



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

*Article 8 CRPD  
(Awareness raising)*

October 2022

## Article 8 - Awareness-raising

1. States Parties undertake to adopt immediate, effective and appropriate measures:

- a) To raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;
- b) To combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life;
- c) To promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.

2. Measures to this end include:

a) Initiating and maintaining effective public awareness campaigns designed:

To nurture receptiveness to the rights of persons with disabilities;

To promote positive perceptions and greater social awareness towards persons with disabilities;

To promote recognition of the skills, merits and abilities of persons with disabilities, and of their contributions to the workplace and the labour market;

b) Fostering at all levels of the education system, including in all children from an early age, an attitude of respect for the rights of persons with disabilities;

c) Encouraging all organs of the media to portray persons with disabilities in a manner consistent with the purpose of the present Convention;

d) Promoting awareness-training programmes regarding persons with disabilities and the rights of persons with disabilities.

**Bangladesh  
China  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
New Zealand  
Republic of Korea  
Singapore  
Hungary  
Jamaica  
Mexico  
Switzerland  
Venezuela  
Djibouti  
France  
Estonia  
Albania  
Australia  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
India  
Iraq  
Myanmar  
Cuba  
Niger  
Norway  
Rwanda  
Saudi Arabia  
Senegal  
Spain  
Turkey  
Vanuatu  
Algeria  
Bulgaria  
Malta  
Philippines  
Poland  
South Africa  
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
Haiti  
Nepal  
Oman  
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)  
Republic of Moldova  
Bolivia  
Colombia  
Ethiopia  
Guatemala  
Italy  
United Arab Emirates  
Uruguay  
Chile  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Thailand  
Uganda  
Brazil  
European Union  
Gabon  
Kenya  
Mauritius  
Qatar  
Ukraine  
Cook Islands  
Croatia  
Dominican Republic  
Germany  
Mongolia  
Turkmenistan  
Denmark  
Republic of Korea  
Belgium  
Ecuador  
Mexico  
Sweden  
Azerbaijan  
Costa Rica  
Austria  
El Salvador  
Paraguay  
China  
Peru  
Spain  
Tunisia

## Bangladesh

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The limited awareness raising campaigns and initiatives on disability issues, among the general public and public officials, with reference to the persistence of prejudices, stigma, stereotypes, derogatory language and discrimination against persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, persons affected by leprosy and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and the lack of information of awareness-raising initiatives in appropriate formats for all persons with disabilities, especially in rural and remote areas;

(b) The lack of inclusion of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in awareness raising programmes and campaigns as well as the lack of effectiveness of legislation and policies aimed at dissuading the negative and comical portrayal of persons with disabilities in the media, particularly persons affected by leprosy.

**18. The Committee recommends that, in consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, the State party shall endeavour to:**

**(a) Intensify awareness raising campaigns and initiatives and adopt a national strategy on awareness-raising to educate the general public and public officials in order to combat prejudices, stigma, stereotypes, use of derogatory language and discrimination that prevail against persons with disabilities, including persons affected by leprosy, women and girls with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, particularly in rural and remote areas;**

**(b) Develop and implement awareness-raising programmes that will address prejudices, stereotypes, stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities, including those based on superstitious and mythical beliefs and customs and intensify the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, including the use of human rights language, involving the media, and all necessary public officials.**

## China

20. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of the medical model of disability and insufficient awareness-raising measures to promote the recognition of persons with disabilities as independent and autonomous rights holders, leading to harmful attitudes and behaviours, including stigma, discriminatory language and domestic violence against persons with disabilities.

**21. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities:**

**(a) Adopt a national strategy in order to raise awareness among all persons with disabilities, including in rural areas, about their rights under the Convention and to provide them with information about measures taken to protect their rights;**

**(b) Implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes, including training, on the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability for policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, the media, educators, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, the general public and families of children with disabilities.**

## Indonesia

16. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a national strategy for awareness-raising activities and campaigns to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;

(b) The limited participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including persons affected by leprosy and children with disabilities in awareness-raising programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities.

**17. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Adopt a national strategy, to raise awareness throughout society, particularly among persons with disabilities, their parents and families, professional groups and government**

**officials at all levels, regarding the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities to combat stereotypes, prejudice and harmful practices in all aspects of life;**

**(b) Strengthen measures for close consultation and active participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organisations of persons affected by leprosy and children with disabilities in the design, development and delivery of awareness-raising programmes about the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.**

## Japan

19. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Insufficient efforts and budgetary allocation to raise awareness about the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities in society and in the media;

(b) Discriminatory eugenic attitudes, negative stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities or persons with psychosocial disabilities;

(c) Insufficient participation of persons with disabilities in the preparation of awareness-raising initiatives, such as the “Barrier-Free Mindset” textbook, and insufficient evaluation of these measures.

**20. The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

**(a) Adopt a national strategy to eliminate negative stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices against persons with disabilities, including close participation of persons with disabilities in its formulation and implementation, and periodic evaluation;**

**(b) Strengthen measures to develop and adequately fund awareness-raising programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities for the media, the general public and families of persons with disabilities.**

## Lao People’s Democratic Republic

14. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Discriminatory attitudes, stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities, including persons affected by leprosy, and negative media portrayal of persons with disabilities;

(b) Insufficient measures aimed at increasing awareness among the population about the rights of persons with disabilities and at increasing the ability of such persons to advocate for their own rights, and lack of evaluation of these efforts;

(c) The lack of information made available on the Convention, particularly in rural areas;

(d) The lack of awareness among policymakers, judges, prosecutors, teachers, and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities, about the rights recognized in the Convention.

**15. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation with and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, in urban and rural areas, to raise awareness, combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and ensure that the media portray persons with disabilities in a positive manner in line with the Convention;**

**(b) Reinforce actions aimed to empower persons with disabilities, including persons affected by leprosy, and periodically evaluate the impact of awareness-raising initiatives;**

**(c) Make the Convention in Lao available in accessible formats, including Easy-read, Braille and Lao sign language;**

**(d) With the close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, reinforce capacity-building programmes on the Convention for public policymakers, judges, teachers, social workers, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities.**

## New Zealand

13. The committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive national strategy for awareness-raising activities and campaigns to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and to create sustained and systemic attitudinal change;

(b) The limited participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, particularly underrepresented groups, such as persons of small stature in awareness-raising programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities.

**14. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Adopt and fund a comprehensive national strategy to raise awareness throughout society, particularly among persons with disabilities, their parents and families, professional groups, the media and government officials at all levels, regarding the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, in order to combat stereotypes, prejudice and harmful practices in all aspects of life and to create sustained and systemic attitudinal change;**

**(b) Strengthen measures for close consultation and active participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities in the design, development and delivery of awareness-raising programmes about the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.**

## Republic of Korea

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of awareness-raising campaigns about the dignity, abilities and rights of persons with disabilities in society and in the media and the absence of long term strategy for raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities with the effective participation of persons with disabilities;

(b) The persistence of discriminatory attitudes, negative stereotypes, prejudices, widespread hate and demeaning expressions towards persons with disabilities, including autistic persons, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities in political discourse and on social media.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation with and with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, to raise awareness of and combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and monitor its impact;**

**(b) Introduce regular training and awareness-raising modules about the rights of persons with disabilities at all levels of education, for policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement officials, the media, the politicians, educators, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, as well as for the general public, in all accessible formats and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, in order to foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of all persons with disabilities.**

## Singapore

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The persistence of discriminatory attitudes, negative stereotypes and prejudice against persons with disabilities, in particular autistic persons, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons affected by leprosy, in all aspects of life;

(b) The lack of awareness-raising campaigns about the dignity, abilities and rights of persons with disabilities in society and the absence of a long-term strategy for raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability, with the effective participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

**16. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation with and the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, to raise awareness of and combat prejudice against persons with disabilities, in particular autistic persons, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons affected by leprosy, and monitor its effectiveness;**

(b) Introduce training and awareness-raising programmes about the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability at all levels of education, in public service as well as for the general public, in all accessible formats and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

## Hungary

16. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That the awareness-raising activities are rather sporadic and respond to issues and events;
- (b) That electronic media and social networks rarely involve persons with disabilities to raise awareness and promote a positive image of persons with disabilities.

