence – especially women, girls and boys with disabilities. However, the Committee is concerned that it is unclear whether the Act protects persons with disabilities experiencing abuse in home-care/live-in support situations, and whether the definition of a domestic relationship includes relationships between persons with disabilities and other resident service users, their caregivers, and other support staff.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen these programmes and initiatives to protect persons with disabilities, especially those living in institutions, from violence and harm, and that it ensure that a system is put in place to detect and respond effectively to cases of abuse. It also recommends that the State Party ensure that legislation, policy and practice relating to domestic violence covers persons with disabilities in the domestic situations that they encounter.

Denmark

40. The Committee is concerned at reports showing the level of abuse, exploitation and violence, including domestic violence, to which various categories of persons with disabilities are being exposed, and at the limited number of shelters accessible to victims of such acts, as well as the lack of training of police and other interlocutors. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of available disaggregated data on the reports of abuse, exploitation and violence by persons with disabilities, and on their outcomes.

41. The Committee recommends that the Governments of Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland ensure that violence and abuse against all persons with disabilities is duly reported and investigated; that the necessary support for victims is available, including accessible hotlines, shelters, services and complaints mechanisms; and that the issue is addressed in national training courses for personnel working in health and medical care, schools, the police force and the judiciary. The Committee also recommends that the

Governments collect disaggregated data and statistics on the reports of abuse, exploitation and violence by persons with disabilities, and on their outcomes.

Republic of Korea

31. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities continue to face violence, abuse and exploitation, including forced labour. It is also concerned about the failure of the State party to punish the perpetrators and provide reparation to the victims, and about the absence of shelters for persons with disabilities other than those who are victims of sexual and domestic violence.

32. The Committee urges the State party to investigate all cases of violence, exploitation and abuse experienced by persons with disabilities both inside and outside institutional settings; to ensure that the perpetrators are punished and the victims receive reparation; and to provide accessible shelters for persons with disabilities who are victims. The Committee recommends, in particular, that the State party strengthen its investigations into the incidents of forced labour of persons with disabilities and provide the victims with adequate protection.

Belgium

30. The Committee is concerned about the lack of protection for women, children and girls with disabilities against violence and abuse. It is also concerned about the absence of protocols to register, monitor and track the conditions in institutions that care for persons with disabilities, particularly those that care for older persons with disabilities.

31. The Committee urges the State party to take measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of domestic or institutional violence against women, children and girls with disabilities. It also calls for the drafting and introduction of protocols to register, monitor and track the conditions in institutions that care for persons with disabilities, particularly those that care for older persons with disabilities.

Ecuador

30. The Committee is concerned about: (a) The high level of pregnancy among adolescents and young people aged between 12 and 19 years, according to the most recent population and housing census of 2010, and the fact that the age at which most women with disabilities reportedly had their first child was between 15 and 19 years old, which is indicative of a high incidence of sexual abuse of women with disabilities, particularly with intellectual disabilities; (b) The absence of appropriate mechanisms to detect situations of violence against persons with disabilities, especially women with intellectual disabilities, both within families and in institutions for persons with disabilities; (c) The fact that specific mechanisms have not yet been established for the effective social inclusion of and prevention of violence against children and adolescents with disabilities living in institutions, where they can remain until the age of 18. Enclosed spaces are likely to give rise to situations of violence towards, and the neglect and abuse of, children and adolescents.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Launch a training programme on the sexual and reproductive rights of persons with disabilities, targeted specifically at women with intellectual disabilities, their families and the professionals who provide services in the various State institutions; (b) Carry out institutional reforms and training programmes for professionals in the police and justice sectors so that they are able to detect situations of abuse and violence against persons with disabilities and to conduct investigations with the necessary procedural accommodations to ensure that criminal behaviour is punished; (c) As programmes are being developed to guarantee the right of children with disabilities to live in the community, establish mechanisms for the systematic monitoring, by independent bodies, in accordance with article 16, paragraph 3, of the

Convention, of the living conditions of such children in institutions, with the aim of preventing situations of abuse and violence.

Mexico

33. The Committee notes that women and girls with disabilities, especially those from indigenous communities, are often the victims of violence and abuse and do not have access to effective protection or reparation measures.

