

Our Rights - issue 13, August 2009



The International Disability and Human Rights Network

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Editorial

DPOs, who needs them?

It may seem strange at this point in the history of the disabled people's movement that we need to pose this question. After all, disabled people have established their own organisations in almost every country. Since 1981 Disabled Peoples' International has represented DPOs on the world stage. Throughout the world disabled people have organised, lobbied and been successful in getting anti-discrimination legislation. And of course, we finally have official international recognition (the Convention on the Rights of Disabled People) of what we've argued for decades, that disability is a human rights issue.

But just when we seem to be winning the argument that there must be "Nothing About Us Without Us", in the UK the rug is beginning to be pulled out from under us. Most worryingly, it is being done in policies and programmes that are supposed to be promoting our interests.

It all began with the government's 2005 report, [Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People](#). One of the report's key recommendations (4.3.) was that, "By 2010, each locality (defined as that area covered by a Council with social services responsibilities) should have a user-led organisation modeled on existing CILs (centres for independent living)." Earlier in the report it had defined CILs, as, "...grassroots organisations run and controlled by disabled people." So far, so good.

Two years later in [Putting People First](#), one of the bedrock policy documents for transforming social care, the picture had subtly changed. Now the call was for, "Support for at least one **local user led organisation** and mainstream mechanisms to develop networks which ensure people using services and their families have a collective voice, influencing policy and provision."

What's the difference?

The difference is simple, ULOs are not DPOs.

Why is this important? The answer to that is not so simple.

DPOs were set up so that we could have our own voice, make our own decisions. This was vital because our history is one of people doing to us, doing for us and most frustratingly, speaking for us. This is still true for too many disabled people throughout the world, whether it is done by family carers or International NGOs. We have made great progress, but the battle for our dignity, our equality and making our distinctive voice heard loud and clear is far from over.

The official promotion in the UK of user-led organisations, with their broader-based control – parents, carers and so on – threatens to dilute what has been the cutting edge of the disability movement, being able to speak for ourselves and make independent life choices.

Of course, we can work with a whole range of allies who are committed to helping us achieve our goals. However, to do this we need that sense of unity, confidence and strength that grows out our own organisations. In short, **we need our DPOs**.

Disabled people must speak for themselves

The importance of having our own voice and speaking out for ourselves has been emphasised by Colin Revell, a prominent UK disability activist, who, in a message to DAA, writes;

“Would you expect a 'white' person to represent the voices of BME (Black and minority ethnic) community and 'speak-out' their basic human and civil rights struggles?

Would you expect a 'heterosexual' person to represent the voices of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, bisexual and transsexual) community and 'speak-out' their basic human and civil rights struggles?

Would you expect a 'men' to represent 'women's voices and 'speak-out' their basic human and civil rights struggles?.....

...so for god sake why are well still allowing non-disabled people (including professionals) to control and represent the voices of the disabled community and 'speak-out' our basic human and civil rights struggles, under 'Nothing About Us, Without Us'... times really need to change within attitudes and behaviour , including politically too, to understand 'inclusion' what it means to disabled people.

Disabled people, like other minority groups need allies, but there needs to be time for reflection of what people think 'Becoming An Ally' really means in practice.... Some people need to be taught how to let go of their 'power.' ”

On how to be an ally, see:

<http://www.daa.org.uk/index.php?page=how-to-be-an-ally>

The Convention

Sign-ups

142 signatories to the Convention
85 signatories to the Optional Protocol
62 ratifications of the Convention
40 ratifications of the Optional Protocol

Obama Signs Convention

As he had promised, President Obama signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on Friday, July 24, 2009 at the White House. Significantly, this was on the 19th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

During his address, President Obama said,

“Disability rights aren't just civil rights to be enforced here at home; they're universal rights to be recognized and promoted around the world. And that's why I'm proud to announce that next week, the United States of America will join 140 other nations in signing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities -- the first new human rights convention of the 21st century.”

Signing the Convention marks a radical departure for the US, whose previous administrations have failed to ratify a number of other major international human rights conventions.