**17. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation with and with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, in urban and rural areas, to raise awareness of and combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and monitor its impact;**
- (b) Introduce training and awareness-raising modules about the rights of persons with disabilities at all levels of education, as well as for the general public, in all accessible formats and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, in order to foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of all persons with disabilities.**

## Jamaica

16. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That the awareness-raising activities are rather sporadic and respond to issues and events;
- (b) That electronic media and social networks rarely involve persons with disabilities to raise awareness and promote a positive image of persons with disabilities.

**17. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation with and with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, in urban and rural areas, to raise awareness of and combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and monitor its impact;**
- (b) Introduce training and awareness-raising modules about the rights of persons with disabilities at all levels of education, as well as for the general public, in all accessible formats and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, in order to foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of all persons with disabilities.**

## Mexico

25. The Committee is concerned that a welfare and medical model of disability is still prevalent in the public perception of disability; that the rights of children, adolescents and women with disabilities and sexual and reproductive health rights of persons with disabilities are subject to public prejudice, stereotyping and harmful practices; and that the Teletón campaigns still reinforce a view of persons with disabilities as recipients of society's charity.

**26. The Committee recommends that the State party develop and implement, with the involvement of persons with disabilities, comprehensive awareness-raising programmes with the goal of promoting a human rights model of disability and awareness of the rights of children, adolescents and women with disabilities and of sexual and reproductive health rights of persons with disabilities. It further recommends that the State party bring Teletón campaigns fully into line with these goals.**

## Switzerland

17. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of awareness about the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities in society and in the media, and the widespread negative media portrayal of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The overreliance on civil society organizations to conduct awareness-raising activities on the rights of persons with disabilities;



(c) Discriminatory attitudes, negative stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities, including autistic persons and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities:**

**(a) Adopt a national strategy, applicable at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels, to eliminate negative stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices against persons with disabilities;**

**(b) Implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes, including training, on the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability for policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, the media, educators, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, the general public and families of children with disabilities;**

**(c) Introduce training and awareness-raising modules about the rights of persons with disabilities at all levels of education and in all accessible formats in order to foster respect for the dignity and rights of all persons with disabilities.**

## Venezuela

14. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The Ministry of People's Power for Public Health is responsible for awareness-raising campaigns, thus reinforcing the medical approach to disability, and that organizations representing persons with disabilities are not involved in designing such campaigns;

(b) Stereotypes and harmful attitudes towards persons with disabilities persist in the State party and that the approach taken towards them continues to be welfare- and not human rights-based, in accordance with the Convention.

**15. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Reinforce and increase intensive training on the rights of persons with disabilities from a human rights perspective for public officials, health-care professionals, professionals working in the justice system and others, as well as members of the community at large;**

**(b) Carry out media campaigns, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, aimed at eliminating prejudices, stereotypes and harmful practices in respect of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, in both urban and rural areas.**

## Djibouti

13. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Stigmatization, negative stereotypes, harmful practices, deep-rooted cultural beliefs against persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, women and girls with disabilities, and persons affected by leprosy, in the society, the families and among persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas;

(b) Lack of long-term strategy for raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities with the effective participation of persons with disabilities;

(c) Absence of raising-awareness campaigns and programmes on disability among refugees.

**14. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Develop and implement a strategy, in partnership with community and religious leaders and the media aimed at the public and the families, particularly in rural areas and in refugee camps, to raise awareness about the Convention and to combat stigmatization, prejudice, stereotyping of persons with disabilities, including against persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, persons with albinism, women and girls with disabilities and persons affected by leprosy;**

**(b) Conduct awareness-raising programmes, including training, for policymakers, administrative staff, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, health professionals and the media, to promote the human rights model of disability and to eliminate prejudices and the use of derogatory language against persons with disabilities;**

**(c) Adopt measures to ensure the effective participation of persons with disabilities, through their organizations, in the design and implementation of public awareness-raising campaigns and programmes.**

## France

17. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Negative stereotypes against persons with disabilities, especially affecting autistic persons, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and with Down syndrome;
- (b) The devaluing of persons with disabilities through ableist policies and practices that underpin prenatal genetic screening on foetal impairment, particularly concerning trisomy 21, autism, and neonatal detection of deafness;
- (c) The lack of visibility of persons with disabilities in public life, public media, including in TV;
- (d) Measures to combat terrorism that perpetuate negative and harmful stereotypes of persons with psychosocial disabilities as dangerous and at a high risk for radicalisation and terrorism.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in partnership with organizations of persons with disabilities:**

- (a) Adopt and implement a strategy based on the human rights model of disability in order to eliminate negative stereotypes that devalue persons with disabilities, including in respect of the use of prenatal genetic testing, and ensure the implementation of measures issued by the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights from its independent periodic assessments of national programmes to eliminate stereotypes;**
- (b) Adopt measures to increase participation and visibility of persons with disabilities in public life and public media;**
- (c) Eliminate negative and harmful stereotypes of persons with psychosocial disabilities with regard to radicalisation and terrorism.**

## Estonia

17. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of awareness about the dignity, abilities and the rights of persons with disabilities, in the media and in society;
- (b) Negative stereotypes about disability, including in connection with prenatal genetic testing as a measure to primarily prevent future disabilities.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation and involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, to raise awareness and combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and monitor its impact;**
- (b) Introduce training and awareness raising about the rights of persons with disabilities in all levels of education, in all accessible formats and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, in order to foster the respect for dignity, abilities, and contributions of all persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Develop targeted programmes to identify and combat disability stigma and stereotypes in all areas of life, including prenatal genetic testing as a means of preventing disability which is not in line with the Convention.**

## Albania

17. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in local and nationwide campaigns, as well as the lack of regular awareness-raising programmes, including training, for personnel of the public and private media on the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention. The Committee is also concerned that the text of the Convention has not been made available in sign language Braille and Easy Read.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party, with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities:**

**(a) Adopt measures to develop local and national awareness-raising campaigns targeting, among others, public authorities, private sector service providers, and the general public, to systematically raise public awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and the Convention;**

**(b) Train public and private media professionals about the importance of portraying the positive contributions made by persons with disabilities;**

**(c) Translate and disseminate the Convention in accessible formats, including sign language, Braille and Easy Read.**

## Australia

15. The Committee is concerned about the lack of concerted efforts at all levels and about the low level of participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, persons with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, to promote awareness-raising efforts about disability, including campaigns promoting a positive image and awareness of the contribution of persons with disabilities, in line with the Convention.

**16. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a national government strategy to promote a positive image and awareness of the rights of all persons with disabilities and that it ensure the consultation and participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, particularly women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, persons with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer persons with disabilities, in the development and delivery of all awareness-raising activities.**

## Ecuador

19. The Committee is concerned at the persistence of stereotypes and harmful attitudes in the State party towards persons with disabilities and particularly towards those persons who are faced with multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. It is also concerned at the media campaigns being run by private organizations that use a charity-based approach.

**20. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Reinforce and increase intensive training courses on the rights of persons with disabilities from a human rights perspective for students, judges and personnel in the judicial branch, health-care professionals and members of the community at large;**

**(b) Carry out media campaigns aimed at eliminating prejudices, stereotypes and harmful practices, especially those focusing on persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;**

**(c) Take steps to ensure that autonomous decentralized municipal governments discourage charity-based campaigns.**

## El Salvador

16. The Committee is concerned that the State party's awareness-raising efforts remain limited to isolated and sporadic campaigns and training programmes, which lack a focused plan for raising awareness in all spheres about respect of the rights of persons with disabilities, including among education personnel, the judiciary, law enforcement officials, staff in the health sector, and at the family and community levels.

**17. The Committee recommends that the State party launch an intensive awareness-raising strategy, that includes training programmes and media campaigns, based on the human rights model of disability, for judges, lawmakers, law enforcement officials and health and education personnel, in order to eliminate prejudices, stereotypes and harmful practices against persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and to promote recognition of their rights in society.**

## India

18. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The prevalence of prejudices and stigmas underpinning the isolation and segregation of persons with disabilities, and the limited impact of and lack of information provided by awareness-raising campaigns undertaken in rural areas, where disability is seen as an “outcome of fate”;

(b) The regressive negative portrayal of persons with disabilities in the media, and a recent spate of unaddressed discriminatory and derogatory narratives by political leaders and actors;

(c) The lack of information made available on the Convention and other disability-rights related laws and policies, particularly in states in the north-east region.

