Information About the Right of Women and Girls with Disabilities to Education
This information is about women and girls with disabilities.

It is about their right to education.

Education is when you learn at school, college or university.

Women and girls with disabilities have the same right to education as everyone else.

But many women and girls with disabilities do not get a good education or any education at all.

This can stop them having a job and a good life later on.
Women and girls with disabilities are often treated badly because they are a woman or girl and because of their disability.

Wrong ideas and beliefs about women and girls with disabilities

Many people have wrong ideas about disability and about women and girls with disabilities.

For example, people may think that girls with disabilities:

- Cannot learn.
- Cannot get a job, do well and earn money.

This can cause problems for women and girls with disabilities.
For example:

- Families may keep girls with disabilities at home instead of sending them to school.

- Teachers may put girls with disabilities in lower classes for subjects like math and science.

- Girls with disabilities may think they cannot do well because of how people treat them.

Schools that are hard to get to and learn in

It can be hard for girls with disabilities to get to school and learn at school.
For example:

- Schools may be in towns far away from where they live.

- Transport may be hard to use, unsafe or cost too much.

- School buildings and toilets may be hard for children with disabilities to use.

Support to learn and do well

Many girls with disabilities do not get the support they need at school.
For example,

- Information, school books and lessons are often hard to understand.

- Many teachers do not have the right training to support children with disabilities.

- Many girls with disabilities do not get the right support with their periods.

  Periods are something that happen to women and girls bodies every month.

  For example, they may not have the things they need to keep clean.

  And schools may not give girls the support they need to go to the bathroom.

**Problems with money**

Many families of girls with disabilities are poor.

School can cost too much money for them.
Families may send boys to school instead of girls.

They may think that boys can make more money for the family.

**Violence against girls with disabilities**

Other people may bully girls with disabilities or say mean things to them.

Sexual violence can happen a lot to girls with disabilities.

This is when someone tries to make them have sex or do sexual things.

For example, sexual violence may happen more at special schools for children with disabilities.

The schools are often far away from home and some girls have to live there.

This can put them in more danger.
Some girls with disabilities may get pregnant because of sexual violence.

They may have to get married or leave school because of this.

Parents may worry about sending girls with disabilities to school because it is unsafe.

**Learning about relationships and sex**

Many children at school learn about how to have healthy and safe relationships.

But most girls with disabilities do not learn this.
This may be because:

- Many schools for children with disabilities do not teach children about relationships and sex.

- Some schools may teach this.

But information and lessons about relationships and sex are often hard to understand.

And the information does not include girls with disabilities.

- People may think that girls with disabilities should not learn about relationships and sex.
What rights do women and girls with disabilities have?

Women and girls with disabilities have the right to:

- Get a good education.
- Learn in the same classrooms as people without disabilities.
- Get the support they need to do this.

This is called inclusive education.

There is a document that talks about this right.

It is called the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities or CRPD for short.

There are other documents that talk about rights that women and girls with disabilities have.
This includes the right to education.

For example, a document about the rights of children.

It is called the Convention of the Rights of the Child or CRC for short.

Many governments have promised to do what these documents say.

What must governments do?

Governments must make sure that:

• They support the right of women and girls with disabilities to education.

They must not do anything to stop this right.

• Families and other people do not stop women and girls with disabilities from getting an education.
Governments must make sure that:

- All girls with disabilities get a good education in the same classrooms as children without disabilities.

- Education is easy for women and girls with disabilities to get and take part in.

   This means that girls should be able to get to school, get into the school building, use the toilet, get the books they need for school and understand their lessons.

- All girls with disabilities get the support they need to learn and do well.

   For example, a girl with disabilities may need information in pictures or extra support in the classroom.

   This support should be free.
Governments must make sure that:

• Teachers have training about how to support all children together in the same classroom.

For example, teachers may need to change how they teach lessons if a child with disabilities needs it.

What else should happen?

• Education should not cost too much. Primary school should be free.

• Girls with disabilities and their families should get help to pay for education if they need it.

• Governments must work to stop violence against girls with disabilities.

For example, girls with disabilities should learn about healthy and safe relationships.

And they should get the right support if violence happens to them.
• Schools should have things that girls with disabilities need to wash and keep clean.

For example, to clean themselves when they have their periods.

• Governments should help everyone to have the right ideas about women and girls with disabilities and treat them fairly.