34. The Committee urges the State party to implement existing legislative and policy measures to prevent violence against women and girls with disabilities and to provide protection and reparation to those who fall victim to it. The Committee requests the State party to periodically compile data and statistics on the situation of women and girls with disabilities in respect of violence, exploitation and abuse, including femicide.

35. The Committee is concerned at the lack of protection against violence and abuse for children with disabilities. It is further concerned by the absence of protocols for the registration of shelters and other residential centres for children with disabilities and the oversight of conditions there.

36. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Take steps to prevent and eliminate all forms of domestic or institutional violence against children with disabilities;**
- (b) Duly investigate cases of violence and abuse against children with disabilities in order to avoid the impunity of perpetrators;**
- (c) Set up an independent oversight mechanism, in line with article 16, paragraph 3, of the Convention, to register and oversee conditions in shelters and other residential centres for children with disabilities.**

Sweden

41. The Committee is concerned at reports showing the level of violence to which women with disabilities are being exposed, and at the low percentage of shelters accessible to persons with disabilities.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that violence and abuse against girls, boys and women with disabilities are identified; that necessary support is available; and that the issue is addressed in national training courses for personnel working in health and medical care, schools, the police force and the judiciary.

Costa Rica

35. The Committee is concerned about the lack of measures and protocols to protect women and girls with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse.

36. The Committee calls on the State party to ensure that women and children with disabilities are able to access protection mechanisms, such as temporary shelters and therapies to aid recovery from violence, abuse and exploitation, in an autonomous manner, and that these mechanisms are fully accessible. It also calls for the establishment of a system of indicators of violence, abuse and exploitation of persons with disabilities that takes account of gender and age.

Australia

37. The Committee is concerned at reports of high rates of violence perpetrated against women and girls living in institutions and other segregated settings.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party orders investigation, without delay, into situations of violence, exploitation and abuse experienced by women and girls with disabilities in institutional settings, and to take appropriate measures on the findings.

Austria

34. The Committee commends the Austrian Ombudsman Board for the work done to investigate allegations of mistreatment in institutional settings. However, the Committee remains concerned at reports of exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party take further measures to ensure protection of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse.

El Salvador

35. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The lack of official records of cases of exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially children and women, and of preventive measures in both institutions and family settings;

(b) The lack of protocols on handling women with disabilities who are victims or witnesses in trials for exploitation, violence or abuse;

(c) The recourse to institutionalization as the main option envisaged by the State party for the restoration of rights in cases of exploitation, violence and abuse;

(d) The lack of an express ban on corporal punishment of children with disabilities;

(e) The exploitation of persons with disabilities, especially children, for the purpose of begging.

36. The Committee urges the State party:

(a) To adopt legislation to prevent, investigate and punish exploitation, violence and abuse involving persons with disabilities, with a particular focus on women and children;

(b) To set up protocols for and training in the investigation of cases of violence against persons with disabilities;

(c) To follow up on the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/SLV/CO/3-4) regarding the express prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment and ensure that the prohibition includes practices in institutions for children with disabilities;

(d) To follow up on the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to El Salvador following the consideration of its report regarding the need to take a comprehensive approach to violence against women and girls (CEDAW/C/SLV/CO/7, para. 24);

(e) To adopt measures to prevent the exploitation of children with disabilities for the purpose of begging and establish programmes to promote their integration in society and their right to live in the community.

Paraguay

39. The Committee regrets that offences of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are still not visible because judicial bodies do not keep systematic records of cases.

40. The Committee urges the State party to institute a comprehensive strategy, incorporating the gender perspective and in consultation with disabled persons' organizations, to prevent and punish exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, and social rehabilitation and reintegration programmes aiming at the full enjoyment and exercise of their human rights; it also urges judicial bodies to become involved in that strategy. The Committee asks the State party to include in its next periodic report information on complaints and decisions on behalf of persons with disabilities who are victims of offences of this kind.

41. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not provided information on the number of persons with disabilities who are neglected, and whether they are victims of exploitation, human trafficking or abuse.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party look closely at the situation of persons with disabilities who are neglected or the victims of trafficking and take the necessary steps to protect them, including alternative housing for those who have been neglected or are making a living by begging. It also urges the creation of reception centres where victims of trafficking in persons can obtain psychosocial care and legal assistance.