**19. The Committee recommends that the State party, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities:**

**(a) Adopt a national strategy to raise awareness and combat prejudices and stigmas against persons with disabilities, including in rural areas and targeting schools, and monitor its impact;**

**(b) Implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes, including training, for policymakers, administrative staff at all levels of authority, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, the media, professionals and staff working with and for persons with disabilities and their families. The State party should promote the human rights model of disability, and address prejudices and the use of derogatory language against persons with disabilities in society and multiple and intersecting discrimination against intersex persons and on the grounds, inter alia, of sexual orientation and gender identity;**

**(c) Translate the Convention and its Optional Protocol and the Committee’s general comments into the local languages and disseminate them widely in accessible formats.**

## Iraq

17. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a national strategy and about insufficient measures to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, adopt a national strategy and undertake public awareness-raising campaigns to reinforce a positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of all the human rights recognized in the Convention.**

## Myanmar

17. The Committee is concerned about the lack of comprehensive awareness-raising programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities across the State party. It notes with concern the persistence of negative stereotypes, prejudices and stigma against persons with disabilities, including that they “might be fated by something bad” based on traditional superstition.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, develop and implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes that address negative stereotypes, prejudices and stigma against persons with disabilities, including those based on ritual beliefs, customs and superstitions, often targeting children with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party promote the human rights of persons with disabilities across the State party, targeting the media, public officials, judges, lawyers, the police, social workers and the general public, including ethnic and religious minorities.**

## Cuba

19. The Committee is concerned about the absence of measures to promote awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities in the framework of the human rights model of disability.

**20. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, strengthen its efforts to carry out regular awareness-raising campaigns on the content of the Convention among public and private actors, in view of eliminating negative perceptions of persons with disabilities in society, and introduce awareness and capacity-building programs on the human rights model of disability for public officials.**

## Niger

13. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Stigmatization, abandonment, exploitation, neglect, harmful practices, prejudices and stereotypes against persons with disabilities in society and families;
- (b) The absence of awareness raising campaigns and programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and the lack of adequate funding for such campaigns and programmes;
- (c) The lack of participation of persons with disabilities in awareness-raising campaigns and programmes and in the work of the National Technical Committee for the Advancement of Persons with Disabilities.

**14. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Undertake public awareness campaigns and programmes, involving community and religious leaders, and media, aimed at government officials, the public and families, to raise awareness about the Convention and combat stigmatization, abandonment, exploitation, neglect, prejudices, stereotypes and harmful practices against persons with disabilities, particularly children and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;
- (b) Provide sufficient budgetary allocations for awareness raising campaigns and programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities, and involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations.

## Norway

13. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of negative stereotypes, prejudices and language against persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of comprehensive and innovative awareness-raising programs on the rights of persons with disabilities.

**14. The Committee recommends that the State party, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, develop and implement innovative public awareness-raising and education programs for the media, public officials, judges and lawyers, the police, social workers and the general public with the aim of raising awareness and promoting the human rights-based concept of disability, addressing negative stereotypes, prejudices and language against persons with disabilities in society including on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.**

## Rwanda

15. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of negative stereotypes, stigma and prejudices towards persons with disabilities in society and the lack of programmes to raise awareness about their rights.

**16. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a national awareness-raising programme, with the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, and develop media campaigns, portraying positive images of persons with disabilities respectful of their rights and dignity and highlighting their contributions to society.**

## Saudi Arabia

13. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Measures aiming to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities, including in the mass media, are based on a misconception that the promotion of the prevention of

disability is a measure to implement the Convention, rather than the human-rights based approach to disabilities, and that awareness raising activities do not reach rural environments and places of employment;

(b) The Convention has not been disseminated in accessible formats such as Easy Read and Braille.

**14. The Committee reminds the State party that the promotion of the prevention of disability is not a measure to implement the Convention and recommends that the State party, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders:**

(a) Undertake public awareness campaigns, focusing on employers and rural areas, to portray persons with disabilities as rights holders, demonstrate their abilities and combat discrimination and negative stereotypes in the media;

(b) Disseminate the Convention in accessible formats, such as Easy Read and Braille.

## Senegal

13. The Committee is concerned by the limited awareness in society, in the media, and among persons with disabilities themselves of the rights of persons with disabilities.

**14. The Committee recommends that the State party conduct public awareness-raising campaigns, including human rights education programmes, in partnership with community, traditional and religious leaders, as well as media professionals, to combat stereotypes, stigmatization and prejudices against persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism. It also recommends that the State party promote a positive perception of persons with disabilities, particularly children and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.**

## Spain

14. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The limited change in social perceptions about persons with disabilities achieved by awareness raising programmes and their lack of focus on the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) The continuing stigmatization of persons with psychosocial disabilities in the media as well as by pharmaceutical industries as dangerous to society;

(c) Persisting negative stereotypes and degrading portrayal of persons with disabilities, such as persons with dwarfism in bullfighting comic shows in mainstream media channels.

**15. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures, in partnership with self-advocacy organisations of persons with disabilities, to design, launch and maintain public awareness and media campaigns aimed at eliminating negative stereotypes towards persons with disabilities, promoting the recognition and respect of their rights and encouraging positive perceptions and enhanced social awareness about them in society.**

## Turkey

17. The Committee is concerned about reports of predominant negative stereotypes and stigmatization of persons with disabilities in society, particularly:

(a) The absence of an overall awareness raising campaign to tackle stigma and prejudices against persons with disabilities, and the lack of information on the planned communication strategy of the Ombudsman Institution (KDK) Strategy Paper (2017-2021);

(b) The lack of available translations of the Convention in Turkish Sign Language and Braille;

(c) Discriminatory attitudes against life with a disability and biased information to expectant parents by counselling services, leading to termination of pregnancy, particularly in cases of a diagnostic of Down syndrome and spina bifida;

(d) Contents of primary school textbooks describing persons with disabilities as, among others, 'needy' and 'incompetent' and not considered as 'normal individuals'.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party address discriminatory stereotypes against persons with disabilities, and that it:**

- (a) Develop and implement an awareness-raising strategy, including campaigns in line with the Convention, with the meaningful involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Translate the Convention into Turkish Sign Language, Easy Read and other formats, and disseminate Braille transcriptions of the Convention;**
- (c) Raise awareness among all, particularly medical professionals and services providers on the contributions of persons with disabilities and the need to eliminate negative attitudes, including by providing information on support for parents;**
- (d) Promote positive perceptions and messages of persons with disabilities focusing on their dignity, capabilities and contributions to society through campaigns targeting the general population, schools, public officials, the private sector and educational institutions.**

## Vanuatu

16. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The high prevalence of stigma and negative stereotypes and attitudes against persons with disabilities;
- (b) The absence of continuous awareness raising programs on the rights of persons with disabilities with adequate involvement of persons with disabilities through their organizations in the design and implementation of programs.

**17. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Adopt and implement the necessary measures grounded on the human rights-based approach to disability in order to combat stigma, prejudice and stereotypes against persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Adopt a national awareness raising strategy and implement continuous awareness campaigns, including in rural areas, with the involvement of all stakeholders, such as the media and persons with disabilities through their representative organisations.**

## Algeria

18. The Committee is concerned about stigmatization, prejudice against, and stereotypes of persons with disabilities among the public and in the media. It is also concerned that the State party misunderstands programmes for the prevention of disability, including those in Executive Decree No. 17- 187 of 3 June 2017, as being a measure of implementation of the Convention, which results in discrimination against persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the absence of a national policy to raise awareness about the human rights-based approach to disability.

**19. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Take the necessary legal and other measures to transform prejudices and address stigmatization and stereotypes of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Eliminate all policies that aim to legitimize the prevention of disability as a measure of implementation of the Convention;**
- (c) In close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, develop and adopt a national strategy to raise awareness and promote a positive image of persons with disabilities and knowledge about their rights as set out under the Convention.**

## Bulgaria

21. The Committee is concerned about the low level of awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, and existing prejudice against persons with disabilities in the general public and in schools causing, among other, rejection of children with disabilities in schools.

**22. The Committee recommends that the State party takes continuous and effective awareness raising strategies, including campaigns aimed at promoting the dignity, and rights of persons with disabilities in society, in the private and public sector, and in close and meaningful consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.**

## Malta

13. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities continue to be portrayed in the media from the perspective of the charity model of disability. It further notes with concern the insufficient, itemized budgetary allocation for measures aimed at increasing awareness among the population about the rights of persons with disabilities and at increasing the ability of persons with disability to advocate for their rights.

