COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor

Summary – May 4-10, 2020

# Submissions

Total submissions: 231 (last week: 486)

## Type of respondents

**Individuals: 578**

Of the 229 respondents, 127 are women, 90 men and 12 preferred not to disclose or selected other. They identified themselves as:

Persons with disabilities 91 – 39.73%

Family member 41 – 17.90%

DPOs 62 – 27.07%

Other 35 – 15.28%

The category “other” include NGOs, disability rights organisations, service providers, mental health professionals, a physicians, a teacher, a friend, a centre for social work, a social service technician, a leisure facility for children with and without disabilities and their families, students for special needs education, a person with disabilities who is also family member of persons with disabilities as well as a public institution and public service (both from Slovenia) and coordinator between disability organisations and the local community.

**Government: 3 responses**

* Uruguay - Mides
* Germany - Landeshauptstadt Dresden
* Senegal – Sightsavers

**National Human Rights Institutions – no responses**

## Submissions per country

In the week 4 May – 10 May, there were submissions from 53 countries. Countries with most responses are Slovenia (36), Germany (21) and Portugal (15). New country entries include United Arab Emirates, Cameroon, Indonesia, Korea, the Solomon Islands, South Sudan and Tunisia.

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| No | Country | Abbr | Number of responses |
| 1 | Slovenia | SI | 36 |
| 2 | Germany | DE | 21 |
| 3 | Portugal | PT | 15 |
| 4 | Nepal | NP | 13 |
| 5 | Austria | AT | 12 |
| 5 | Philippines | PH | 12 |
| 7 | Zimbabwe | ZW | 11 |
| 8 | France | FR | 10 |
| 9 | Italy | IT | 9 |
| 10 | Ireland | IE | 7 |

# Summary of narrative responses

Many respondents say that governments are not taking inclusive measures in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and forget about persons with disabilities. When measures are implemented, most of the time, they are not specifically dedicated to persons with disabilities but to the population as a whole, meaning that specific needs are not taken into account. In some countries however, the lack of measures at the national governmental level is somewhat counterbalanced by actions taken by local governments, representatives, DPOs or communities – experience can therefore be uneven within countries depending on where persons with disabilities live. In addition, in several countries that people report that they rely on different NGOs for support.

Several respondents highlight the specific challenges faced by persons with cognitive impairments: even if information is provided, it is not accessible enough to be understood and the lockdowns/restrictions lead to emotional stress and psychological problems (depression; fear of loss; foreign and auto-aggression etc.).

Most common to survey responses are fear of being isolated, abandoned and without any support. In terms of immediate concerns, respondents mention the access to healthcare (both for COVID-related issues and their usual needs), the fear of pursuing medical care, the access to food, the financial difficulties, the access to education given that digital formats are not always accessible (both in terms of format and costs) and the lack of mental health support. Respondents are also very much concerned by the long-lasting consequences of the COVID-19 crisis on their lives and rights, i.e. longer quarantine, UNCRPD undermined by the emergency laws. People also mention different types of disability and problem of masks for deaf people