Barack Obama has an ambitious [programme on disability](#). Now, by signing the Convention the President has confirmed this commitment and sent a strong, clear message of support for disabled people in the USA and throughout the world. Disabled

people will now want to see him both working actively with the Senate on ratification and delivering on the rest of this plans.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-on-Rights-of-Persons-with-Disabilities-Proclamation-Signing/

Australia to sign UN disability protocol

July 30, 2009

AUSTRALIA has cleared the way for people to take complaints about disability discrimination policies to the United Nations — including prospective migrants with disabled children.

The Rudd Government will announce today that a year after signing the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, it intends to agree to the optional protocol that establishes a complaints mechanism for breaches of the treaty.

People will only be able to take their complaints to the UN disabilities committee if they have exhausted all possible avenues of redress inside Australia.

One potential area where Australia could come under international scrutiny is its migration laws, which are exempt from its disability discrimination laws.

Article 18 of the UN convention recognises the rights of people with disabilities to "liberty of movement, to freedom to choose their residence and to a nationality".

But when Australia signed the convention last July, it did so with a number of "declarations". One of these sought to exempt Australia from article 18 of the convention because of the country's migration laws.

Lawyers have questioned whether this declaration is consistent with the convention.

Extracted from article by Cynthia Banham

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/australia-to-sign-un-disability-protocol-20090729-e1ky.html>

Chance for DPOs to report on Convention progress

The Office of the UN High Commission for Human rights is writing a report to raise awareness on the structure and role of national mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the CRDP. It is doing this in consultation with all stakeholders, including DPOs. They would like to have information and views on the existence, structure and mandate...

- a) Of focal points within Government responsible for implementing the Convention
- b) Of focal points within Government responsible for facilitating action related to implementing the Convention
- c) Of national frameworks for promoting, protecting and monitoring implementation

They would also like any information on:

- d) The process regulating involvement and participation of civil society and in particular disabled people and their representative organisations in national implementation and monitoring process
- e) The existence, structure and mandate of independent authorities tasked with monitoring, for the purpose of preventing exploitation, violence and abuse, facilities and programmes designed to serve disabled people

Please send information to: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Office, Geneva, CH1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; Fax +41 22 917 90 10; Email registry@ohchr.org . Deadline September 1st .

Editorial Comment

It is vital that DPOs use the Convention at every opportunity to lobby governments for changes that result in full equality for disabled people. However, when we turn to development cooperation it is the role and rule of International disability NGOs that need to be challenged. For too long Southern DPOs have been dominated by and dependent upon the good will of Northern-based INGOs run by non-disabled people. Article 32 of the Convention, with its emphasis on DPOs taking the lead in development cooperation, offers a progressive alternative to this essentially neo-colonial relationship. The next report suggests that some INGOs are finally beginning to see the light and are coming around, at least in part, to understanding the wisdom of the

proposals made by DPOs in **Equalise It! A Manifesto for Disability Equality in Development Cooperation.**

<http://www.daa.org.uk/index.php?page=equalise-it>

The Convention promotes new rules on development cooperation

In December 2008, a number of major German INGOs hosted a conference in Berlin, Nothing About Us Without Us – Persons with Disabilities as Actors of Sustainable Development. Unusually, all the speakers were disabled people. The main message coming out of this meeting, consciously reflecting the provisions of the Convention (especially Article 33), was that disability was no longer to be seen as a welfare issue, but more about the active participation of disabled people and the strengthening of their human rights.

The following recommendations were made:

- Organisations working FOR persons with disabilities are often limited to programmes of welfare and care. As a result partnerships are recommended WITH DPOs to guarantee participation of persons with disabilities.
- Instead of just providing resources it is important to encourage the contribution and involvement of DPOs in order to generate a feeling of ownership.
- For sustainable development it makes more sense to train local staff (also disabled persons) in the South in order to become more independent in the long run from experts from the North.
- Persons with disabilities need to become more visible, for example they need to appear as speakers at events, in public and in the media. Only in this way can the public perception of disability be changed.
- Specific programmes for women with disabilities are needed, as they suffer multiple discrimination in many countries.
- Persons with intellectual disabilities are virtually unrepresented by DPOs. To include this group more, information resources should also be published in simple language.

