



Inclusion  
international



# The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Inclusion International



## What we can do to help Governments and other organizations help everyone to vote and take part in politics

DRAFT



This is an Easy Read leaflet about a publication we are making about taking part in politics.

The full publication is called **Political participation of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.**

The publication will be ready in August 2021.



# What is in this leaflet

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Inclusion  
international



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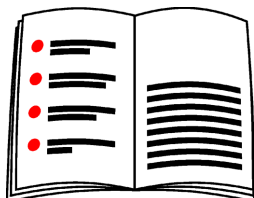
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# Who are we?

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Inclusion  
international



**Inclusion International** is an organization that works to make sure people with intellectual disabilities and their families are included and have the same rights as everyone else.



The **United Nations (UN)** works to make sure people around the world are treated equally and have their human rights.



The United Nations (UN) has different offices that work on different issues.



The office of the United Nations (UN) that is doing this work is called the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



**Inclusion**  
international



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has joined up with Inclusion International to write a publication for countries all over the world to help everyone to vote and take part in politics.



**UNPRPD** MPTF  
Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The publication is funded by the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Multi Partner Trust Fund (UNPRPD MPTF).

# Who is this publication for?

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This publication is about including 2 groups of people who can face extra difficulties or barriers:



- people with intellectual disabilities. In some countries this can be called other things like people with learning disabilities



- people with psychosocial disabilities. This is a group of people who face issues or barriers that can come from having a mental health condition.

# Why we are helping everyone to take part in politics

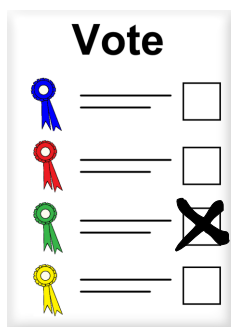
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Politics is how the big decisions in a country are decided. The big decisions could be about things like schools, transport, or the police.



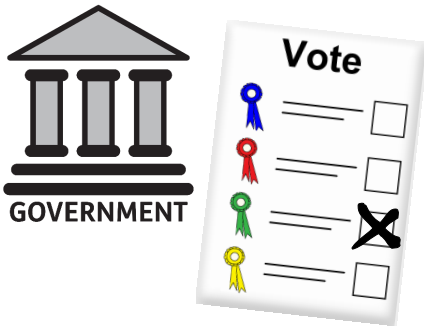
A lot of countries ask people to vote for who they want to make decisions.



This is usually done by having an **election**.



People who want to make decisions for their country can share their ideas and ask others to vote for them. The people with the highest number of votes get voted into jobs where they make decisions.



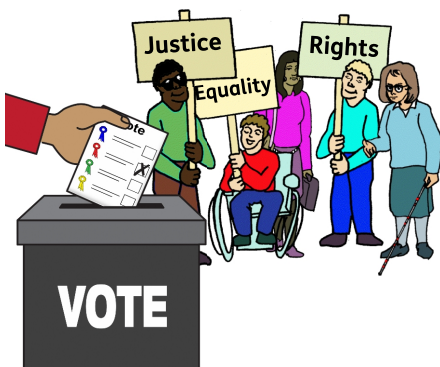
For example, in lots of countries there are elections to decide who is in the **government**. The government is the group of people who make big decisions.



There is a United Nations (UN) agreement between countries that is about the rights of people with a disability.



This is called the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**.

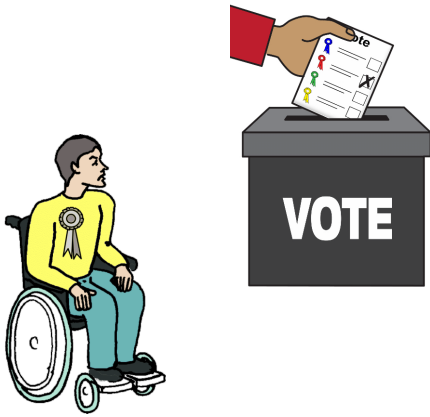


Part of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is about the rights of people with disabilities to vote and take part in politics.

This part is called Article 29.

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Article 29 says it is the right of every person to:



- vote
- stand for election
- take part in politics
- have a say in their own lives
- be treated equally to anyone else.



Countries that have agreed to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) should make sure this happens by:



- getting rid of any laws that do not treat people equally
- support people to make their own decisions.





