How to include people with a disability when you want to make peaceful societies.

Easy read booklet
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We are Conciliation Resources. We work in a lot of countries to try to stop conflict and make peaceful societies.

The UK government gives us money to do this work.

Conflict is a fight between 2 or more groups of people or countries.

Peaceful societies are groups of people who live in a calm way and don’t fight.

We work with people who live with war and conflict. We help them make changes so their society is peaceful.
We want to help people with a disability

This booklet tells you what we will do to help people with a disability be more included in making peaceful societies.

We looked at what stops the inclusion of people with a disability and what helps include them.

We talked to lots of people including 3 people who have a disability and already help make peaceful societies.

We will share our information with other groups around the world who try to make peaceful societies.
How conflict affects people with a disability

People with a disability are all different from each other. But they are all more likely to live with violence and conflict.

Violence is when you are attacked by someone or a group of people. This might make you hurt or scared.

People with a disability are often not treated equally and are not included by their society. This can be worse when they live with conflict.

They might not be treated equally for other reasons too. For example, because they are a woman, are old or haven’t got much money.
People with a disability might feel they can’t help to make their society peaceful because they are not treated equally.

People with a disability are less likely to go to school, have a job or be married. This is worse for women and for people who live with conflict.

In conflict, people with a disability are more likely to be separated from people who support them. They might also lose equipment they need.

Lots of people are disabled because of injuries from conflict or war.

It is harder to use hospitals or other health care during war or conflict. This is worse for people with a disability.
Policies of other organisations

Some big organisations, like the United Nations, make **global policies**. These are plans that show what the organisation wants to see in all countries.

For example they have a global policy to make people with a disability equal in society.

Another global policy says it’s important we include people with a disability in plans to stop conflict and make peaceful societies.

But usually people with a disability are still not included in this.
How including people with a disability helps

It’s important to include people with a disability in plans to change their society. It’s best to involve them from the start and at all levels.

They are good at solving problems and know a lot about the changes needed to make to their society peaceful.

People who are disabled because of conflict can have different and helpful ideas.

Societies that include everyone are less likely to have conflict. With the help of people with a disability we can make changes that last.
How to include people with a disability

There are 4 main barriers to the inclusion of people with a disability. They are made worse by conflict. **Barriers** are things that stop you.

It’s important to think about who cannot help make peaceful societies because of these barriers.

Think about what causes the barriers and what changes you can make so the barriers go away.

It might be helpful to have disability training. This can help you understand more about disability and the barriers.
1. Physical barriers

**Physical** means objects or things around you. **Physical barriers** stop you going somewhere. For example

- Inaccessible transport
- Inaccessible buildings
- Bad roads
- Places that are not safe.

**Inaccessible** means you can’t use it. For example, a building with steps to get in when you use a wheelchair.

Changes you can make include:

- Use accessible buildings with ramps and good lighting.
- Make transport safe and accessible.
- Choose a safe area to meet, away from conflict.
- Find out the best time to meet. It is usually best to meet in the daytime.
2. Communication barriers

*Communication* means how you get and give information. *Communication barriers* stop you getting information.

Changes you can make include:

- Give information in the best way for each person such as in Easy Read or Braille.

- Make sure people have the internet and the things they need to use it such as a computer and electricity.

- Describe pictures for people who can’t see them.

- Give information early so people can read it at a time that is good for them.

- Give information in ways people are used to. For example, on the radio or at religious meetings. This is more important if people haven’t got the internet or if they can’t read.
3. Institutional barriers

**Institutional** means ways of doing things. **Institutional barriers** are policies and ways of working that mean people with a disability are not treated equally.

Changes you can make include:

- Ask people in charge to write policies to help people with a disability. They should also get their help to make the policies.

- Make sure there is money to help people with a disability get involved.

- Talk to people with a disability to find out about the barriers.

- Make sure people with a disability can vote in a private and fair way.

- Make sure people with a disability can go to school and get healthcare when they need it.
4. Invisible barriers

**Invisible** means you can’t see them. **Invisible barriers** include the way people think. These can lead to unfairness and can take a very long time to change.

Changes you can make include:

- Support families of children with a disability to get involved.
- Make sure some of the people in charge have a disability.
- Teach people about disability.
- Give photos of your work with people with a disability to newspapers and local groups.
- Help local groups include people with a disability.
- Support young people with a disability so they feel happy about themselves and want to be included.
What we learnt

1. Peace will be better and last longer if we include people with a disability when we make plans.

2. It's important we include people with different types of disability and people who are different in other ways too. For example, men and women, young and old people, rich and poor people and people from different religions.

3. We need to work with other organisations that help people with a disability.
4. We might need to make changes so people with a disability can get involved. For example, we might need to
● give extra time for tasks.
● change where or how we meet.
● supply IT equipment.
● get training about disability.

It’s best to ask people with a disability what changes need to be made. Ask them at the start.

5. We need to link our work to the global policies of big organisations like the United Nations.
The changes that need to be made might take a long time.

It is harder to make changes when there was conflict before or now.

We need lots of people to support us. For example, families, communities, religious groups, governments and schools.

Thank you to A2i for the words

www.a2i.co.uk  (reference 33329)

The full version of this document is called

“Untapped peacebuilders: Including persons with disabilities in building peace”