



# Life for people with disabilities in Iran



I Am Equally Human. People with Disabilities in Iran



## Who we are

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

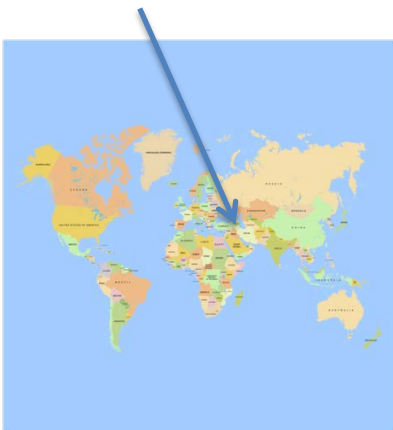
We are two organisations that work on human rights.

We are called Human Rights Watch.

Center for  
**HUMAN  
RIGHTS**  
in Iran

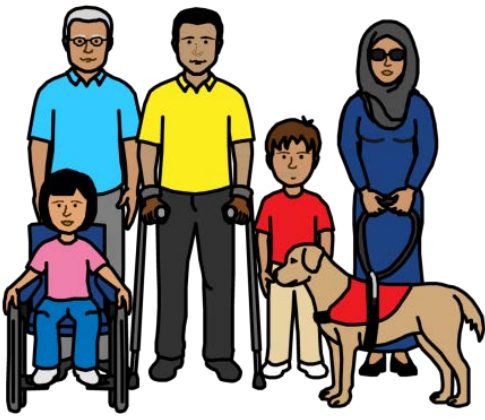
And the Center for Human Rights in Iran.

## About this report



This report is about people with disabilities in Iran.

Iran is a country in the Middle East.



We found out what life was like for people with disabilities in Iran.



We talked to people with disabilities and other people.

We found out that life is very hard for people with disabilities in Iran.



This report is about:

- What we found out
- What should happen to make life better for people with disabilities in Iran

# Why is life hard for people with disabilities in Iran?



It is hard for people with disabilities in Iran to do basic things that other people do.

For example:

- Go to work or school
- Meet friends or family
- Go to the doctor



There are many problems that stop people with disabilities in Iran from having a good life.



## 1. What people think about people with disabilities



Many people in Iran have wrong ideas about people with disabilities.

For example, people may think it is bad to have a disability.



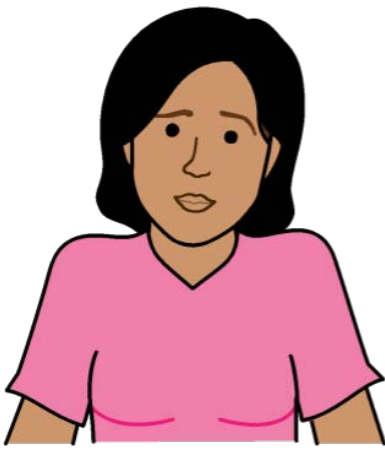
This means people with disabilities can be treated badly everywhere they go.

For example, when they try to go to the doctor or use buses and the metro.



## 2. Healthcare and support

Many people with disabilities in Iran do not get the right healthcare or support.



For example, health and support staff may not:

- Know about disability and how to support people with disabilities



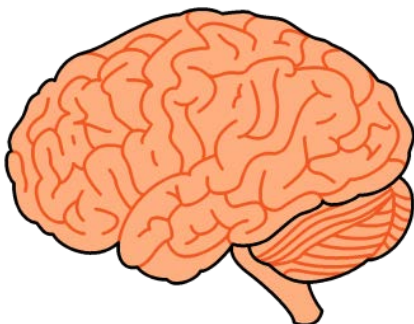
- Speak to people with disabilities in a nice way



- Give people with disabilities the right information about healthcare, support and equipment

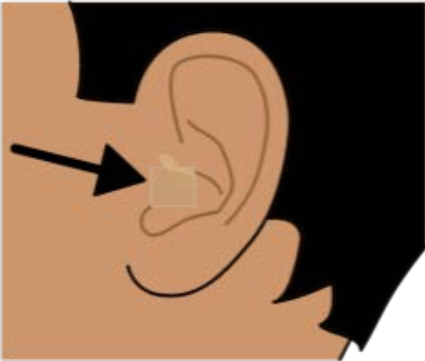
- Ask people with disabilities if they want medical treatment first.

For example, some people with a mental health condition are given electric shock treatment without saying yes first.



