COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor

Summary – May 25 – 31, 2020

# Submissions

Total submissions: 52 (last week: 107)

## Type of respondents

**Individuals: 140**

Of the 140 respondents, 27 are women, 22 men and 1 preferred not to disclose or selected other. They identified themselves as:

* Persons with disabilities 22 – 44%
* DPOs 15 – 34%
* Other 6 – 12 %
* Family member 5 – 10%

The category “other” includes researchers, a consultant working on inclusion, a social worker, and an employment agency for persons with disabilities.

Further, 32 people responded they live in the community, while 1 person noted that they live in an institution. The one person living in an institution stated it is a hospital mental health ward, with one dormitory and one other room only for the 12 people living there currently.

**Government and National Human Rights Institutions – 0**

## Submissions per country

In the week 25 May – 31 May, there were submissions from 25 countries. Fifteen of the 24 countries only had one respondent per country. Only on country, South Africa, had more than 3 respondents. Countries with most responses for this week are South Africa (15), Austria, France, United States (3 each) and Germany, United Kingdom, Nepal, Uganda, and Uzbekistan (2 each). The table below lists the 9 countries with the most respondents.

For those with screen readers, the first column of the table below contains the ranking of the countries based on the number of respondents from each respective country. The second and third columns contain the name of the country and the abbreviation of the country name. The final column lists the number of responses from each respective country. A bar graph below the table provides the information in another format.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | Country | Abbr | Number of responses |
| 1 | South Africa | ZA | 15 |
| 2 | Austria | AT | 3 |
| 3 | France | FR | 3 |
| 4 | United States | US | 3 |
| 5 | Germany | DE | 2 |
| 6 | United Kingdom | GB | 2 |
| 7 | Nepal | NP | 2 |
| 8 | Uganda | UG | 2 |
| 9 | Uzbekistan | UZ | 2 |

The countries that had only one respondent includes: Australia, Bangladesh, Burundi, Canada, Switzerland, Cyprus, Chechia, Estonia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Turkey, and Zimbabwe.

# Summary of narrative responses

**With only 52 responses this week, this analysis examines the narrative responses in light of trends noted in previous weekly briefs.** An additional limitation of the survey results for this week include the disproportionate geographic representation of respondents from South Africa, who made up 30% of the respondents’ locations. All other 23 countries represented in the survey results for the week had no more than 3 responses per country.

The overall themes from this week, however, are generally the same. Observations worth noting include:

1. Lack of Inclusive Communication and Accordingly Knowledge - A number of narrative responses, when given, indicated a lack of knowledge on the question asked. For instance, 20 – 25% of respondents said they did not know information regarding the cluster of questions on government responses to protect the life, health and safety of children with disabilities and persons with disabilities in different living situations (questions 9-15). This could indicate a general lack of inclusive communication available from governments. Additionally, 44% of respondents did not know of sanctions, fines or arrests for persons with disabilities breaking state of emergency rules.
2. Deep Awareness of Unexplained Restrictions and Visitations - When respondents did provide narrative answers about what the government has/has not done to protect the life, healthy, and safety of children and persons with disabilities in different living situations (questions 16-21), 70% of respondents were quite knowledgeable about restrictions on visitation, freedom of movement, and the lack of protective measured that have been taken for persons with disabilities.
3. Complaint Mechanisms - Access to independent complaint mechanisms and lawyers varied across countries. Forty percent of narrative responses indicated a lack of access to lawyers, poor services, a lack of transparency once complaints had been registered, or a lack of resources for government offices to be open or address all complaints. A smaller percentage, 12%, indicated that the government does have mechanisms to manage complaints well (such as the South Africa Human Rights Commission’s ) or provides resources for persons with disabilities to potentially hire lawyers (general stipend provision in Germany).
4. Concerns - People are generally concerned about access to health services, medical treatment and food, immediate and long-term economic effects of lockdowns. This includes similar concerns from previous weeks:

- Access to information that is appropriate to their needs;

- Access to inclusive services that were available before shelter at home orders and lock downs;

- Increase in gender based and domestic violence since home visits and similar social services have been stopped;

- Emotional well-being; and

- Unchecked and unclear rules for persons with disabilities living with caregivers or in institutions.

1. Best Practices - In terms of best practices, 26% of respondents said that they did not have any good practices to share. It is worth noting that one respondent, who self-reported as a women with a hearing impairment in South Africa, said that she didn’t have any best practices to share because face-masks hinders her ability to communicate with others.