



# **COVID 19: impact on persons with disabilities & resources**

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# Background

- EDF: a regional DPOs and partner of Btg
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- CRPD articles 11 and 32
- COVID-19: disastrous in terms of human rights for persons with disabilities

# Impact of COVID-19 (1/2)

Persons with disabilities are more at risk of:

- Becoming affected by the virus
- Not having full public health and emergency information
- Discriminatory messaging
- Not accessing prevention measures
- Being negatively impacted by the lockdown measures
- Being refused treatment

# Impact of COVID-19 (2/2)

- Being in a closed setting with increased risks
- Facing other human rights abuse: neglect, violence...
- Facing the shutdown of services, transport, education, employment
- Impact on families

# DPOs during the crisis

- Organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) in Europe and in the world **had to quickly stepped** in during the pandemic and quickly addressed gaps in government services.
- DPOs became **sources of information**, working on raising awareness, providing accessible materials and distributing food and medical supplies to their members.

# **The website of EDF as a resource on COVID-19**

<http://edf-feph.org/covid19>

# National level

- Testimonies all over Europe by our members of human rights abuse, for instance:
  - The prohibition to go out in Italy for all ([difficult for persons with intellectual disabilities](#))
  - Covid-19: [alert on the health of people in precarious situations in France](#)
- [Grouping of actions and responses](#) by countries in Europe from our members.

# Demands to authorities

- [First open letter](#) on the 13<sup>th</sup> March making 12 recommendations, with for instance:
  - Making public health communication accessible
  - Non-discriminatory ethical medical guidelines
  - etc
- [Statement and letters](#) to EU leaders, for instance:
  - [Commissioners on International Cooperation, Humanitarian Action and well as Equality](#) (7<sup>th</sup> April)



# Other EDF resources (1/2)

- [EDF resolution](#) on COVID-19 (adopted in June 2020)
- Recommendations on exit measures for [transport services](#) in light of COVID-19
- Responses to our enquiry on [persons with disabilities in prison and COVID-19](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) on COVID-19 and disability organisations

# Other EDF resources (2/2)

- [Actions and responses of human rights organisations](#)
- [Media highlights](#)
- Accessible information, with for instance:
  - European Commission - [COVID-19: 5 ways to help prevent the spread \(with international sign\)](#)
  - Inclusion Europe - [Easy-to-read information about Coronavirus](#) available in many languages

# EDF's next human right report

- On COVID-19
- To be out in the fall
- Will include among other points:
  - COVID 19 and the CRPD
  - Discrimination - compounding human rights violations in COVID19
  - EU Levels - responsibilities and shortcomings
  - The response of the disability movement

# Global resources (1/2)

- [Policy Brief](#) of the UN Secretary-General: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19
- [Joint Statement](#) on the UN Secretary-General's call for a Disability-inclusive response to COVID-19 – Towards a better future for all (Ecuador, Paraguay, Burkina Faso and the EU signed it)
- UN Special Rapporteur for the rights of persons with disabilities expert - "[Who is protecting the people with disabilities?](#)"

# Global resources (1/2)

- Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities' testimonial report on COVID-19 (July 2020)
- International Disability Alliance [resources page](#) (EDF is a member)

# Thank you for your attention

European Disability Forum

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