

**UNDERSTANDING LEGAL POLICY  
FRAMEWORKS ON DISABILITY INCLUSION IN  
ADVOCACY, NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIP**

**A presentation at the**

**FESTIVAL OF DISABILITY ADVOCACY  
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## **AIM OF THE PRESENTATION**

The aim of this presentation is to stimulate discussion how legal policy framework can be used for advocacy, networking and partnership for disability inclusion.

## **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

By the end of this session, the participants will be able to:

- 1) Appreciate the importance of disability legal policy frameworks in advocacy, networking and partnership for disability inclusion.
- 2) Demonstrate knowledge on national, regional legal policy frameworks and the CRPD on disability inclusion.
- 3) Apply the provisions of the disability legal policy frameworks for advocacy, networking and partnership building in disability inclusion.

## **WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES OF DISABILITY LEGAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS?**

The Legal and Policy Frameworks on Disability are enacted to promote respect for the inherent dignity of persons with disability and to ensure the full participation and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all categories of persons with disabilities in every community.

These frameworks are tailored to the needs and situation of persons with disabilities in the community. They are to enhance the equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities in access to justice, health, employment, livelihood programmes, rehabilitation, education, public services, public facilities, housing and their participation in sports, leisure and recreation and in all public decision making structures among others.

## **National Level**

- i. Disability provisions in the National Constitutions
- ii. Provisions on Disability in other Laws/ Acts of Parliament
- iii. Specific Acts of Parliament on Disability
- iv. Specific National Policy on Disability/

## **Regional Level**

The Treaty Establishing the EAC.

The EAC Policy on Persons with Disabilities.

## **International**

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

*Discuss: How they are being implemented in East Africa*

## **WHICH ORGANS OTHER THAN PARLIAMENT MAKE POLICIES RELATED TO DISABILITY INCLUSION**

- i. Local Governments – make ordinances, bye –laws have provisions on disability.
- ii. Ministries, Departments and Agencies eg Universities have disability provisions in their Statutes, Policies, Regulations and guidelines.
- iii. Non-Governmental organisation and Development Agencies – specific policies and guidelines

## **WHAT IS COVERED BY THE DISABILITY LEGAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS**

- i. Explanation what disability is (mainly in the Disability Acts and Disability Policies)

- ii. Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability.
- iii. Provide for and require the following to be practiced by the MDAs, NGOs and other Development Partners in order to attain equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities:
  - ✓ Affirmative action
  - ✓ Provide Reasonable accommodation measures
  - ✓ Ensure accessibility- both physical accessibility and access to information
  - ✓ Organs that should promote disability inclusion
  - ✓ Recognition of the inherent dignity of persons with disabilities

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE DISABILITY LAWS, POLICIES AND FRAMEWORKS**

- i. Human rights based approach
- ii. Equality and Non-discrimination
- iii. Inclusive participation
- iv. Mainstreaming
- v. Accessibility
- vi. Equalisation of opportunities
- vii. Gender responsiveness
- viii. Dignity and respect
- ix. Multi-sectoral approach
- x. Equity and social inclusion
- xi. Capacity building
- xii. Good governance and accountability

***Discussions: Why are these guiding principles relevant in disability inclusion***

## **LINKING DISABILITY LEGAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS TO ADVOCACY, NETWORKING AND BUILDING PARTNERSHIP**

The legal policy frameworks are very important tools for advocacy, networking and partnership for disability inclusion at every level of society because:

- i. First, they prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities
- ii. Second, they direct, guide and inform on the equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities.
- iii. Informs on the development of relevant policies, programme and plans on disability inclusion

Therefore, as an important tool, it is important for any person doing disability advocacy to know the national disability legal policy frameworks, the EAC Policy on Persons with Disabilities and as well as the CRPD. More importantly, know what these disability legal policy frameworks provide for and direct on disability inclusion.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- i. What is advocacy and networking?**
- ii. Who is targeted in advocacy and networking?**
- iii. What steps can you undertake to attain a successful advocacy and networking?**

*Compare your responses with these notes on Advocacy and Networking*

**What is advocacy and networking?**

Advocacy is targeted campaign to address a specific issue of concern and with a clear target to achieve it. Networking is process of interacting with others to exchange information and develop professional or social contacts. In disability inclusion, the advocacy and networking are targeted to:

- i) Inspiring leaders, government institutions, NGOs and other development agencies and encouraging them to promote and support disability inclusion
- ii) Removing accessibility challenges experienced by persons with disabilities.
- iii) Mobilizing and providing for assistive devices and adapted technologies for persons with disabilities.
- iv) Access to education for children / persons with disabilities
- v) Inclusion in the national, regional and community development programmes.
- vi) Access to health including reproductive health rights by persons with disabilities.
- vii) Provision of reasonable accommodation.