**14. The Committee recommends that, in close collaboration with persons with disabilities, and their representative organizations, the State party:**

- (a) Adopt measures to develop and adequately fund national awareness-raising campaigns, including through the adoption of the National Disability Strategy;**
- (b) Train media professionals, civil servants and the public about the importance of reflecting and explaining the human rights model of disability;**
- (c) Periodically review and evaluate the impact of its awareness-raising efforts.**

## Philippines

18. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The emphasis of the State party on prevention of impairment rather than inclusion and exercise of rights, and that public resources are allocated to once a year events that reinforce the medical approach to disability;
- (b) The lack of awareness regarding attitudinal barriers and other hardships confronting women and girls with intellectual disabilities and women with psychosocial disabilities;
- (c) The lack of information on the outcomes of 'sensitive trainings' and proclamations of the State party in addressing public apathy and negative attitudes against persons with disabilities.

**19. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to foster a positive image of persons with disabilities as human rights-holders;**
- (b) Ensure that awareness-raising activities recognize the cross-cutting nature of the Convention, and adopt the human rights model of disability as a key strategy to strengthen public awareness regarding disability;**
- (c) Strengthen training and capacity building activities among public authorities, in particular civil servants responsible for implementing the Convention;**
- (d) Operationalize monitoring instruments to ascertain awareness-raising campaigns and their outcomes in eliminating negative perceptions of persons with disabilities in society.**

## Poland

13. The Committee is concerned about :

- (a) The negative perceptions of disability as being "undesirable condition" and of persons with disabilities as being "of less value" than others;
- (b) Persons with disabilities not being recognised as rights holders in society;
- (c) The lack of measures taken to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities as contained in the Convention.

**14. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Take specific measures to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities among the general public and parents, including the public and private media, medical personnel, education personnel, employers, and promote a positive image of persons with disabilities as human rights-holders;**
- (b) Involve the organizations of persons with disabilities when developing and delivering nationwide campaigns, awareness-raising programmes or training on the human rights model of disability and ensure systematic State-funded awareness-raising programmes.**



## South Africa

14. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of a coherent and comprehensive national strategy to raise awareness among the public and private media about the on-going stigmatisation and marginalization of, and prejudices and stereotypes about persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with albinism, even within family settings;

(b) The non-inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, in awareness-raising campaigns and programmes, including in the planning and implementation of such campaigns and programmes.

**15. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Develop a coherent and comprehensive national strategy to raise awareness among the society and media about the negative effects of stigmatisation of, prejudices and stereotypes about persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with albinism;**

**(b) Undertake public awareness-raising campaigns, including human rights education programmes, in partnership with community, traditional and religious leaders, as well as media professionals, to combat stigmatization of and prejudices against persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism, aimed at reaffirming the value and dignity of such persons, in particular children with disabilities, and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;**

**(c) Adopt effective mechanisms for the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, especially in rural communities, in the design and implementation and evaluation of awareness-raising campaigns and training programmes in conformity with the principles of the Convention.**

## The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of national policy and strategy on disability awareness and the lack of efforts to prevent and combat disability stereotypes and discrimination on the basis of impairment;

(b) Ad hoc activities on awareness-raising campaigns focusing on impairments rather than rights and reinforcing the charity-based approach to disability.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Adopt a national policy and strategy on disability awareness to prevent and combat discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, with the participation of persons with disabilities, aimed at combating stigma and stereotypes;**

**(b) Develop continuous campaigns about the Convention in the public and private sector and among the persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.**

## Haiti

14. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The high prevalence of taboos and negative stereotypes of disability, including discriminatory beliefs that disabilities are supernatural in origin or contagious;

(b) That negative attitudes resulting in stigmatization on grounds of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, albinism, and the combination of these factors with disability, are highly prevalent in society and a major obstacle to the participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities;

(c) The absence of a coherent national strategy and policy for raising awareness on the human rights based approach to disability with adequate representation of organizations of persons with disabilities, which continues to perpetuate and reproduce negative attitudes towards persons with disabilities.

**15. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Adopt and implement the human rights based approach to disability to combat fear, prejudice and stereotypes against persons with disabilities;
- (b) Formulate a national awareness raising strategy and implementation plan to effectively address stereotypes related to disability and stigmatization based on negative beliefs to prevent and address discrimination, including multiple and intersectional discrimination, against persons with disabilities;
- (c) Implement continuous awareness campaigns, involving all stakeholders such as religious leaders and community opinion leaders and representative organizations of persons with disabilities;
- (d) Increase the visibility of persons with disabilities in society including more media coverage against the abuse of persons with disabilities.

## Nepal

15. The Committee is concerned at negative attitudes as manifested in everyday language and the lack of awareness regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities from ethnic, Dalit, Madhesi and Muslim communities. The Committee also notes that awareness-raising measures are inadequate to the extent that even persons with disabilities and their families, let alone public and relevant professionals in general, are not exposed to the issues concerning the rights of persons with disabilities.

**16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, develop and implement public awareness-raising and education programmes on the rights as well as the situation of persons with disabilities, including through sensitization of the media, public officials, judges and lawyers, the police, social workers and the general public, in order to foster a positive image of persons with disabilities as autonomous holders of human rights. In doing so, the State party should ensure that such awareness-raising recognizes the cross-cutting nature of the Convention, particularly with regards to articles 2, 3, 5, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 21 and adopt a human rights model of disability as a key strategy to strengthen positive public awareness regarding the diversity of disabilities.**

## Oman

17. While noting the various initiatives to combat stereotypes, including through use of the media, the Committee is, however, concerned about:

- (a) The continued stigmatization of persons with disabilities, in particular children, by families and the society at large;
- (b) The absence of awareness raising campaigns and programmes focusing on the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;
- (c) The lack of involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in awareness-raising campaigns and programmes, including their participation in the planning and implementation of such campaigns and programmes.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Continue to undertake sustained public awareness campaigns, involving community and religious leaders, and media professionals, aimed at government officials, the public and families to combat the stigmatization of and prejudice against persons with disabilities aimed at reaffirming the value and dignity of such persons, in particular children with disabilities, and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;
- (b) Ensure that all persons with disabilities and their families are aware of the benefits and services that they are entitled to through the disabled identification card;
- (c) Ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations in awareness raising campaigns and training programmes that are in conformity with the principles of the Convention and based on the human rights model of disability.

## Seychelles

12. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Negative societal attitudes towards persons with disabilities, including the lack of awareness about their capabilities and rights, especially stigmatizing persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

(b) The absence of strategies, including awareness-raising campaigns, for combating stereotypes and prejudices against persons with disabilities.

**13. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities:**

**(a) Adopt measures to raise public awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities in families, schools, and society;**

**(b) Adopt an awareness-raising strategy, including engagement of mass media for promoting the respect and dignity of all persons with disability, regardless of impairment, and highlight their capabilities and contributions to society.**

## Slovenia

12. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Negative societal attitudes towards persons with disabilities, including the lack of awareness about their capabilities and rights, especially stigmatizing persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

(b) The absence of strategies, including awareness-raising campaigns, for combating stereotypes and prejudices against persons with disabilities.

**13. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities:**

**(a) Adopt measures to raise public awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities in families, schools, and society;**

**(b) Adopt an awareness-raising strategy, including engagement of mass media for promoting the respect and dignity of all persons with disability, regardless of impairment, and highlight their capabilities and contributions to society.**

## Sudan

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The limited knowledge and awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities within society in general and public officials in particular; and the absence of a comprehensive national disability awareness policy or strategy to strengthen efforts to prevent and combat disability stereotypes, as well as discrimination on the basis of impairment;

(b) Awareness-raising campaigns focusing on impairments rather than rights and reinforcing the charity-based approach to disability.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Adopt a national disability awareness policy or strategy to prevent and combat discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, with the participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, aimed at combating stigma and stereotypes and reaffirming the value and dignity of persons with disabilities;**

**(b) Conduct training activities to communication and media professionals consistent with the human-rights based approach to disability.**

## Latvia

14. The Committee is concerned about the negative prejudices towards persons with disabilities in society, especially with regard to persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

**15. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities and with the participation and promotion of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, adopt a**

**comprehensive public awareness-raising campaign about the Convention, with the aim of building a culture of diversity based on the participation and involvement in community life of all persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.**

## Luxembourg

18. The Committee is concerned about the lack of awareness about the Convention and the rights of persons with disabilities among the general public. It is also concerned about the lack of systematic public awareness efforts, including campaigns, to promote the human rights of persons with disabilities, and that persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are rarely involved. It is also concerned that negative stereotypes of persons with disabilities persist in the media.