<http://www.dpiap.org/resources/article.php?id=0000180&year=&genreid=09>

Editorial Comment

This is a useful start, but it is only a start. INGOs still have to learn how to be genuine allies by heeding the advice of David Werner, who said "... it is time for non-disabled professionals to recognise the right of disabled people to self control, and therefore to gracefully step to more side, into a role where they, as professionals, **are no longer on top but on tap.**' Until they fully embrace this model of working, they will remain part of the problem, not part of the solution and disabled people, especially in the South, will be denied the rights the Convention seeks to guarantee.

The UK

New benefits imposes harsh regime on disabled people

The Employment and Support Allowance, that has just replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income support, has made life extremely difficult for many disabled people.

Up to 90% of people claiming the new sickness benefit have been told that they are fit to work under a new government regime that was introduced last year.

Ministers are said to believe that as much as two-thirds of the 2.6 million people currently signed off sick, costing the British public an estimated £12.5 billion a year, are capable of working in some capacity.

Ruth Patrick, a disabled researcher from Leeds University said: "It is concerning that the personal capability assessments are based on the benefit claimants health on the day of the assessment alone. Those with fluctuating conditions, including many with mental health issues, may find that they are refused benefits

purely because they were having a 'good day' on the day that the assessment took place.

What is more the onus of these assessments seems to imply that many are seeking to dupe the system by claiming disability benefits when they are actually in good health. This dangerous rhetoric reinforces the popular and false stereotype of benefit cheats who should be out at work."

Jonathan Shaw, Minister for Disabled People, said: "Disabled people and those with health problems are telling us that they want to work. Our welfare reforms will make sure they get the personalised back-to-work support they need to do just that. Under the new Employment and Support Allowance people are assessed on what they can do rather than what they can't. No one will be forced back to work or into jobs they are unfit to do."

<http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/latest-news2/201cfit-for-work201d-test-unfit>

Disability rights champions resign from Rights Commission

The Equality and Human Rights Commission, the UK body set up in 2006 to enforce equality legislation and promote human rights, has been shaken by the resignations of five of its 16 commissioners. Among those leaving were the organisation's two disabled commissioners, Baroness Jane Campbell and Sir Bert Massie.(July 17th – July 20th). Both were apparently unhappy about the recent reappointment of Trevor Philips as chair. Although Campbell has made no public comment, Massie has said that the Commission was not a happy place and this was a clear reflection of divisive leadership.

Sir Bert told the Guardian,
"How much has the EHRC done on age discrimination? Not a lot. Disability stakeholders feel the same way about disability. And I suspect if you talk to the gay and lesbian community you would find the same thing. We could have done things, we could have improved services dramatically, and that is the tragedy."

In addition to the structural challenges facing the commission, comments by Phillips to the press have further alienated many, and led to allegations by some that he has echoed a New Labour line and "pandered to the right".

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/jul/20/trevor-phillips-watchdog-split-leadership>

Disability hate crimes go unreported

Hate crimes against people with disabilities in Wales are unreported or unrecognised for what they are, campaigners and charities say. Police recorded 132 such crimes last year, but charities said the true figures were much higher.

A report by the disability charity Scope suggested of 50 serious assaults against disabled people, only one was recorded as a hate crime. As Ruth Scott, policy director for Scope, said: "A lot of disabled people have experienced hate crime. They don't necessarily recognise that it's hate crime, they don't necessarily have the language to describe it.

"But part of that is related to the fact that disability hate crime is really hard to recognise and that the vast majority of police officers and others also don't recognise it.

Gwent Police hosted a conference last week to raise awareness of disability hate crime, and the Crown Prosecution Service has established independent scrutiny panels to review case files on offences against disabled people.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/south_west/8135066.stm

Consultations! Consultations! Consultations!

Editorial Comment

As the government staggers toward the end of its third term, it has unleashed a rash of consultations, most, although not all, related to the personalisation/privatisation agenda set out in **Putting People First**.