**Who to target?**

Advocacy and networking does not necessarily target every person in the community in order to address an issue of concern. In advocacy and networking, usually three (3) categories of people in a community are a targeted. The people to be targeted should possess: -

- i. Authority, or
- ii. Power or
- iii. Influence.

Those three categories of people have potential to bring about a desired change or outcome on specific issue on advocacy.

### **Advocacy and Networking Steps and Plan for Successful Advocacy**

An advocacy and networking is a targeted campaign requires advocacy leader to come up with a clear plan how to do it. This is called an Advocacy and Networking Plan. The advocacy and networking plan contains identification of specific issue of concern form the people concerned /affected (evidence based) to be addressed with a clear target to achieve it. It also involves identification of key partners to be involved in the advocacy and networking with proposed solutions or possible interventions to be undertaken.

### ***Discussion: What are the current issues affecting youth with disabilities in your country***

There must be an advocacy and networking budget so that you are able to implement your plans. Advocacy team should ensure that funds are allocated during the budget process.

## Steps for Advocacy

<p><b>Coming Together-</b> It is important for a Councilor or a leader to mobilise people with disabilities, their families and some community leaders to meet and identify concerns of people with disabilities that require advocacy and agree on steps to be followed.</p>	<b>Step 1:</b>
<p><b>Identifying specific issue:</b> Once issues that need to be addressed have been identified, the next step is to come up with a specific issue for advocacy. This specific issue becomes the objective for the advocacy. At this step, the Councilor or a leader together with the advocacy team should agree upon on a clearly defined objective or problem or issue for advocacy.</p>	<b>Step 2:</b>
<p><b>Getting /Knowing facts about an issue:</b> Once a specific issue for advocacy has been agreed upon, the next step for advocacy team is to analyse the issue of concern to identify important facts to support the reason for advocacy. In this step, the facts identified, come up with a list of the most important and persuasive facts to make your case.</p>	<b>Step 3:</b>
<p><b>Build support in the community:</b> Build your base of support and determine the best approach to reach out to the broader community. It can be through the community meetings, worship centres or the media. Building support means identify those organizations or influential community leaders who you feel can support your position, involving them in the advocacy and ensure that you work together as this is the likely way to achieve the best results.</p>	<b>Step 4:</b>
<p><b>Decide who to present the issue of concern and who to influence to support the advocacy:</b> It is important to figure out who has the authority to make the decision. Sometimes there are multiple decisions and decision makers. Strategies must always be tailored to who the decision-maker is. It is important to try to understand what is most likely to influence each decision-maker.</p>	<b>Step 5:</b>
<p><b>Determine What Decision Can Be Influenced:</b> Understand the context and the constraints on the decision-maker, consider the timing of the decision and focus as much as you can on a particular decision at a particular time.</p>	<b>Step 6:</b>
<p><b>Choose the most appropriate methods of Advocacy:</b> Make it appropriate and relevant to the needs of people. It can be by influencing fellow Councilors to support your ideas in council when raised, visiting NGOs to present your concerns, holding workshops, meeting with teachers, religious and opinion leaders, UN Agencies or international agencies in the district.</p>	<b>Step 7:</b>
<p><b>Review and Adjust:</b> As advocacy efforts proceed, there is a need to review the objectives, facts needed, the participants and adjust accordingly. The person leading the advocacy needs to arrange meetings and discussion so that group stays together and addresses strategies and new concerns.</p>	<b>Step 8:</b>

Source: *NUDIPU (2022) A Training Manual for Councillors Representing Persons with Disabilities in Uganda*

The above are key steps that can be followed for successful advocacy. The eight steps are adapted from the training manual for Local councilors on disability inclusion in Uganda by the National Union of Persons with Disabilities of Uganda (NUDIPU).



### **An example of Advocacy and Networking Plan template**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Advocacy and networking</b>	<b>How to carry it out</b>
1	Planning for Advocacy and networking	Meet and agree on how to advocate and network with others
2	Knowing the current situation of PWDs	
3	selecting target audience	
4	Proposed interventions / solutions	
5	Expected Outcomes	
6	Methods for Advocacy and networking	
7	Evaluation of the Work	

### **CONCLUSION**

Successful advocacy, networking and partnership building leads to disability mainstreaming in government, NGOs and Development Partners policies, plans, budgets and programmes. Mainstreaming implies non-discrimination of persons with disabilities and their active participation in communities. The outcome is removal of disabling barriers such as attitudes, ignorance, inaccessible environment and information. It also leads to provision of assistive devices, support personnel, reasonable accommodation and services. This is Disability inclusion.