**19. The Committee recommends that, in close collaboration with persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, through their representative organizations, the State party:**

**(a) Adopt measures to develop, national awareness-raising campaigns targeting, among others, public authorities, private sector service providers, and the general public, to systematically raise public awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, the Convention and its Optional Protocol;**

**(b) Train media professionals about the importance of portraying the positive contributions made by persons with disabilities;**

**(c) Periodically review and evaluate the impact of any awareness-raising efforts.**

## Montenegro

16. The Committee is concerned about the lack of sufficient training programmes for public and private media personnel on the human rights-based approach to disability, as well as training for students of architecture and engineering on accessibility and universal design.

**17. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate all necessary human, technical and financial resources to:**

**(a) Providing training for public and private media on the Convention, with particular emphasis on the human rights-based approach to disability, and encouraging the portrayal of a positive image of persons with disabilities, their rights and their contributions to society, with a view to eliminating negative stereotypes and prejudices against persons with disabilities;**

**(b) Taking effective steps to include in the curricula for students of architecture and engineering mandatory elements on the rights of persons with disabilities, with a special focus on accessibility and universal design.**

## Morocco

20. The Committee is concerned about negative perceptions of persons with disabilities in society. It is also concerned about attitudes that stigmatize on the basis of gender and sex identity and its association with disability, and the confusion that can arise from having a different sexual orientation and being a person with disabilities.

**21. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Strengthen, with the participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations and the involvement of the media, public awareness-raising campaigns aimed at reaffirming the value and dignity of persons with disabilities;**

**(b) Raise awareness among politicians, including the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government, with regard to the Convention and its Optional Protocol and secure their support in implementing the recommendations contained in the Committee's concluding observations;**

**(c) Conduct dialogue in society, involving community and religious leaders, aimed at preventing the stigmatization of all categories of persons with disabilities;**

**(d) Develop awareness-raising campaigns and conduct a revision of educational materials to prevent the confusion that can arise from having a different sexual orientation and being a person with disability.**

## Panama

24. The Committee is concerned that the State party's efforts to combat biased views and negative stereotypes of persons with disabilities remain insufficient, given the existence of public campaigns such as Teletón, which reinforce the charity-based model of disability.

**25. The Committee recommends that the State party combat discrimination and negative stereotypes in the media, such as those present in public campaigns like Teletón, and promote public campaigns that portray persons with disabilities as rights holders and focus on their abilities, ensuring that organizations of persons with disabilities are consulted during the design of these campaigns.**

## United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

22. The Committee is concerned at the persistence of negative attitudes, stereotypes and prejudice against persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with neurological and cognitive conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's, and about their social protection entitlements

**23. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, strengthen its awareness-raising campaigns aimed at eliminating negative stereotypes and prejudice towards persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with neurological and cognitive conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's. To that end, the State party should include mass media strategies and campaigns, with different target audience groups, based on the human rights model of disability.**

## Armenia

13. The Committee is concerned about the overall negative image of persons with disabilities and the lack of programmes to raise awareness about their rights, as well as about media coverage of disability that is based on stereotypes and perpetuates discriminatory attitudes towards persons with disabilities.

**14. The Committee recommends that the State party implement, with the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, systematic awareness-raising programmes, including media campaigns, aimed at portraying positive images of persons with disabilities as human rights holders.**

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

16. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the local and the nationwide campaigns, awareness-raising programmes and training programmes for personnel of the public and private media, as well as on whether the text of the Convention has been made available in sign languages.

**17. The Committee recommends that the State party translate the Convention into sign languages and organize training programmes for the public and private media on how persons with disabilities should be portrayed, in order to eliminate negative stereotypes and prejudices towards them. The Committee also recommends that the State party take effective and regular steps to raise awareness among members of parliament and government officials at the national and local levels on these matters, and update the training curricula of architects on the rights of persons with disabilities.**

## Canada

19. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information about indigenous persons with disabilities, given that they represent one of the most marginalized populations. It is also

concerned about stereotypes and harmful messages in public campaigns about autistic persons. It is further concerned about the absence of information on awareness campaigns to promote the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and to combat attitudinal barriers and prejudices against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities.

**20. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Ensure appropriate dissemination of the Convention and the Committee's general comments, concluding observations and recommendations in sign languages and in accessible formats, modes and means of communication, such as easy-read formats and Braille;**

**(b) Recognize and proclaim November each year as Indigenous Disability Awareness Month, which is already being done by British Columbia and Saskatchewan;**

**(c) Adopt a human rights model of disability that recognizes autistic persons and reinforce their human dignity and value in all public campaigns and programmes to support their inclusion in society;**

**(d) Adopt a strategy aimed at recognizing and fostering the participation of persons with intellectual disabilities in society, including measures to combat stigmatization against such persons and to promote their leadership, the work of their representative organizations and self-advocacy;**

**(e) Undertake, in collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, research aimed at enhancing understanding of diverse gender identities and monitoring attitudinal barriers faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities;**

**(f) Set up strategies at the federal, provincial and territorial levels to increase awareness among society about the rights of persons with disabilities, through targeted capacity-building and public information programmes and human rights education.**

## Cyprus

23. The Committee notes with concern that awareness about the Convention is low. It is also concerned about the lack of adequate awareness-raising campaigns targeted at public and private actors on the Convention in general, in particular on the elimination of disability-based discrimination.

**24. The Committee recommends that the State party, regularly and in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities in line with article 4 (3) of the Convention:**

**(a) Develop and implement adequately funded awareness-raising initiatives to eliminate sociocultural discrimination and to foster knowledge of the Convention among the general public of all ages, and in both the public and private sectors;**

**(b) Initiate and evaluate cross-sectoral campaigns and trainings reinforcing a positive image of persons with disabilities as independent, dignified and capable holders of human rights.**

## Honduras

19. Al Comité le preocupa que persisten en el Estado parte prejuicios y estereotipos negativos de las personas con discapacidad, especialmente niños y niñas, mujeres, afrohondureños e indígenas. Le preocupa también la falta de estrategias que promuevan específicamente el contenido de la Convención y el modelo de la discapacidad basado en los derechos humanos y la existencia de campañas, como Teletón, receptora de fondos públicos, que refuerzan el modelo asistencialista hacia las personas con discapacidad. También le preocupa que el Estado parte, mediante Decreto Legislativo núm. 56 de 1984, proclamó el último viernes del mes de abril como el Día Hondureño de la Solidaridad con el Limitado, manteniendo un enfoque asistencialista y no de derechos como es el Día Internacional de las Personas con Discapacidad.

20. El Comité alienta al Estado parte a que, en cooperación con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, combata la discriminación y los estereotipos de las personas con discapacidad a través de campañas de sensibilización pública y de promoción de las personas con discapacidad como sujetos de derechos humanos ante la sociedad en general, los funcionarios públicos y los actores privados, incluyendo a los medios de comunicación, y que conmemore el día de la discapacidad con un enfoque de derechos. Asimismo, el Comité le recomienda que difunda ampliamente la Convención y los recursos disponibles para su implementación entre las personas con discapacidad y sus familias, especialmente en las zonas rurales, los pueblos indígenas y afrohondureños.

### Iran (Islamic Republic of)

18. The Committee is concerned about the absence of public campaigns, including in the media with the aim of raising awareness about the dignity and value of persons with disabilities.

**19. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Develop a targeted strategy to raise awareness among society about the inherent dignity of persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for diversity of persons with disabilities in line with the Convention;**

**(b) Ensure appropriate dissemination of the Convention and the Committee's General Comments and its Concluding Observations and recommendations in Persian language and in accessible formats, modes and means of communication;**

**(c) Initiate dialogue among society and prevent the confusion between having different sexual orientation and being a person with disabilities.**

### Republic of Moldova

18. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of negative stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities in society and the lack of comprehensive awareness-raising programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities.