OK, OK, we know, most of us have moved from consultation fatigue through to consultation exhaustion and onward to full-scale consultation collapse! But, we ask that you try to recover enough to read the following, as no matter which party forms the next government, the outcomes from these consultations promise to be of immense importance for disabled people. This is particularly true as both major parties have the same ideology about privatising public services. They are also both concerned with saving money. By their own admission, this is a major driving force behind the current reforms in health and social care.

Are we being too suspicious or is it just a coincidence that all these significant and complex consultations have been put out over the summer holidays, the most problematic time of year for organisations to arrange discussions with their members?

Green Paper on the future of social care

The government's new Green Paper on social care, [Shaping the future of care together](#), has emerged against a background of an aging population and rapidly rising demand leading to a potential funding shortfall of £6bn a year. In the paper it is claimed that;

‘As part of our aspiration to build a stronger, fairer Britain, we want to build the first National Care Service in England. The Government’s vision is for a system that is fair, simple and affordable for everyone, underpinned by national rights and entitlements but personalised to individual needs. In the new National Care Service, everyone should be able to get really good care wherever they live and whatever they or their family need.’

Many ideas in the Green Paper, such as those mentioned above, are so obviously necessary and desirable that few people will find much to quibble about. But, as in all such documents, the scary stuff is in the detail, especially, but not only, how a National Care Service will be paid for.

In a typically clear-headed analysis of this question, Peter Beresford writes,

‘The new social care green paper is charged with setting out possible approaches to put social care on a sound financial footing. Yet, while ruling in almost every other financial possibility,

the one option it categorically states it is "ruling out" is funding social care through general taxation.

However, the green paper itself says that:

Many people told us that they thought an NHS-style system, where the full costs of care and support were met through taxation (i.e. it was provided to people free when they needed it) would be the fairest option.

So what's the argument for dismissing this popular and effective approach? As the green paper puts it:

“In this system, people would pay tax throughout their lives, which would be used to pay for all the people who currently need care. When, in turn, people needed care themselves, they would get all their basic care free. This system would work for people of all ages. **This is ruled out** [original emphasis] because it places a heavy burden on people of working age.”

So the argument from government for rejecting the only funding arrangement which could helpfully unify health and social care and at last put them on an equal footing, is that it would be inequitable and unfair. This when 'many people' are telling it exactly the opposite.'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/joepublic/2009/jul/22/social-care-general-taxation>

Public consultation on the Green Paper runs until November 13th .
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_102338

New, Fairer Access to Care?

Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) set out in 2003 was supposed to make access to social care equitable and transparent. In practice chronically underfunded social services departments have used FACS to save money by limiting eligibility to those with the highest level of need. The effect has been to deprive a growing number of older and disabled people of the support they require to maintain their independence, so contributing to their needs off times becoming critical. This vicious cycle threatens to overload an already strained system and undermine current plans to reform

social care.

This is why the Department of Health has just produced for consultation, **Prioritising need in the context of *Putting People First: A whole system approach to eligibility for social care.***

Guidance on Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care, England 2009. They say,

“To broaden their focus beyond those with the highest needs, councils should ensure that the application of eligibility criteria is firmly situated within this wider context of personalisation, including a strong emphasis on prevention and early intervention. In practice, this may mean that councils now need to make adjustments where necessary to ensure a seamless approach between their personalisation programmes and the determination of eligibility for social care.”

Unlike the proposals in the Green Paper, which are about future of social care, this guidance is about the here and now. This makes a careful analysis of implications of the document for disabled people so important.

Consultation extends until the 13th of October.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_102362

Consultation on the Right to Control

The Office of Disability Information (ODI) has launched a consultation to ask disabled people how to make choice and control a reality in their lives. While this appears to be going over much the same ground as the [pilots schemes on individual budgets](#), this time there seems to be a more concerted attempt to involve disabled people at the planning stage of the process.

The consultation, launched on 11 June, invites stakeholders to give their views on the best way to deliver the Right to Control. In particular, they want people’s views on, the different services (e.g. social care, education, health) to include, what public bodies need to do to offer a unified service, how to overcome barriers to exercising the right to control, what support is needed, how can decisions be challenged and how genuine choice can be ensured.

A number of events are planned (no information as of end of July) and a tool kit is available for organisations wanting to set up their own consultations. The process runs from 11 June – 30 September 2009.