43. The Committee is concerned at reports from various sources – as acknowledged by the authorities of the State party who took part in the interactive dialogue – that criminal gangs in Paraguay are exploiting persons with disabilities by making them beg.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Set up a special investigation unit within the competent law-enforcement bodies to find out how these gangs operate;

(b) Take steps to protect the victims and place them in rehabilitation programmes, with the required support and reasonable accommodation, so that they can exercise their labour rights;

(c) Take criminal proceedings against those responsible for the exploitation and impose the appropriate penalties.

Argentina

29. The Committee notes with concern that neither Act No. 26.485 on comprehensive protection and the prevention, punishment and elimination of violence against women nor Act No. 26.061 on the comprehensive protection of the rights of children and adolescents takes account of the specific situation of women with disabilities and children with disabilities, respectively. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of protection against violence and abuse for institutionalized persons with disabilities.

30. The Committee urges the State party to guarantee protection for women with disabilities and children with disabilities in, respectively, the revised versions of Act No. 26.485 and Act. No. 26.061 and their implementing regulations. It also urges the State party to incorporate a disability perspective into policies and programmes developed on the basis of these acts. In addition, it recommends that the State party draw up appropriate guidelines for the prevention of violence against persons with disabilities who are institutionalized. The Committee also recommends that the State party collect data and information on violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, paying particular attention to women, children and persons who are institutionalized. To that end, the State party should, inter alia, establish institutional mechanisms for the early detection of situations in which violence may occur, diligently investigate allegations of violent acts and make any adjustments in procedures that may be needed so that victims can testify and those responsible can be prosecuted.

China

29. The Committee is deeply troubled by the reported incidents of abduction and forced labour of thousands of persons with intellectual disabilities, especially children, such as the occurrence of slave labour in Shanxi and Henan.

30. The Committee strongly urges the state party to continue investigating these incidents and prosecute the perpetrators. It also asks the state party to implement comprehensive measures to prevent further abductions of persons with intellectual disabilities and provide remedies to the victims, by including data collection on the prevalence of exploitation, abuse and violence against persons with disabilities.

Hong-Kong

65. The Committee is concerned about the incidents of women and girls with intellectual disabilities being subjected to sexual violence.

66. The Committee suggests that Hong Kong, China, continue investigating these incidents and prosecute the perpetrators and all those responsible. It also recommends that sex education be taught to children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities and that the law enforcement personnel be trained on handling violence against women and girls with disabilities.

67. In addition, while the Committee does not consider shelter workshops as a good way to implement the CRPD, it also finds the daily allowance for persons with disabilities in Shelter Workshops to be too low and bordering exploitation.

68. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong, China, enact legislation to raise the daily allowance for persons with disabilities in shelter workshops, so as to prevent their exploitation.

Macao

90. The Committee is concerned about the heightened risk of violence against women and girls with disabilities in becoming victims of domestic violence and abuse.

91. The Committee recommends that services as well as information are made accessible to these victims. It specifically encourages the state party to set up a complaint mechanism and conduct mandatory training for the police force regarding this issue.

Hungary

31. The Committee appreciates that the State party has taken measures to provide some specific disability-related provisions in its legislation and policies for prevention of exploitation, violence and abuse. It, however, is concerned that women, men, girls and boys with disabilities continue to face violence, abuse and exploitation.

32. The Committee recommends the State party to take effective measures to ensure protection of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, in accordance with the Convention, amongst others, the establishment of protocols for the early detection of violence, above all in institutional settings, procedural accommodation to gather testimonies of victims, and prosecution of those persons responsible, as well as redress for victims. It also recommends the State party to ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive and accessible.

Tunisia

26. The Committee expresses concern at the situation of violence that women and children with disabilities might face.

27. The Committee encourages the State party to include women and girls with disabilities in the National Strategy for the prevention of violence in the family and society, and to adopt comprehensive measures for them to have access to immediate protection, shelter and legal aid. It requests the State party to conduct awareness campaigns and develop educational programmes on the greater vulnerability of women and girls with disabilities with respect to violence and abuse.