**19. The Committee recommends that the State party, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, develop and implement public awareness-raising and education programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities, including through sensitization of the media, public officials, judges and lawyers, the police, social workers and the general public.**

### Bolivia

19. The Committee is concerned at the fact that the State party considers the primary prevention of impairments to be a measure contributing to implementation of the Convention. It is also concerned at the scant efforts made to disseminate the rights of persons with disabilities, and finds it regrettable that civil servants speak in an insulting and disrespectful manner about persons with disabilities.

**20. The Committee recommends that the State party launch awareness programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities, targeting policymakers and other officials and public servants, security and justice personnel and Bolivian society in general, and that it promote proper respect for the dignity of persons with disabilities.**

### Colombia

20. The Committee notes with concern that the public and private initiatives carried out to raise awareness about persons with disabilities, such as the Teletón and the Día Blanco celebration, reflect a charity approach to disability.

**21. The Committee urges the State party to promote images that are respectful of the rights of persons with disabilities in all public education campaigns and to combat negative stereotypes, including through private initiatives. The Committee recommends that the State party support ongoing awareness-raising and training initiatives promoting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and aimed at public officials at all levels, justice**

**officials, police and civil defence personnel, the media and Colombian society more generally, and, in doing so, work closely with organizations of persons with disabilities.**

## Ethiopia

17. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not adopted a national disability awareness policy or strategy to strengthen efforts to prevent and combat disability stereotypes and discrimination on the basis of impairment, including albinism.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a national disability awareness strategy to effectively prevent and combat disability stereotypes and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism.**

## Guatemala

25. The Committee is deeply concerned by the fact that persons with disabilities, especially women, children and indigenous peoples, are victims of customs, superstitions and practices that seriously violate their dignity, safety and other fundamental rights. It also notes that the State party's efforts to combat biased views and negative stereotypes of persons with disabilities are insufficient and that campaigns such as the Telethon, which is a recipient of public funding, reinforce a charity-based approach that runs counter to the Convention.

**26. The Committee recommends that the State party combat stereotyping of and discrimination against persons with disabilities, launch public media campaigns to promote their human rights in which they are directly involved, and ensure that public funding is not used for purposes that violate the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party provide training for public officials at all levels and for professionals who work with persons with disabilities on the rights recognized in the Convention and that it distribute the Convention and the resources available for its implementation widely among persons with disabilities and their families, especially in rural areas and indigenous communities.**

## Italy

19. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effective and appropriate measures to promote the capabilities of persons with disabilities and lack of measures to combat stereotypes and prejudices through public awareness campaigns and the use of mass media.

**20. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to raise public awareness using mass media campaigns and by training people who work in the mass media about the negative effects of stereotypes and the importance of portraying the positive contributions made by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities.**

## United Arab Emirates

17. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That the State party considers the primary prevention of impairment as a measure that promotes the rights of persons with disabilities, thereby contributing to perpetuating a negative image of persons with disabilities, which is contrary to the Convention;

(b) That persons with disabilities are perceived within the family and society in general as lacking the ability to live independently and to participate and be included in the community on an equal basis with others;

(c) About the lack of awareness of persons with disabilities about their rights under the Convention and about the services available to them.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to promote an image of persons with disabilities compatible with the human rights model of disability, to ensure that any policy aiming at the rehabilitation, treatment or prevention of disability does not undermine the dignity of persons with disabilities and to establish, together with organizations of persons with disabilities, awareness-raising campaigns and training programmes that are in conformity with the principles of the Convention and based on the**



**human rights model of disability in order to overcome entrenched gender and disability stereotypes in society.**

## Uruguay

19. Al Comité le preocupa que persisten en el Estado parte prejuicios y estereotipos negativos de las personas con discapacidad. Preocupa también la falta de estrategias que promuevan específicamente el contenido de la Convención y el modelo de la discapacidad basado en los derechos humanos y la existencia de campañas privadas, como Teletón, que refuerzan el modelo caritativo hacia las personas con discapacidad.

**20. El Comité alienta al Estado parte a que, en cooperación con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, combata la discriminación y los estereotipos de las personas con discapacidad a través de campañas de toma de conciencia pública y de promoción de las personas con discapacidad como sujetos de derechos humanos ante la sociedad en general, los funcionarios públicos y los actores privados, incluyendo a los medios de comunicación.**

## Chile

17. Al Comité le preocupa que los esfuerzos del Estado parte para combatir los prejuicios y estereotipos negativos de las personas con discapacidad continúan siendo insuficientes, dada la existencia de campañas públicas como Teletón, receptora de fondos públicos, que refuerzan el modelo asistencialista hacia las personas con discapacidad.

**18. El Comité alienta al Estado parte a combatir los estereotipos y la discriminación en medios de comunicación e impulsar campañas públicas de promoción de las personas con discapacidad como sujetos de derechos humanos y no como objetos de caridad y asegurar que los fondos públicos no se utilizan para propósitos contrarios.**

## Serbia

15. The Committee is concerned that there is no established practice to raise awareness of persons with disabilities, particularly in mainstream schools, and that there is no mechanism to combat compounded harmful stereotypes and widespread discrimination,

**16. The Committee encourages the State Party to implement awareness-raising campaigns, with the involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations and to actively promote a positive image of persons with disabilities by focusing on their skills and talents. Those campaigns should target the general population, public officials and the private sector, as well as educational institutions in accessible formats.**

## Slovakia

27. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not taken sufficient action to combat disability and gender stereotypes.

**28. The Committee recommends that the State party develop all measures available, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to raise awareness of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, in order to foster respect for them and combat disability and gender stereotypes in all areas of life.**

## Thailand

19. The Committee is concerned about persisting negative attitudes, stereotypes and prejudices against persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial impairments, in society. It is also concerned about the State party's understanding of primary prevention of impairment as an implementation measure of the Convention.

**20. The Committee recommends that the State party bolster specific awareness-raising campaigns, including a mass-media strategy, with different target audience groups based on the human rights-based model of disability aimed at eliminating in society negative stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities, particularly persons with**

psychosocial impairments. It also recommends that primary prevention programmes relating to impairment and their respective budgets be removed from action plans and policies aimed at implementing the Convention. The Committee further encourages the State party, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, to develop and carry out training initiatives aimed at all public sector officials as well as the general public, for understanding and implementing the human rights model of disability.

## Uganda

14. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information to make the general public aware of cultural practices that stigmatize and hinder the development of persons with disabilities to enjoy rights like all other persons in society. It is also concerned that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities as well as persons with albinism and deaf-blind persons are disproportionately affected by stigma, which limits their access to education, health and employment.

**15. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Increase awareness on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities with the aim of combating disability and gender stereotypes, which can lead to discrimination against persons with disabilities among the public in general, and in particular in rural and urban areas, in all aspects covered by the Convention, through the mass media, jingles, workshops and public information campaigns;**

**(b) Ensure that human rights-based training programmes, including those organized through international cooperation are provided for all officials, the judiciary, the police, health professionals, teachers and social workers in all communities in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities;**

**(c) Strengthen efforts to raise awareness about the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with albinism, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and deaf-blind persons and ensure the involvement of their representative organizations in any campaign aimed at eliminating stigmatization and myths that underpin violence against them;**

**(d) Raise awareness among members of the Parliament, the executive and the judiciary with regard to the Convention and ensure their support in implementing the present concluding observations, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.**

## Brazil

20. The Committee is concerned at the lack of strategies to specifically promote the contents of the Convention and the human rights model of disability to the general public, public officials and private actors.

**21. The Committee recommends that the State party, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, undertake public awareness campaigns to reinforce the positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of all of the human rights enshrined in the Convention. The Committee also recommends the State party to provide training on the rights recognized in the Convention to all public authorities, and public and private professionals working with persons with disabilities. It also recommends to provide information on the Convention to persons with disabilities in special, indigenous persons with disabilities and their families.**

## European Union

26. The Committee is concerned that awareness-raising strategies on the rights of persons with disabilities are not continuous and do not include all institutions and staff members, and leave aside certain groups of persons with disabilities. The Committee is concerned that capacity building and training materials, public campaigns, statements and other documents released by the European Union institutions are not in accessible formats.