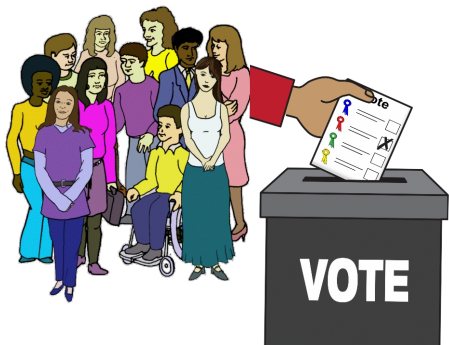
People with intellectual disabilities or psychosocial disabilities are still not allowed to vote in a lot of countries.



This is because of laws that say people with intellectual disabilities and psychosocial disabilities are not able to make decisions.



**This is not fair!**



Article 29 says that **everyone** has the right to vote and get the support they need to take part in politics.

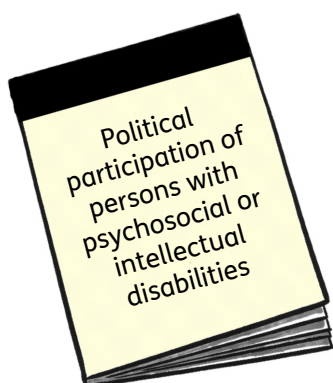


# What we are doing

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To make sure that everyone with an intellectual disability or psychosocial disability can vote and take part in politics, we have made a publication.



The publication is called Political participation of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

The publication has advice for different groups on how to make changes. It has advice for:



- governments (decision-makers)

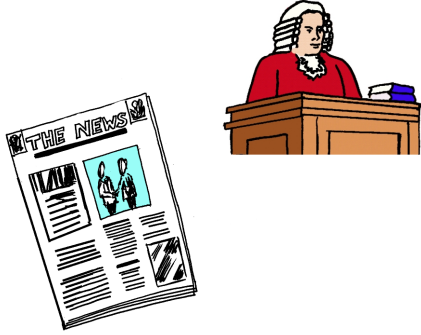


- organizations of persons with disabilities



- civil society organizations





- judges
- news media



- organizations organizing elections (Electoral Management Bodies)
- international organizations



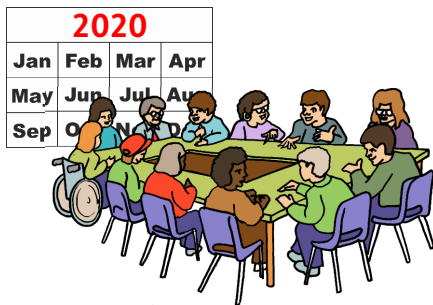
- anyone supporting persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities to take part in politics.

# How we wrote the publication

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We worked with people with disabilities from around the world to write the publication.

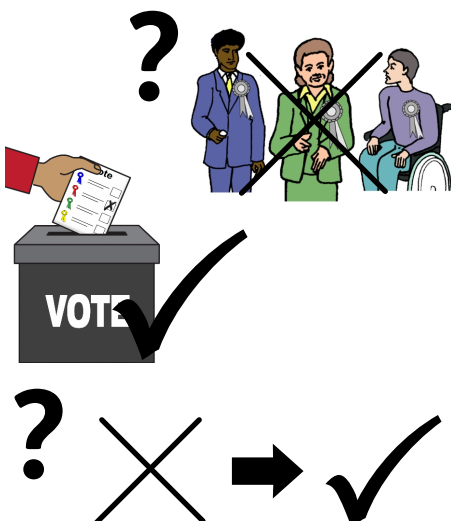


We did this in 2020 with groups called **focus groups**. Focus groups are meetings where people come together to talk about their ideas about a topic.



These groups were in a lot of different countries.

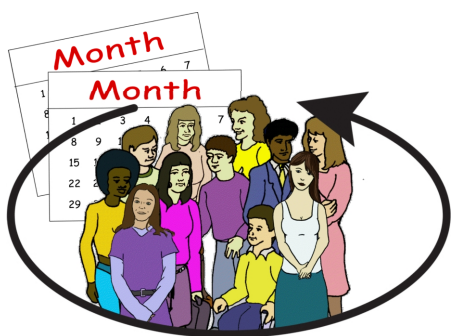
We found out:



- what the challenges were that made people not included in politics
- how people could be included
- what needed to change.

# What is in the publication?

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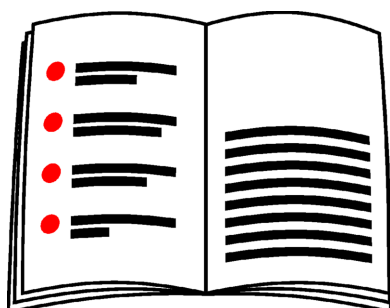
We know that including everyone in politics will take time.



