

Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY) ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The fundamental rights to equality and non-discrimination are at the heart of human rights law and are enshrined in all major international and regional human rights treaties. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”.

According to rule 18 of the UN Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, all states should recognize the rights of all persons with disabilities to represent them at regional, national and local levels. The states should also recognize the organizations of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in decision making. This enables enhancement of social inclusion for persons with disabilities.

The Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM) anchors that the purpose of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is to promote, defend and enforce the human rights of persons with disabilities. 70% of persons with disabilities in the developing countries are denied equity and equality in the implementation of Fundamental Human Rights. This results into unemployment, lack of education, and inadequate provision of other socio- economic resources for persons with disabilities.

The Disability Advocacy Coalition in Kenya on its inception explained that in fulfillment of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the state has the duty to ensure persons with disabilities have full and equal enjoyment of human rights and the fundamental freedoms.

The Coalition shall support mainstreaming disability rights by holding the government to account towards implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in fulfillment of its mandate as in the UNCRPD, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR), Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the Disability Act 2003.

The Disability Advocacy Coalition in Kenya shall also review national legislation and make decisions as to when to weigh in with support or opposition; to enhance social inclusion and participation for persons with disabilities. The Coalition’s goal agenda is to ensure disability rights and child rights are not as separate but as inherently entwined; not only in terms of policy design, but in the allocation of government budgets as well.

Reach out for our 1ST EDITION DISABILITY ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER: info@andy.or.ke