

# **REPORT ON ENSURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE PERSONS.**

The Association in Support of Vietnamese Disability and Orphans received the document No. 5073/ MTTW-BTT dated 04/6/2018 of the Standing Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front's Central Committee on the proposal to develop a report on practical activity to ensure the implementation of human rights in the field of activities related to the rights and responsibilities of the organization from 2017 to this day. To contribute to the assertion of human rights in Viet Nam in front of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Association in Support of Vietnamese Disability and Orphans would like to report as follows:

## **I. Overview of the association organization and operation:**

### **1. Organization:**

- The Association in Support of Vietnamese Disability and Orphans (ASVHO) was established on April 25 1992 by Decision No. 136 / CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers (today the Government). The Association is a social organization that gathers and unites Vietnamese citizens in order to protect the legitimate rights and interests of their members; work together for the rights and legitimate interests of people with disabilities and orphans.

- The association has legal person status, seal, operate in accordance with Vietnamese law and Association Regulations approved by Minister of Home Affairs.

- Principles of activities of the Association: voluntary, self-governing; democracy, equality, openness and transparency; non-profit; compliance with the Constitution, laws and the Association Regulations.

- Organizations network: 46 Associations at provincial level; 281 Associations at district level; 1.852 Association at communes level.

- Partners: The association has close relationships with about 150 organizations and individuals in Hungary, Australia, France, Sweden, the United States, Switzerland, Turkey, Luxembourg, Belgium, Korea, Japan, Turkey...

### **2. Activities:**

In recent years, the Association's performance has contributed significantly to the implementation of the Law on persons with disabilities, Law on Children, Project to Support disabilities persons for the period 2012-2020, the Implementation Plan for the

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities... It is a practical illustration of the socialization of social resources to ensure the rights of vulnerable groups and ensure social security.

In 2017, the total resources of the country are mobilized by the Association (money and artifacts) reach **540 billion VND**, in coordination with other units to carry out activities to assist the beneficiaries with a total value nearly **92 billion VND**. The Association and its member organizations have implemented six core programs of the Association (including vocational training, job creation; orthopedic surgery, functional rehabilitation, wheelchair donation, human support facilities for persons with disabilities; eye surgery for poor blind people; scholarships, bicycles for orphans, disabled and poor children; support for livelihoods for households with people with disabilities, orphans in commune building new countryside) and other support activities for more than **1.6 million** people with disabilities, orphans and other disadvantaged people with spending value of **510 billion VND**.

## **II. RESULTS ON ENSURING THE RIGHT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE PERSONS FROM 2017 TO THIS DAY:**

The Association activities on assurance of the rights of persons with disabilities and orphans are built and implemented in accordance with the functions and tasks of the Association as stipulated in the Regulations of The Association in Support of Vietnamese Disability and Orphans, in accordance with international convention and the legal system of Vietnam relating to the rights of persons with disabilities, children/orphans.

### **1. Rights-based activities for people with disabilities:**

In 2014, Vietnam has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), so in its activities, the Association prioritizes the activities that ensure the rights of persons with disabilities, which are included in the CRPD, the Law on persons with disabilities, Project to Support disabilities persons for the period 2012-2020.

#### **1.1. Rename Association**

Implement the general principles of the CRPD as defined in Article 3, including the content of respect for dignity inherent and non-discrimination for persons with disabilities, in 2018, the Association changed its name from "The Association in Support of Vietnamese Handicapped persons and Orphans" into the "The Association in Support of Vietnamese Disabilities and Orphans". The phrase "disability persons" is

more humane, showing respect for persons with disabilities, considering them as capable and empowered persons.

### 1.2. Raising awareness (Article 8 of the CRPD)

The Association has organized many diverse, efficient, practical activities, such as:

- In October 2017, the the Association Central Commitee organized the exchange program "Happiness for couples with disabilities" in Hanoi. The program honors 30 couples with disabilities from 24 provinces and cities; contributing to promote rights in love, marriage, family happiness of persons with disabilities;

- In April 2018, the Association Central Committee initiated the program "Meeting businessmen, owners of production facilities are persons with disabilities" with the participation of 48 entrepreneurs, owners of business establishments are persons with disabilities. to promote their capacity and contribution to society, and to affirm the right to work on the basis of equality as other persons.

- In April 2018, the Association Central Committee organized the 11th annual art exchange "One Heart - One World" which praised and honored the examples of persons with disabilities who have made great efforts to rise up in labor and production; the program has contributed to increasing public awareness of the capacity and contribution of persons with disabilities.

- The members of the Association also organize many activities to promote awareness through conferences, seminars program and exchanges to praise typical examples of persons with disabilities in many fields of life.

The Association Central Commitee and its member organizations regularly coordinate with press agencies at the same time using the media in order to promote and improving knowledge and positive awareness about persons with disabilities.

### 1.3. Access to health and rehabilitation services (CRPD Article 25):

In 2017, the Association has provided medical care to nearly 198,000 disabled and poor people with the total value of 81.6 billion VND, including activities of ophthalmic ophthalmology for the blind; orthopedic surgery, rehabilitation for person with mobility impairments; free medical treatment for persons with disabilities; support to buy health insurance cards for persons with disabilities, poor people,...

The medical assistance activities provided by the Association to persons with disabilities have contributed to support persons with disabilities to received the same kind, quality, free standard or price compared to others persons; it also contributes to

early detection and intervention to reduce and prevent further disability. The health support activities of the Association are usually oriented towards the community, especially in rural areas and disadvantaged areas.