This publication has checklists of things Governments and other organisations can do to help things change faster.



Here are some examples of advice in our publication for Governments and other organisations to do to include people properly in elections.

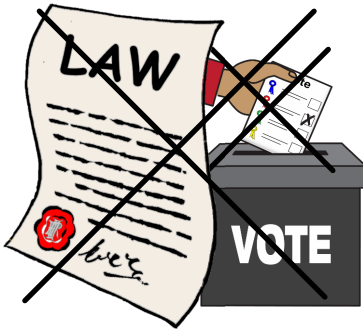


The full version will have more information.



## The law

The first part of the publication is about how laws and rules can be changed to include people.



## The publication says:

Get rid of laws that stop people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities from voting or taking part in politics



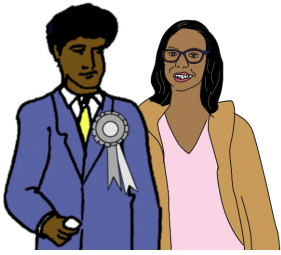
**We say what different people and organizations need to do.**

## Governments should:

Make laws so that:

- organizations of people with disabilities are involved in planning elections





- people with disabilities standing for election get any support they need



- information is kept on whether voters have a disability, how old and what gender they are.

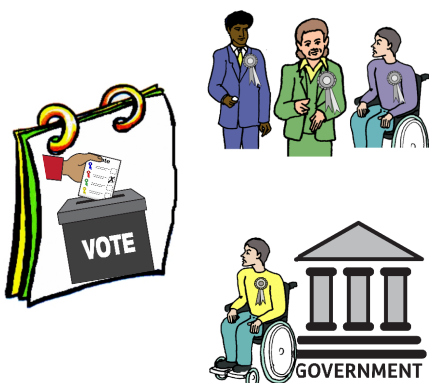
## Organizations of persons with disabilities should:



- show governments good examples of how things have been done in other countries.

## When there is going to be an election

We split the publication up into 3 parts so we have what people should do:



1. Before an election
2. On election day
3. After the election.

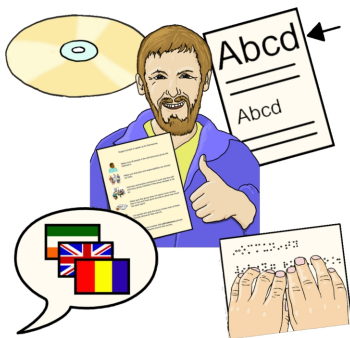
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## Part 1 - Before an election

This part is about:

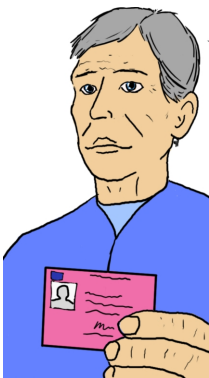


- how voters sign up to vote
- how to stand for election
- what voters are told about the election and what the parties can say.



**The publication says:**

- information on how to sign up to vote should be in accessible formats.



**Governments should:**

- make sure people know how to get any proof showing who they are before they vote



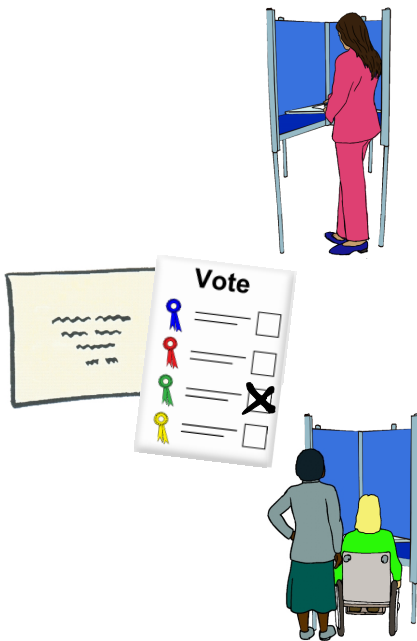
## Political parties should:

- have policies on things that can affect people with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, so voters can make a good decision on who they want to vote for.