Electric shock treatment is a medical treatment where electricity is passed through the brain.

### 3. Support to live in the community



Many people with disabilities and their families do not get the right support to live in the community.

For example, some people may need electric wheelchairs or hearing aids.



Other people may need support to wash, cook, go shopping or communicate.

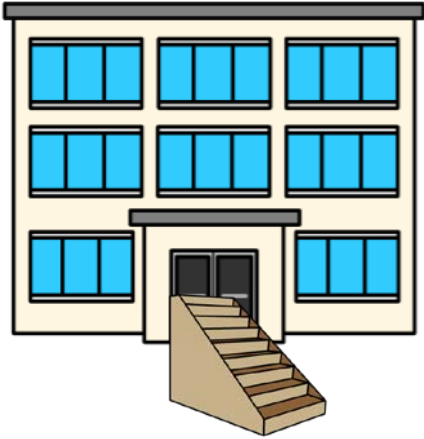


People called Personal Assistants can help people with disabilities do the things they need.



But support and equipment can be very hard to get or not good enough.

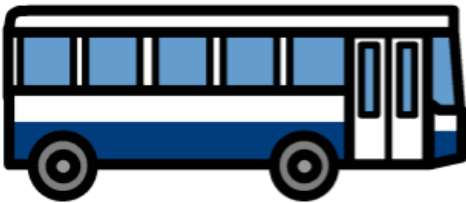
## 4. Transport and buildings



Transport, roads and buildings are often hard for people with disabilities to use.

For example:

- Many buildings have stairs, but no ramps or elevators



- Buses and trains can be difficult for blind people because there is no information to tell them where they are

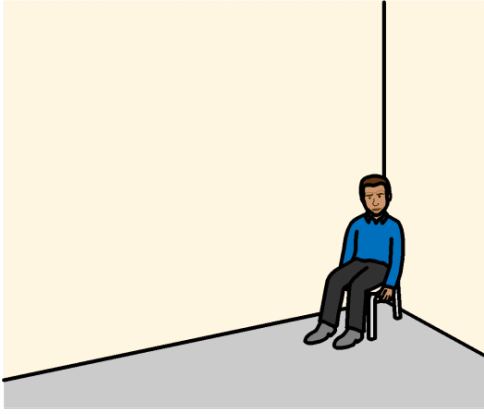
Some people with disabilities need money from the government to pay for support.

But many people who need this money cannot get it.

Some people with disabilities get this money but it is not enough to buy the things they need.







These problems mean that many people with disabilities spend their lives at home.

They have to ask their families and friends for help with everything.

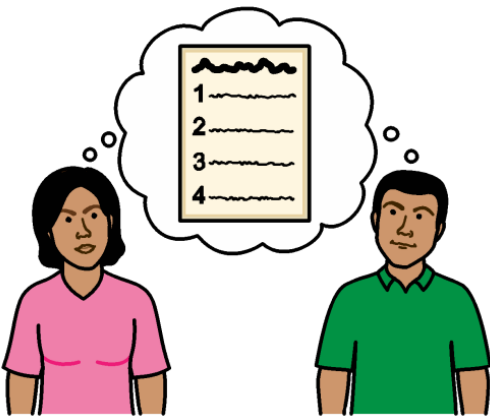


## 5. Unfair laws and rules

The government in Iran uses some old ideas and words to talk about disability and to make plans about disability.

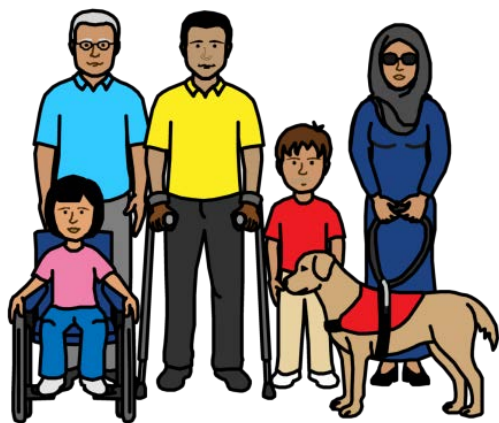
For example, the government has plans about how to stop people from getting a disability.

But disability is not a problem or something that needs to be fixed.



