



WORKSHOP ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 2020

 November 2020

 Lagos, Nigeria

The WillFran Consulting in partnership with World Institute on Disability is calling for papers for consideration on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the workshop on persons with disabilities.

WORKSHOP TITLE:

MAKING POLICY CHANGES ON THE DOMESTIC LEVEL:

A CRITICAL EXPOSITION INTO THE
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The **20 selected papers** with a focus on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and that **adhere to the language guidelines will be prioritized and published** on the World Institute on Disability website.

The call for papers is ONLY open to undergraduates and recent graduates pre-NYSC program. The selection of papers will be coordinated and conducted by WillFran consulting and World Institute on Disability. The selection panel will ONLY select 20 papers and the authors of these papers will be the ones to participate in the workshop.

A requirement for publication of a selected paper requires that the author is FULLY available and present to attend ALL the sessions of the 2 day workshop.

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION: IF a paper whose author does not reside in Lagos is selected, no additional financial provisions will be made available to cover transport and accommodation. The individual will have to make personal provisions to cover his/her expenses. The consultancy will ONLY make provisions for writing materials, lunch and tea break for participants during the 2 day workshop.

The organizers will be adhering to ALL health precautionary measures as it relates to COVID-19.

ENQUIRIES:

submissions@willfranconsulting.com

WWW.WILLFRANCONSULTING.COM



SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

- (a) Abstracts should be **not more than 250 words**.
- (b) Abstracts should be set out: the title of the paper, a short description of the topic to be addressed, a brief overview of the issues to be explored and the conclusion that will be reached from the research paper.

Abstracts should be submitted before or by **23rd July 2020** as email attachments to **submissions@willfranconsulting.com**

Copying:

- i. **kat@wid.org**
- ii. **willfranconsulting@gmail.com**

ALL Submissions must follow the above instruction in sending in their abstracts.

The selection panel will consider the submissions and notify the authors of selected abstracts by 24th August 2020. On acceptance of the abstract by the panel, the authors will be invited to submit a full draft paper of 6,000 to 8,000 (excluding references but includes 250 words abstract) by 7th Oct 2020. The papers will undergo a paper review process. Upon review, the authors will be receive comments, which they will BE EXPECTED to incorporate and return final corrected paper by 02 December 2020.

The papers must conform to the themes selected for the workshop. The themes can be found in the topic explanations. Submitted abstracts and paper MUST cover issues and solutions around digital tools for optimizing; community living and employment; accessible solutions; and disability inclusive emergency preparedness; disaster risk reduction; and climate resilience; human rights; health and well-being; inclusive and quality education; peace building and security. See topic explanations below.

For Students

Submission must include:

- i.) Full Name
- ii.) Name of University/Higher Education Institution
- iii.) Level of Study
- iv.) Course of Study
- v.) Faculty

For Fresh Graduates

Submission must include:

- i.) Full Name
- ii.) Name of Former University/Higher Education Institution
- iii.) Course Studied
- iv.) Faculty



DISABILITY-SPECIFIC LANGUAGE GUIDELINES

i.) Please do not use the acronym PWD or any acronyms (AFN, DAFN, DD/ID, D/HOH) describing people. Reducing people to an acronym in this manner devalues the person.

ii.) Please do not use sensational language like “suffer”, “victim” (unless the person has died), “special” or “vulnerable”.

iii.) Please do not use terms like “whenever possible”, “should” or “useful” when referring to legal requirements. Use “obligations”, “must”, and “compliance” with reference to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the various UN guidance tools.

iv.) Please always shift the conversation to the role people with disabilities must play as leaders, experts, contributors and assets.

v.) Instead of describing the community as “disabled people”, use “people with disabilities”. Others may talk about patients and clients. Rather than “patients”, we prefer “people with disabilities receiving acute medical care”. Rather than “clients”, we prefer “people with disabilities receiving in-home support or personal assistance services”.

TOPIC EXPLANATIONS

Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Resilience

The frequency, intensity, and impact of emergencies and disasters are rapidly increasing due to both climate and non-climate driven causes, resulting in a disproportionate impact on people with disabilities worldwide.

People with disabilities are two to four times more likely to be injured or die in a disaster, due to failures in government and community planning, inclusion and meeting accessibility and accommodation obligations. True resilience is only achievable with a full commitment to equal access, universal design and whole community inclusion. Thus, optimizing disability inclusive emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate resilience efforts are needed, with a specific focus on actions that have a measurable impact on improving outcomes for disaster impacted people with disabilities and their community.



