



WORKING SESSION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND DISABILITY

Within the framework of the international campaign “16 days of activism on gender-based violence” and in celebration of the International Day of Persons with disabilities, UN Women, in collaboration with Handicap International is organizing a working session on:

Raising awareness on disability and gender-based violence:

What does it take to leave no one behind?

December 1st, 2 – 4 pm

Location: 2 Liangnahe Nanlu, UN Large Conference Room

Speakers:

- Opening by **Julie Broussard**, UN Women Country Programme Manager
- Gender and disability inclusion: advancing equity for women and girls with disabilities, by *Handicap International China* Country Director, **Dr. Alessandra Aresu**, and **Luisa Fenu**, Project Manager of the international *Making It Work* project on violence against women with disabilities.
- Sharing local good practices, the example from Kenya, by the *Kenyan Association of the Intellectually Handicapped*, Executive Director, **Fatma Wangare** (remote intervention).

English will be the working language. The session will include groups’ work and Q&A sessions.

Please RSVP by November 25th to

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&

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Background

At least 19% of the world's female population are women and girls with disabilities¹. According to the most recent national survey available (2006), in China there are 85 million people with disabilities, which represent 6.8% of the total population. Half of them are women and girls. Age, poverty and gender intersect with disability; thus a majority of women and girls with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination and marginalization.



Globally, women and girls with disabilities are respectively 2.1 and 3.7 times more likely to be affected by gender-based violence² than their peers without disabilities. In the PRC, the limited data available confirms that women and girls with disability are

vulnerable to different forms of violence, with psychological abuse and domestic violence being the most common³. However, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers an opportunity to reconsider gender equality and women's empowerment through an intersectional lens, and how the fight of violence against all women, including marginalised women such as those with disabilities, is a precondition to advance equity for all.

Through an interactive debate and the sharing of good practices on disability and GBV, this working session will offer participants the opportunity to learn about, and develop an understanding of, the intersection between gender, disability and violence, and what concrete steps can be taken to include women with disabilities in preventing, reducing and responding to violence against all women.

¹ World Bank, WHO (2011), *World Report on Disability*.

² People with intellectual disabilities are 10 times more at risk. *The Lancet* (2012).

³ UN Women (2014), *Factsheet on family violence against persons with disabilities*. Beijing: China; Hao et al. (2013), Report on the study for the development status of the disabled women in China (2001-2010), *China Women's News Daily*