## Part 2 - On election day

This part looks at things like:

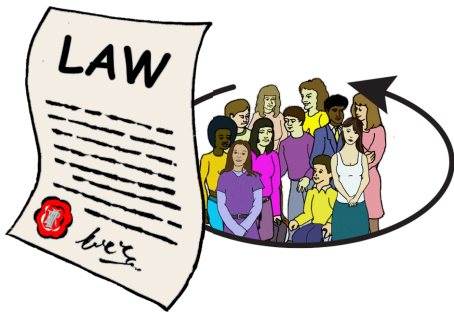
- voting in polling stations
- other ways to vote
- how election staff can help.



## The publication says:

- clear, easy-read information is available on how to vote and what support is available.

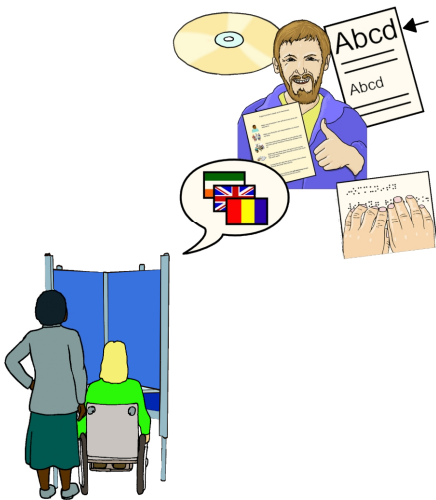




## Governments should:

- make sure there is a law about including everyone.

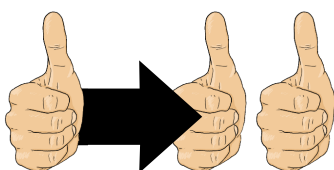
## The organizations planning and organizing elections should:



- have information in different formats and make it as clear and easy to access and understand as possible
- tell people how they can get any support they need to help them vote.

## Part 3 - After the election

This part looks at things like:



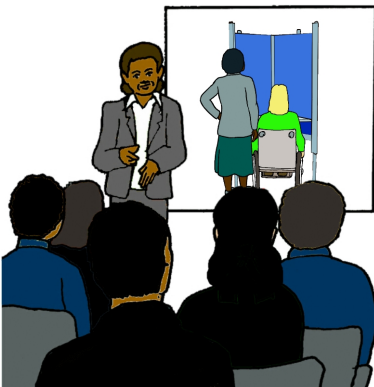
- sorting out any problems or arguments
- checking how well everything went and what could be done better.





## **The publication says:**

- there is a way to complain and appeal that everyone can use.



## **The courts should:**

- train judges and court staff on what they need to do to help people with disabilities take part in politics and voting.

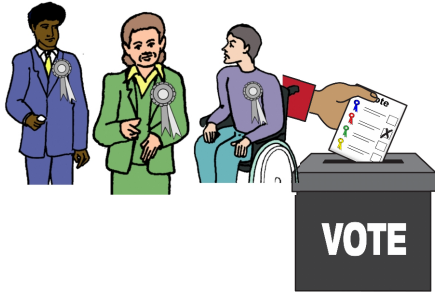


## **Organizations separate from the Government called NGOs should:**

- help people who want to complain or ask the court to make other decisions.

# How people with disabilities can use the publication

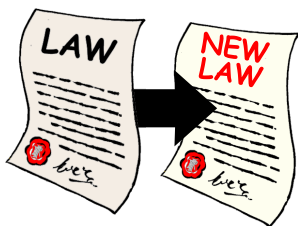
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We hope that Governments will use the publication to help people with disabilities vote and take part in politics.



We also hope the publication will help people with disabilities and their organizations check how well their country is doing and see what more could be done.



We think this needs to be done:

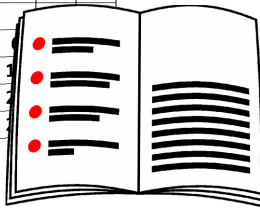
- before elections so that laws and rules can be changed
- when elections are called to help people take part
- during elections to help people get any support they need





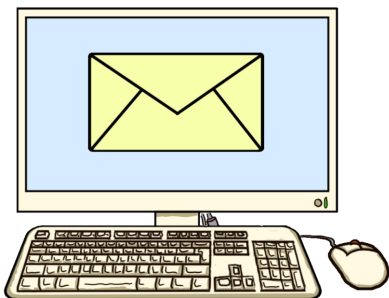
- and after elections to complain if anything went wrong and to help learn what could be made better for next time.

August 2021						
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30	31					
2	3	4	5			
9	10	11	12			
16	17	18	19			
23	24	25	26			



We hope the full publication will be out in August 2021.

For more information, please email:



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You can also visit the websites of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Inclusion International.

# Credits

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