Accessibility Solutions

People with disabilities present a substantial untapped market opportunity for companies and organizations in the US and globally. Companies that incorporate employing and serving people with disabilities through a commitment to universal design and accessibility significantly broaden their customer base and potential market share. When this focus becomes part of their business and people strategy, it builds their brand, image, customer loyalty, and reduces their litigation risks.

Accessibility Solutions covers identifying and addressing both physical and digital accessibility gaps and building capability to embed universal design principles and accessibility solutions throughout government, private and NGO infrastructure.

Digital Systems and Tools

The digital space has become an equalizer in disability equity and creating online systems and tools that inform and promote inclusion of persons with disabilities in areas such as, but not limited to; employment, education, independent living, emergency planning, voting and economic empowerment internationally are transformative.

Human Rights

The Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities recognizes the inherent dignity and worth of the equitable and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. It recognizes the importance of protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring that there is an equalization of opportunities for them owing to their valued existing and potential contributions made to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities.

The importance of their fundamental freedoms cannot be over emphasized in ensuring that the human rights of persons with disabilities is guaranteed for full enjoyment without discrimination. Emphasis is also placed on the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities in every country, particularly in developing countries.



As a developing country, the need for adherence to these provisions cannot be over-emphasized when placed within the Nigerian context. Human rights watch report states that in many countries, they are subjected to violence and discrimination. People with disabilities are often deprived of their right to live independently, as many are locked in institutions, shackled, or cycled through the criminal justice system. Many of these human rights abuses are a result of entrenched stigma and a lack of community based services essential to ensuring their rights (HRW report, 'One Billion Forgotten')

SDGs 3 (Health and Well-Being)

Persons with cognitive disabilities, developmental abilities, communication disabilities and persons with mental health issues require intervention not only in relation to physical or medical aspects but also in social, political and physical context. As defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), disabilities is an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. For persons with disabilities, lack of good health care services and non-accessibility to mainstream health care services results in unmet needs and poor health care needs.

Article 25 of the Convention requires State parties to take all appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services that are gender-sensitive, including health-related rehabilitation. According to WHO, people with disability report seeking more health care than people without disability and have greater unmet needs. In line with best practices, provision for mainstream/primary health care services, adequate health care providers with required skills, appropriate health care services that cater to the unmet needs of persons with disabilities and accessibility to health care buildings.

SDGs 4 (Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education)

One of the key target indicators for the UN sustainable development goal 4 is to ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations. Achieving universal basic education is not enough, inclusive education that caters to persons with disabilities should be promoted. Government and private corporations can make provisions for assistive tools that proactively fosters their educational development. Quality early education provides children with basic cognitive and language skills and fosters emotional development.



Barriers created to engaging in mainstream schools can be solved by a disability-inclusive education system. This prevents a low attendance and high dropout rates for children/adults with disabilities. Rapid technological changes can assist to re-focus efforts made at meeting the needs of these marginalized groups. It can aid learning outcomes for persons with disabilities.

Training sessions for professionals who support disability-inclusive education planning can gain support through grants which creates the opportunity for them to create the right learning environment for children/adults with learning disabilities. Pro-active funding and support for institutions that seek to promote an inclusive educational environment for people with disabilities covers cater to issues of equity and inclusion.

Peace Building and Security

It is highly important to safeguard persons with disabilities. The current Boko Haram terrorist acts ravaging mostly the Northern parts of Nigeria is destabilizing the security and protection of all citizens situated in that area. Worst hit by this would be persons with disabilities. We can advocate for more efforts at facilitating peace in the region for the sake of minimizing the discomfort to persons with disabilities. Government must devise a safety net for persons with disabilities in areas of accommodation, mobility and secure safe access in their environment.

The population who have become disabled as a result of violence need to gain access to mainstream health care facilities. Already, persons with disabilities do face stigmatization and discrimination, violence further exacerbates their protection problems. A violent conflict places them in a much more vulnerable situation than when there was none. They become more susceptible to domestic sexual and physical assault.

Persons with disabilities would greatly benefit from a peaceful environment as it aids more of their abilities to live independently. The need to involve their participation in peacebuilding decisions or policies is very important as they have been able to show that they can contribute to the development of their communities. The inclusion of persons with disabilities in peacebuilding efforts creates a good representation of individuals who are affected when a violent conflict occurs in a community. Their active participation and contribution towards policies and decisions that would stem from peacebuilding processes will help to achieve an equitable society.