#### **1.4. Personal Movement (Article 20 CRPD):**

The Association has donated 11,500 wheelchairs, shakes chairs, cerebral palsy chairs, other tools for disabled with a value of 27 billion VND. In addition to donating wheelchairs, the association also trains the skills of using wheelchairs safely for the Association staffs, who directly work with the persons with disabilities and later guide them and their families to use it.

#### **1.5. Labor and Employment (Article 27 CRPD):**

In 2017, the Association organized vocational training for 1,600 persons with disabilities, about 70% of them gets job, earning a living after the training, with the total cost of this activity is 9.9 billion VND; it contributes to the protection of the legitimate rights to work of persons with disabilities on the basis of equality with others.

#### **1.6. Good standard of living and social welfare (Article 28, CRPD):**

In 2017, the Association implemented the following activities: providing financial support for 1,200 people, providing livestock for 358 households; newly built, repaired 1,800 charitable houses; assisted in the construction of 751 accessible roads for persons with disabilities and communal administrative offices and public works in the commune. It also supported the construction of 609 sanitation facilities, improving 289 clean water systems. The Association also provides financial support (regular subsidies other than government subsidies) to 11,500 disabled people with a total amount of 11.6 billion VND.

#### **1.7. Organizing cultural activities, sports**

In order to ensure the rights of people with disabilities to participate in cultural life on the basis of equality with other people, the Association Central Committee and its member organizations have actively organized many appropriate cultural and sport activities for persons with disabilities. In 2014, the Association has organized the Singing contest for disabled persons that contributed to promote and develop the cultural and artistic movement for persons with disabilities. Many member associations have continued to build and organize similar programs. In 2017, Binh Phuoc province organize the third singing Contest for people with disabilities with the theme "heart aspirations", Thai Nguyen province organized the second singing Contest for the persons with disabilities; Phu Tho presents a poem "There is one thing you hide" by the handicapped author Nguyen Phuong Thuy.

## **1.8. Legal aid**

The Association has taken part in exercising the right to access to justice and legal assistance of persons with disabilities through the following activities: The Association organizes legal consultancy and counseling sessions for persons with disabilities in 24 provinces and cities, in Hanoi and some provinces such as Quang Nam, Dong Thap, Thanh Hoa, Binh Duong... organize promotion, training and implementation of legal aid for persons with disabilities. The Association in Thanh Hoa province implemented the project "legal aid - vocational training and employment for women with disabilities, homeless children back to home".

## **2. Activities to ensure children's rights in special circumstances**

On June 1, 2017, the Law on Children officially came into effect, highlighting the importance of protecting the rights and interests of children in many areas. Being a social organization operating for the legitimate rights and interests of orphans, the Association in Support of Vietnamese Disabilities and Orphans also bases on the provisions of the Law to organize the activities of caring, patronize, protect and promote children's rights appropriately. In the programs implemented by the Association, many activities have demonstrated the participation in ensuring children's rights. Some activities have been implemented by the Association such as:

- Implement the children's right on health care, in 2017, the Association has organized heart surgery for 611 poor children with congenital heart disease with a total amount of 28 billion VND; coordinate the organization of medical examination, oral health counseling for students, screening children with disabilities for early intervention plan.

- To exercise the right to social security in accordance with the law and socio-economic conditions, where children live through programs to support livelihoods for families of orphans and children with disabilities; to mobilize organizations and individuals to support, nurture children orphans....

- Being educated and learning is one of the basic children's rights, however due to family conditions, many orphans, children with disabilities, poor children have difficulties in learning process, or even at risk of dropping out of school. In fact, the Association in Support of Vietnamese Disabilities and Orphans has developed scholarships and bicycles to support children with disabilities going to school. In 2017, the Association donated 20,600 scholarships (worth 17.9 billion VND); many provinces and cities have extended the long-term scholarships to poor students, ensuring financial support for children until graduation... The Association also donated 4,700 bicycles to orphans children, poor children with the amount of 7.1 billion VND. The Association

has mobilized and cooperated with the Korean Protestant Church in Hanoi to implement a support program for students with disabilities, orphans and poor students in some provinces with the amount of 1.2 billion VND.

- Many provinces and cities have organized meaningful programs to show their interest and care for children with special circumstances such as: Thai Binh organized the camp "the wings of love in 2017", Khanh Hoa organized the festival for children with disabilities at the Touristic area Merperle Hoa Tam, Binh Thuan province organize to bring 100 children with disabilities, orphans of charitable school to attend exchanges and cultural performances at Resort Aroma (Phu Hai)...

### **III. RECOMMENDATIONS TO STATE AGENCIES:**

1. Promote communication, education and capacity building on law enforcement for the rights of person with disabilities and children's rights, focusing on improving the sense of law observance and prevention of violence acts or child abuse; raise awareness of the society on the ability and contribution of persons with disabilities, prevent discrimination and stigmatize persons with disabilities.

2. The Law on persons with disabilities should be revised to complete the activities supporting people with disabilities and comply with the requirements of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

3. Increasing investment resources for children, improve the capacity of persons with disabilities, help them promote their rights.

4. Strengthening support to organizations working in the field of ensuring the rights of person with disabilities, training children, improve capacity to develop external relations; exploiting skills, take advantage of aid; build and implement projects to ensure and promote their rights.