<http://www.odi.gov.uk/working/right-to-control.php>

Equality Duty consultation

Under the Equalities Bill, the various obligations on public bodies to develop and implement equality policies on race, gender and disability will be merged into a single equality duty. How this will operate is the subject of government's Equality Office consultation, [**Equality Bill: Making it work - Policy Proposals for specific duties.**](#)

Sir Bert Massie, former head of the Disability Rights Commission, has already expressed reservations about how disabled peoples' rights will be protected under the proposed legislation. He has said, "... under the DDA there is a requirement to remove barriers. The new bill proposes changing this to 'avoiding disadvantage'. This phrase might be weaker than the current law."

Sir Bert also fears that the single equalities' approach will mean disabled people are less involved in policy decisions that affect us.

"One of the major changes introduced in regulations that followed the 2005 Act was the requirement for public authorities to involve disabled people when setting policies that affected them. The bill introduces a single equality duty and we must ensure that disabled people's involvement isn't lost in the quest to standardise equality legislation.

"Disabled people and their organisations need to be ever vigilant that a bill that is broadly welcomed is not allowed to move disability rights backwards."

<http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/latest-news2/news-focus/equality-bill-disappointing-says-sir-bert>

Editorial Comment

The equivocal, 'light touch' language found in the proposals on the single equality duty suggest his concerns are more than well founded.

The consultation runs until September 30th

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/equality%C2%A0duties.aspx>

Human Rights Training - by DAA for Disability Lib.

DAA is planning further Disability Lib human rights training at the Novotel Waterloo, London on September 25-27. This three-day training is absolutely free and open to representatives of DPOs who can then use the training to help build the capacity of their organisations. Training sessions start at 2.00 pm on Friday and end at 12.30 on Sunday, followed by a parting lunch. Please contact info@daa.org.uk for registration. We only have 15 places available - so book early.

Further training weekends will take place in November, 2009 in Norfolk, Preston in March 2010, Newcastle in May 2010. In July 2010 the training will be for people with learning disabilities, October 2010 in Exeter and January 2011 in Birmingham. We will let you know final dates and exact venues as soon as we can.

International

Wheelchair users greet arrivals at Mexico City airport

Since 2007, 60 bilingual wheelchair users have been employed to welcome travelers at a new terminal at Mexico City's Benito Juárez International Airport. While this initiative is to be welcomed, it hardly rates the claim by **The Economist** that it puts Mexico 'at the vanguard of the disabled-rights movement in the developing world'. Such a claim would hardly be recognised by most of the country's estimated 9 million disabled people. Despite the fact that in 2001 Mexico officially proposed setting up of the Ad Hoc Committee which eventually led to the CRPD, three years later the International Disability Rights Monitor (IDRM), reported, '...current

legislation lacks regulations, and compliance is a problem. Moreover, awareness of disability rights is low among both people with and without disabilities.' More recently, Mexico's National Council for People with Disabilities pointed out that employment among disabled people is less than half that of the rest of society, and in the public sector just 0.4% of workers are disabled.

http://www.economist.com/world/americas/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14031484&fsrc=rss

<http://www.ideanet.org/content.cfm?id=5B5C75&searchIT=1>

Editorial Comment

Perhaps this story says more about the mainstream media's total lack of understanding of disability rights. This leads us neatly into a story about how disabled people can begin to address this problem.

Disabled People Train Journalists in The Gambia

At the beginning of July, the Gambia Federation of the Disabled, working with the UK's Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), put on a one-day training session on disability issues for journalists at the Alliance Franco Gambien.

Mr. Muhammed Kora, the Chairman of the Gambia Federation of the Disabled, described the training as very important and timely, noting that the role of journalists in disability reporting cannot be over-emphasised.

<http://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/journalists-trained-on-disability-issues>

Interestingly, quite soon after this workshop, The Daily Observer of Gambia ran a series of articles detailing all the provisions of the CRPD.

<http://observer.gm/africa/gambia/article/disability-digest-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-contd>

And there is yet more positive news from the Gambia!

