Women Enabled International Questionnaire for 2018 CEDAW Committee Candidates: Women and Girls with Disabilities

Name of Candidate: LOUIZA. CHALAL  
State Party Nominating Candidate: Algeria

1. Describe any experience you have with integrating women and girls with disabilities into your broader women’s rights work.

Just a simple reminder, I was asked in 1984 to be the chair of a national association of disabled persons but due to some personal constraints, I refused. Since then, the rights of persons with disabilities, essentially women and girls, and their visibility became my constant quest.

As a member of the High council or Human Rights, I take this opportunity to campaign and raise awareness on this fringe of our society.

WITH Our sustained advocacy, WE SUCCEED TO GIVE THEM A VOICE, reducing their marginalization and isolation.

Today, they are always involved in our work and workshops.

The look of the society has changed on them and today they can take the floor on all mass medias.

Nul doubt, it is not sufficient but I remain optimistic because « even a way of 1000 paths begins with a first path ».

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which Algeria ratified in May 2009, and which describes the social inclusion of persons with disabilities as a general principle applied to society as a whole, constitutes the right roadmap for all the stakeholders.

2. What human rights abuses do you think most often uniquely or disproportionately affect women and girls with disabilities, as distinct from other women and girls?

Double discrimination, based on gender and on disability;  
Domestic, sexual, physical, psychological violences, both intra and extra-familial, disproportionately affected women and girls with disabilities;  
Forced sterilization is the most serious abuse of their physical integrity.

3. Sexual and reproductive autonomy is a central issue for all women and girls, but particularly for women and girls with disabilities. What obligations do you think States have under CEDAW and other human rights treaties to ensure sexual and reproductive
autonomy, including for women and girls with disabilities? Do you think States should be allowed to place any limitations on that autonomy?

To enact laws that guarantee sexual and reproductive health rights and to demand, in a clear manner, respect for the right to decide, in a free and responsible manner, on issues related to their sexuality, without constraint and without discrimination;
Establish or restore the legal capacity of these people;
Prohibit the forced sterilization of girls with disabilities without their free and informed consent, and remove all legal barriers that prevent them from accessing information, sexual and reproductive health goods and services,

Adopt a law with a list of grounds under which abortion will be authorized,

Facilitate their physical accessibility to sexual and reproductive health services;

As the role of the State is to inform and not to constrain, the State should engage a reflection on a legislative framework relating to the sexual and reproductive autonomy of the disabled women and girls, especially for those with mental disabilities, to provide the adequate tools for the implementation of the fundamental right to life and for the transmission of this life.

Involve disabled women and girls in the process of reflection and decision-making for all policies and provisions that affect them. Create databases

4. How do you think the CEDAW Committee should be addressing multiple and intersecting discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities?

From my point of view, the CEDDEF convention is, par excellence, the appropriate tool to fight against the different forms of discrimination, clearly defined and covered by all articles, even if the word "multiple" is not used like in the ART.6 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which obliges states to recognize that "women and girls with disabilities are exposed to multiple forms of discrimination"; The elimination of gender-based violence AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION against women are the principal areas of cedaw’s broad agenda.

In the general recommendations adopted recently, as in the others, the concerns of the girls and women with disabilities are systematically taken into account. Please refer to the General Recommendation (GR) n 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating the GR n 19; The GR 36 on girls and women’s right on education; and the last one, the GR 37 on gender related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change. In all these general recommendations, the women and girls with disabilities are not let aside Effective and specific measures for preventing THEM from any form of discrimination are clearly set-up

In the concluding observations that the committee adopts at the end of its revue of periodic reports, you can see that the committee asks the state parties to adopt a definition of discrimination pursuant to the definition of the convention, to take all appropriate measures to
eliminate discrimination in all fields, harmful practices and stereotypes and penalize the perpetrators and also to refer to the jurisprudence of the CRPD

5. Do you think there are any changes (for instance, to procedures, jurisprudence, meeting times and venues, or other practices) the CEDAW Committee needs to make to ensure that it welcomes the participation of women and girls with disabilities?

The cedaw’s committee always take care of the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities and has always tried to meet the requests of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Persons with Disabilities as per example for Informal Meetings.

The easy accessibility to the rooms of meetings is always ensured.

As for issues of common concerns like the issue of human rights based approach on sexual and reproductive health and rights, the CRPD and CEDAW committees could engage, with a large participation of women and girls with disabilities, a debate on the better way to cooperate