27. The Committee recommends that the European Union develop a comprehensive campaign to raise awareness of the Convention and combat prejudice against persons with disabilities, including women and girls, and especially persons with psychosocial disabilities, intellectual disabilities, and older persons with disabilities. The Committee recommends that all materials related to capacity building and training, awareness raising, public statements and other, be made accessible.

## Gabon

20. The Committee is concerned that awareness raising campaigns for persons with disabilities focus on the prevention of disability and that negative attitudes towards persons with disabilities persist.

21. **The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities, target the general public, persons with disabilities, organizations of persons with disabilities, the media, employers, health and educational professionals to foster the human rights model of disability and overcome entrenched gender and disability stereotypes by promoting the positive image of persons with disabilities, their rights, and their contributions to society.**

## Kenya

15. The Committee welcomes the information on awareness raising activities to public officials. However, it is concerned about stigmatization of persons with disabilities in society that hinder the exercise of their rights. It is also concerned that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities are disproportionately affected by stigma which limits their access to education, health and employment.

16. **The Committee calls upon the State party to set up a long-term strategy aimed at raise awareness and combating discrimination against persons with disabilities among the public in general, in rural and urban areas, including all aspects covered by the Convention. It also recommends that the State party carry out mass-media awareness-raising campaigns and workshops in order to foster positive image of persons with disabilities and their contributions to society. It further recommends that human rights-based training programmes are provided in both private and public sectors for all officials, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and in collaboration with human rights institutes and organizations.**

## Mauritius

15. The Committee is concerned that awareness-raising campaigns for the public, including persons with disabilities, the Convention and the Optional Protocol, remain limited.

16. **The Committee recommends that the State party design, develop and conduct together with persons with disabilities, and their representative organisations:**

(a) **Campaigns targeting specific discrimination issues in the aim of cultural transformation, for the general public and with the support of the mass media.**

(b) **Training for persons with disabilities, their families and their representative organisations as well as all relevant civil servants and key areas of the private sector in order for them to apply a human rights based approach to disability.**

## Qatar

17. The Committee is concerned that the State party's policy of "primary prevention of impairment" in place is contrary to the Convention and the rights of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that the high investment in the prevention of impairment contributes to perpetuating a negative image of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities are perceived within the family and society in general, as lacking the ability to live independently and to participate and be included in the community on an equal basis with others.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure that any rehabilitation, treatment, or prevention of disability policy does not undermine the dignity of persons with disabilities and to establish awareness-raising campaigns and training programmes that are in conformity with the principles of the Convention and based on the human rights model of disability in order to overcome entrenched gender and disability stereotypes in society.**

## Ukraine

15. The Committee notes with concern the lack of measures taken to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities as contained in the Convention. The Committee is particularly concerned that public officials, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, the public in general and the persons with disabilities themselves remain unaware of their rights.

**16. The Committee urges the State party to step up its efforts to raise the awareness of its public on the rights of persons with disabilities, by conducting public campaigns, including the Convention in the curricula of schools and professional training of public officials and all relevant professionals.**

## Cook Islands

13. The Committee is concerned at the lack of awareness regarding the rights of children with disabilities and the absence of a specific strategy to address their rights. It is also concerned that children with disabilities are not systematically involved in decisions that affect their lives and do not have the opportunity to express their opinion on matters that affect them directly.

**14. The Committee recommends that the State party raise awareness of the rights of children with disabilities through training in schools, family settings and the wider community, in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities; and develop a comprehensive rights-based strategy for children with disabilities that adopts safeguards to protect their rights. The Committee further recommends that children with disabilities are consulted in all matters affecting them, with appropriate assistance according to their disability and age, aligned with the Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding Observations (CRC/C/COK/CO/1).**

15. The Committee notes an early identification of, and intervention for, children with disabilities project due to commence before 2016, however, the Committee is concerned that this project is of a temporary nature and unsustainable in meeting the long term needs of children with disabilities.

**16. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Establish a permanent early identification and intervention programme for children with disabilities, from birth to school age;**
- (b) Identify and provide additional paediatric specialist services that are not currently available;**
- (c) Provide families of children with disabilities financial assistance, training and support mechanisms to ensure children's inclusion and full participation in the family and the community.**

## Croatia

13. The Committee is concerned at the insufficiency of awareness-raising measures on the rights of persons with disabilities and the fact that the medical and charity model of disability still prevail in mass media.

**14. The Committee recommends that the State party in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders undertakes public awareness campaigns to reinforce the positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of all the human rights recognized in the Convention. It recommends the State party to provide training to all public**

authorities and public or private professionals working with persons with disabilities on the rights enshrined in the Convention.

### Dominican Republic

14. The Committee notes with concern that there have been few campaigns to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, that they are not consistent with the human rights-based model and that they have not been given wide publicity.

**15. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a strategy to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, using all the mass media and all alternative and accessible modes and formats, and covering government institutions.**

### Germany

19. The Committee is concerned that the measures put in place by the State party to reduce stigma faced by persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, have been ineffective.

**20. The Committee recommends that, in consultation with DPOs, the State party:**

**(a) Develop a strategy to raise awareness and eliminate discrimination, ensuring that its preparation and implementation are evidence-based, that its impact can be measured, and that the public and private media are involved;**

**(b) Ensure that awareness-raising and human rights-based training programmes are provided for all officials involved in the promotion, protection and/or implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities.**

### Mongolia

15. The Committee is concerned about negative attitudes towards persons with disabilities, as manifested in everyday language and also through the media, as manifested by the "Disability Prevention Day" of the State party which represents a concept contrary to the Convention. The Committee also notes that measures for awareness-raising are inadequate to the extent that even persons with disabilities and their families, let alone public and relevant professionals in general, are not exposed to the issues concerning the rights of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that the disability issue in general appears to be confined to physical disabilities with inadequate attention accorded to intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

**16. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen awareness-raising campaigns for fostering a positive image of persons with disabilities as autonomous holders of human rights. In doing so, the State party should ensure that such awareness-raising recognizes the cross-cutting nature of the Convention, particularly with regards to articles 5, 12, 13 and 27, and adopt human rights models of disability as a key strategy to strengthen positive public awareness of the diversity of disabilities. The Committee recommends that the State party take further efforts to promote the United Nations Day for Persons with Disabilities.**

### Turkmenistan

19. The Committee is concerned at the shortage of programmes and initiatives to eliminate negative stereotypes and prejudices of persons with disabilities in society including through the mass media. The Committee also regrets the lack of measures taken to make available the national sign language version of the Convention. It further regrets the lack of detailed data on the number of seminars and conferences organised to raise awareness on the Convention and the number of participants therein.

**20. The Committee encourages the State party to implement awareness-raising campaigns with assistance from UN agencies and the involvement of DPOs, to actively disseminate positive images of persons with disabilities focusing on their abilities and related good**

practices as well as on the right to legal capacity in particular. These campaigns should target the general population, public officials and the private sector in accessible formats.

## Denmark

22. The Committee is concerned about the reports of prevailing prejudice among the general population regarding various forms of disabilities, which negatively affects the ability of persons with disabilities to enjoy rights on an equal basis, including in the area of employment.

**23. The Committee encourages the State party to devise and adopt a strategy with concrete and measurable targets, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to raise awareness throughout society – among the general public, the government and private sectors, and persons with disabilities themselves – to promote a positive image of persons with disabilities and knowledge about their rights.**

24. The Committee notes with concern the limited information about the level of awareness of the contents of the Convention among public officials and private actors, including the concepts of reasonable accommodation and disability-based discrimination.

**25. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake and regularly evaluate campaigns and other forms of training, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, for public officials and private actors to further develop their knowledge of the rights and obligations stemming from the Convention, in particular in regard to reasonable accommodation.**

## Republic of Korea

15. The Committee notes that the State party fails to systematically and continuously publicize, and educate government officials, members of Parliament, the media and the general public on, the contents and purpose of the Convention.

**16. The Committee encourages the State party to strengthen awareness-raising campaigns to reinforce the positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of human rights. In particular, it recommends that the State party systematically and continuously publicize, and educate government officials, members of Parliament, the media and the general public on, the contents and purpose of the Convention.**

## Belgium

17. The Committee is concerned that there is no sign that a paradigm shift has occurred following ratification of the Convention, whereby persons with disabilities are recognized as basic rights holders taking part in decisions affecting them and asserting their rights in society. The stigmatization and exclusion of persons with disabilities is evident in several policies because of, among other things, the continued existence of a strong medical model, reliance on residential care as the main form of care and the maintenance of the segregated education system.