## What has the government in Iran done?

People with disabilities have same rights as everyone else to:



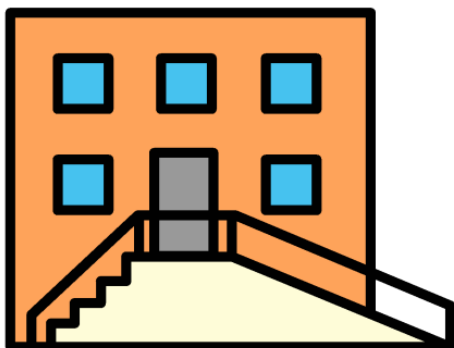
- Live in the community
- Get the right healthcare, support and equipment to do this. This may be different for each person with disabilities



The government in Iran has done some work to support the rights of people with disabilities.

For example, the government has:

- Promised to follow a big agreement in the world about the rights of people with disabilities



- Done some work to make buildings and transport better in big cities

But much more needs to be done.

## What should happen next?

The government in Iran should:



- Look at all their laws and rules.

Make sure they follow the world agreement about the rights of people with disabilities.

It is called the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

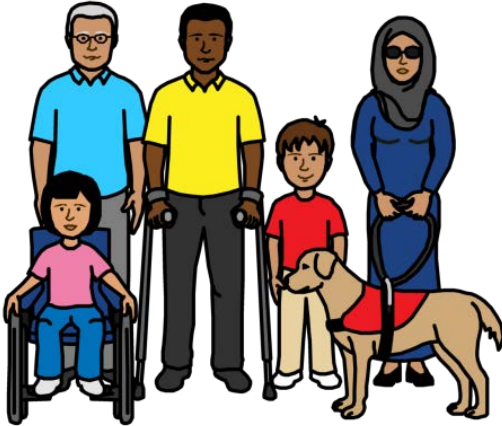


- Keep checking the support that people with disabilities get to make sure it is good enough

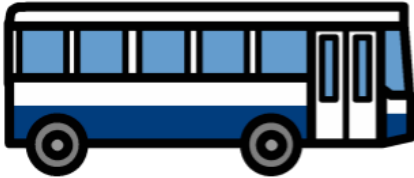
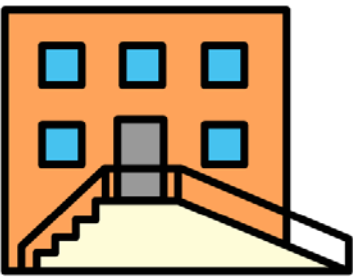


- Make it easy for people with disabilities to complain if they are treated badly when they get support

The government in Iran should:

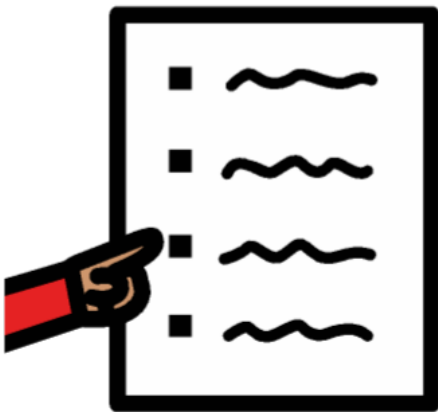


- Make sure all the work that the government does about disability supports the rights of people with disabilities



- Make a plan about making public transport, roads, buildings and information easy for people with disabilities to use.

Say when this will happen



- Make sure organizations follow the rules about making things easy for people with disabilities to use.

For example, rules about giving people with disabilities extra support if they need it.

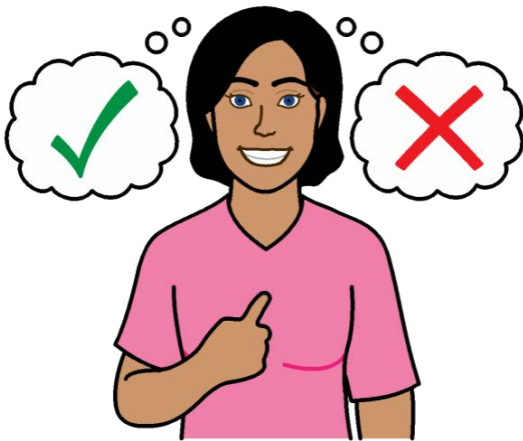


- Make sure organizations get in trouble if they don't follow the rules



The government in Iran should:

- Make sure people with disabilities get the same health care as everyone else



- Make sure people with disabilities agree first before they are given medicines and treatment



- Help people think better things about people with disabilities