Problems for people with disabilities in Gaza
About us

We are called Human Rights Watch.

We work to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.

About this report

This report is about people with disabilities in Gaza.

Gaza is in Palestine. It is in the Middle East.

Israel has a lot of control over Gaza.

Israel and Palestinians have been fighting about this for many years.
There have been many problems in Gaza because of the control Israel has and the fighting.

This report is about people with disabilities in Gaza.

It is about why life is very hard for them.

From 2018 to 2020 we spoke to many people in Gaza, like:

- People with different disabilities and their families
- Organizations working in Gaza
- Government people in Gaza

This report tells you what we found out.
What has been happening in Gaza?

Gaza has its own government.

But Israel has a lot of control over what happens in Gaza.

For example, Israel has a lot of control over who can go in and out of Gaza.

Israel also has a lot of control over what can go into Gaza and out of it.

Like food, medicine and equipment.

There has been a lot of fighting in Gaza with guns and bombs.
Sometimes Israel has not given people much time to be safe before it starts using guns and bombs.

The government in Gaza has not made sure that people with disabilities are treated fairly and get what they need.

All of this has made life hard for many people with disabilities in Gaza.

For example:

Some people have a disability because of the fighting.

For example, because of bombs and guns that Israel has used.
Many people with disabilities are very upset about what is happening in Gaza.

They might worry about how they will be safe if there is more fighting.

Many people need mental health support.

Most people cannot leave Gaza when they want to.

Many people in Gaza are poor and do not have jobs.

Many people in Gaza need support from other countries.

Like food and medicine that other countries can bring into Gaza.
Many people can find it hard to get clean water and the right health care.

For example, it might be hard to leave Gaza to get the right health care for their disability.

Many people find it hard to get wheelchairs, hearing aids and other things they need for their disability.

For example, it is often hard to bring things into Gaza.

Like batteries to make the wheelchairs and hearing aids work.

Many people in Gaza do not have what they need to fix wheelchairs if they break.

It is hard for people to leave Gaza to learn how to fix things.
It can be hard to get wheelchairs, hearing aids, and other things for free or low cost.

And people often have to wait a long time for them.

Some people with disabilities get wheelchairs or other equipment that do not work well.

This can be painful.

The electricity in Gaza often stops working.

This is because Israel makes it hard for Gaza to make its own electricity.

This is a big problem for people with disabilities who need electricity.

For example, people might need electric wheelchairs or elevators to help them move around.

Or people might need light to speak to people in sign language.
People with disabilities in Gaza are often treated badly and left out.

People often have unfair ideas about them.

For example, many people in Gaza think that people with disabilities cannot do much.

Women with disabilities are often treated badly because they are women and because of their disability.

For example, some people think that women cannot marry if they have a disability.

Many buildings are hard for people with disabilities to enter and move around in.

For example, many buildings do not have ramps or elevators.
It is hard for many people with disabilities to get other support they need.

For example, many hospitals do not have sign language services.

These problems can stop many people with disabilities from:

- Leaving home and moving around
- Speaking to other people
- Taking part in the community

What should be happening?

There is an important document about the rights of people with disabilities in the world.

Israel and the government in Gaza have agreed to do what the document says.
This means they should make sure that people with disabilities are safe and get what they need.

This includes:

- The right health care
- Enough electricity
- A good education

Israel should not stop people from going into Gaza or leaving Gaza for no good reason.

People in Gaza have the right to leave and come back to Gaza.

For example, to see family and friends in another part of Palestine called the West Bank.

Israel should only stop someone coming into Israel if they are sure they might do bad things.
Israel should make sure that people with disabilities in Gaza can get what they need for their disability. Like wheelchairs, hearing aids and enough electricity.

The government in Gaza must also make sure that people with disabilities get their rights.

For example:

- They should make buildings easier for people with different disabilities to use.
- They should make sure that people with disabilities are treated fairly.
- They should tell people in Gaza about people with disabilities and their rights.

This will help people change the way they think about people with disabilities.