Draft National Disability Policy for the Gambia

On the 3rd of July participants from various institutions, organisations and agencies in the country, including the Gambia

Federation of Disabled, met in the capital, Banjul, to discuss the draft integrated national disability policy document 2009-2018 at a forum organised by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

The policy document, which is said to be the first of its kind, aims at promoting equal opportunities for enhanced empowerment, participation and protection of the rights of the persons with disabilities irrespective of gender, age and type of disability. This is in recognition of the fact that disabled people can perform to their full potential under the same conditions and opportunities irrespective of their social, economic or cultural background.

Prominent among the objectives of the policy document – soon to be put into use – is for a helpful environment for the participation of persons with disabilities in sports and recreational activities, inclusive education and training rehabilitation, health care services as well as employment. It also seeks to ensure that resources for initiatives that target disabled people and care givers are mobilised and effectively utilised, as well as to promote timely access to information for disabled people using all forms of communication.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907030474.html>

Editorial Comment

However, as is shown throughout the world, national disability policies, anti-discrimination legislation and/or ratifying the CRPD must, in the end, be judged on how they are implemented and the impact they have on the day-to-day lives of disabled people. Up to now the record is on the whole extremely poor. Once all the official documents have been signed, the laws passed and the politicians have made their speeches, it remains for disabled peoples' organisations to ensure all disabled people know their rights and are supported in their struggle to realise full equality.

This issue is highlighted in our next report from Ghana.

Still waiting for disability rights in Ghana

Ghana has had disability legislation since 2006, but according to the President of the Ghana Federation of Disabled (GFD) Mr. Samuel Kwesi Asare, it is yet to be implemented. This is why the theme of the country's National Disability Day is, "Call to action: implementation of the National Disability Act". What is needed, says the GFD leader, is the political willingness on the part of the

state to ensure the implementation of the National Disability Act. Further delays would serve as an obstacle to the agenda of mainstreaming disability concerns to national development.

Mr. Kwesi Asare also said that members of the GFD believe that the rights and social image of disabled people would be enhanced if the poverty and misery among the majority of them are tackled and alleviated. Disabled people, he said, need the same chances as those given to other people to be able to reach their dreams and aspirations.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907030474.html>

In the West African sister state of Nigeria, DPOs have also been active in pushing their government on disability issues and to deliver on promises made.

Nigerian DPOs assess government on disability

At a recent disability forum in Lagos organised by the Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) in collaboration with Coalition of Disabilities Organisations (CODO), there were calls for the establishment of a Ministry for Disabilities, headed by a disabled person, as well as for a standard national strategic plan on Special Needs Education.

A final communiqué called on the Federal Government to ensure that 'President Umaru Yar'Adua's Seven Point Agenda on disability be translated into seven different strategic plans, implementation blueprints, action plans with time frames, and finally a monitoring and evaluation framework for the agenda to be meaningful and workable.

Spokespersons further declared that there was a need for disabled people to become politically organised and fight to push reforms effectively. As part of this process, disabled people must also develop their own strategic plans to be able to engage effectively with various development partners and that policy makers in government must be educated on disability rights as guaranteed by numerous international conventions signed by Nigeria.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907161035.html>

National disability law adopted in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 24, July 2009 - Cambodian DPOs, International NGOs who work in the disability sector and all disabled people in Cambodia today welcomed the passage of a National Disability Law.

Ngin Saorath, the Executive Director of Cambodia Disabled People's Organization (CDPO) said, "Having this law is what our members and people with disabilities of all types need, this law will protect and promote the full participation of us and will ensure that a person with disability will not be isolated and lonely. We will be pleased when the government ratify the UN Convention as it is more comprehensive and promotes a Rights Based Approach in Cambodia society and the world."

Mr. Soy Sokhorn, the leader of the DPO in Kompong Cham province, said, "This law is not everything for people with disabilities in Cambodia. It is more important if all the policies for development mainstream people with disabilities into their development plans and engage them into the process of their plan as much as possible."

Press release from Cambodian Disabled People's Organization (CDPO)

This newsletter is produced by Disability Awareness in Action for the Disability LIB project. This project is funded by the Big Lottery.