**18. The Committee recommends that the State party introduce a national strategy to raise awareness of the content of the Convention. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party carry out accessible information and awareness-raising campaigns on the rights of persons with disabilities and foster among the general public a positive image of persons with disabilities and their contributions to society, through close consultation with, and the active involvement of, representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of those information and awareness-raising campaigns.**

19. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities are portrayed in the media mainly as persons with a disability rather than as citizens who participate fully in society.

**20. The Committee recommends that the State party encourage print and broadcast media professionals to take account of diversity in their code of ethical conduct and provide them,**

**and all relevant professionals, with appropriate training and awareness-raising to ensure better representation of persons with disabilities in the media.**

## Ecuador

20. The Committee is concerned that the prevention of disabilities is considered a State policy relating to the rights of persons with disabilities. The prevention of disabilities is not a policy that should be included in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, because it tends to create a negative image of them.

**21. The Committee recommends that the State party amend public policy so that the prevention of disabilities is not considered a policy that promotes the rights of persons with disabilities.**

## Mexico

17. The Committee is concerned that a substantial part of the resources for rehabilitating persons with disabilities are administered by a private entity such as Teletón. It also observes that the relevant campaign promotes the stereotype that persons with disabilities are the object of charity.

**18. The Committee urges the State party to establish a clear distinction between the private nature of Teletón campaigns and the State's obligation to rehabilitate persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party develop campaigns to raise awareness of persons with disabilities as rights holders.**

## Sweden

21. The Committee is concerned about the lack of knowledge among the general population about different disabilities, relevant factors and reasonable accommodation needs related to disabilities, in particular in the education system and among decision makers.

**22. The Committee encourages the State party to create a strategy that increases public knowledge about different disabilities and to reinforce not only a positive but also an informative image of men and women with disabilities as dignified, independent and capable individuals who are holders of all the human rights recognized in the Convention, with the aim to remove sociocultural discrimination barriers in public life. The Committee further recommends that specific programmes be established, in consultation with disabled persons' organizations, to raise awareness among public sector employees.**

23. The Committee is concerned about the lack of promotion of the contents of the Convention among public officials and private actors, and in particular the new concepts that have been incorporated into human rights law, such as reasonable accommodation and disability-based discrimination.

**24. The Committee recommends that the State party launch periodic, regular and continuous national campaigns and other training courses targeted to public officials and private actors to enable them to become acquainted with the general and specific contents of the Convention that have recently been incorporated into human rights law.**

## Azerbaijan

20. The Committee is concerned at reports of persisting negative stereotypes and prejudices against persons with disabilities in the society, which negatively affect their ability to enjoy rights on an equal basis with others.

**21. The State party should introduce specific programmes, including awareness-raising programmes, aimed at eliminating negative stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities in society. The Committee calls upon the State party to take initiatives in relation to awareness-raising and training for government officials, health, legal, educational and social work professionals, the judiciary, police, elections officers, media practitioners/journalists and other staff to effectively modify society's perception of persons with disabilities as being in need of protection by portraying a positive image of persons with**

disabilities as holders of human rights. The Committee further recommends that the State party supports and includes Disabled Peoples' Organisations and their representatives as well as other civil society representatives, in its programmes so that they fully participate in awareness raising initiatives.

## Costa Rica

17. The Committee notes with concern the lack of programmes and rights-based public campaigns to promote the human rights model of disability.

**18. The Committee urges the State party to encourage extensive awareness-raising campaigns to reinforce the positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of human rights. In particular, it recommends that the State party fully inform persons with disabilities – and society at large – about their human rights, using various formats, media and modes of communication such as Braille and sign language and other accessible formats, and to encourage a culture of respect for those rights.**

## Austria

21. The Committee notes with concern that there appears to be very few awareness raising campaigns being conducted in Austria to counter negative and out-dated stereotypes about persons with disabilities which foment discrimination. The Committee is concerned that throughout Austrian society there does not appear to have been a complete understanding of the paradigm shift created by the human rights-centred approach in the Convention. The Committee is also concerned at reports that persons with disabilities face practical impediments in matters of adoption, and that those stereotypes are partly attributable to the persisting prejudices and stereotypes against persons with disabilities.

**22. The Committee encourages the State party to take initiatives in relation to awareness-raising to effectively transform the perception of persons with disabilities based on the charity model and the "old-fashioned" understanding that all persons with disabilities need to be protected. Instead, the State party should make efforts to reinforce a positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of all the human rights recognized in the Convention. Furthermore, the State party should, in consultation with disabled persons' organisations, take specific measures, including awareness-raising campaigns, aimed at eliminating prejudices. The Committee recommends that further specific programs be established, in consultation with disabled persons' organisations, to address negative stereotypes and all practical impediments faced by persons with disabilities in relation to adoption.**

## El Salvador

21. The Committee is concerned at the lack of national awareness-raising campaigns designed to combat negative stereotypes of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the fact that organizations of persons with disabilities do not benefit from training programmes on the Convention.

**22. The Committee recommends that the State party launch public information campaigns on the Convention and its application in the various spheres of life, in conjunction with organizations of persons with disabilities. In addition, it recommends promoting disability education as a cross-cutting theme in university courses. The Committee recommends that the State promote training programmes on the Convention for persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, in accessible formats and media.**

## Paraguay

21. The Committee notes with concern that awareness-raising campaigns on persons with disabilities have been designed using the medical model and favour prevention activities over recognition of persons with disabilities as the holders of rights. It is also concerned at the fact that the State party has not run any campaigns to eliminate negative attitudes to persons with disabilities, notably in the world of work.



**22. The Committee urges the State party to encourage extensive awareness-raising campaigns to reinforce the positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of all the human rights recognized in the Convention. It particularly urges the State to fully inform persons with disabilities – and society at large – about their human rights, using various formats, media and modes of communication such as Braille and sign language and other accessible formats, and to encourage a culture of respect for those rights by means of information, communication and education.**

## China

15. The Committee is concerned that in the awareness-raising attempts of the state party, the medical model of disability prevails, which is not in accordance with the spirit of the CRPD. It is especially concerned with awareness-raising events such as the “All-China Occupational Skills Contest for Persons with Disabilities” and “Million Young Volunteers to Help Persons with Disabilities” program that depict persons with disabilities as helpless and dependent human beings segregated from the rest of society.

**16. The Committee wishes to again remind the state party of the Convention’s human rights model of disability and asks the state party to promote this concept of persons with disabilities as independent and autonomous rights holders in its awareness-raising programs. It urges the state party to inform all persons with disabilities, especially those living in rural areas, of their rights, specifically the right to receive minimum welfare subsidies and the right to attend school. The committee recommends the state party to introduce awareness raising programme that shows the society positive perceptions of persons with disabilities.**

## Peru

18. While taking note of some steps taken by the State party to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities, such as the national radio broadcasts, the Committee remains concerned at the insufficiency of these measures and at the existence of private fundraising initiatives using negative stereotypes and charity based approach (such as the Peruvian Telethon). The Committee draws the attention of the State party to the fact that far from promoting rights and empowering persons with disabilities, these campaigns perpetuate and reproduce stigma and, thus hinder the possibility of constructing a culture in which persons with disabilities are recognized as part of human diversity and society.

**19. The Committee calls upon the State party to take proactive measures to enhance awareness of the Convention and its Optional Protocol at all levels, to develop policies and programmes implemented to ensure elimination of stereotypes and to focus on the dignity, capabilities and contributions to society of persons with disabilities.**

## Spain

25. The Committee commends the many initiatives taken by the State party to implement the Convention. However, it notes that more needs to be done to increase awareness in society, in the media and among persons with disabilities themselves of the rights of persons with disabilities,

**26. The Committee calls upon the State party to take proactive measures to enhance awareness of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto at all levels, in particular among the judiciary and the legal profession, political parties, Parliament and Government officials, civil society, media, and persons with disabilities, as well as among the general public.**

## Tunisia

18. The Committee notes the strategy of information, education and communication to raise awareness on persons with disabilities, including training for judicial and education personnel.

The Committee, however, regrets the lack of information about training provided to other public officials on the Convention.

**19. The Committee encourages the State party to establish awareness-raising and training programmes that are in conformity with the principles of the Convention for all officials involved in the promotion, protection or implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities, including officials at the local level dealing with persons with disabilities.**