

United Nations UPR: Barbados

Submission from the Barbados Council for the Disabled (BCD) in collaboration with the Barbados National Organisation of the Disabled – BARNOD Inc.

102.115. (Referencing) A/HRC/23/11-Para.102

(5 pages/1,341 words / 165 lines)

29th June 2017

1. About us

The Barbados Council for the Disabled¹ is the non-governmental umbrella body partnering with all sectors of the community and International Agencies to effect change and champion the rights of all persons with disabilities, ensuring their full and effective integration into society.”

Our Vision is the realization of a society that values, respects, empowers, accepts and includes all persons with disabilities and the recognition of the council as a catalyst in this process.

This translates to the following:

- Keep under review the work being done for persons with disabilities, to promote action for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, and to promote programmes for the education, training, employment and welfare for their inclusion.
- To cooperate with, inform advice and assist all Governmental agencies in regard to rehabilitation, training, employment and welfare of the disabled.
- To foster collaboration between organizations of and for persons with disabilities as well as to promote activities for the benefit of such organizations.
- To affiliate and cooperate with the appropriate regional and international organizations for the purpose of furthering the objectives of the Council.
- The above guides our vision of creating a society that includes all persons with disabilities therefore our projects and programmes are all designed with the above in mind.

Presently, there are eighteen (18) organizations and four (4) Associates affiliated to the Council.

President – Mrs. Maria Holder-Small / Operations Manager –Mrs. Roseanna Tudor

2. Executive Summary

¹ www.barbadosdisabled.org.bb

With the ratification of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities CPRD in February 2013 by the Government of Barbados it sets the “Wheels in Motion” to begin to address the rights of people with disabilities to be treated as full and equal citizens.

Unfortunately, because of the lack of accurate data both locally and regionally, evidence base statistics are not available to conduct accurate quantitative and qualitative research; such data is needed to draw conclusive situation analysis.

The intention of this submission is to put forward a case to establish a system of data collection which allows an accurate representation of the situation of Persons with Disabilities in areas of education, employment, housing, health and access to public facilities.

3. Normative and Institutional framework

This submission by the Council is referenced and supported by the following.

- **THE CONSTITUTION OF BARBADOS AND LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS**

- **Chapter III of the Constitution of Barbados**

23. (1) (a) (b) / (2)

- **WHITE PAPER ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (2002)**

Barbados Government Policy document which outlines clear objectives from which policies will be developed to achieve the integration and inclusion of all persons with disabilities.²

Objective #5 – Research

To encourage and support on-going research in all areas of disabilities that impact upon the lives of persons with disabilities with a view to establishing a comprehensive data bank on persons with disabilities.

- **Barbados International Treaty obligations**

- **ICCPR**

- **ICESCR**

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination :1969, Signature: NA, Ratification/Accession: 1972
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights :1976, Signature: NA, Ratification/Accession: 1973
- Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights :1976

- **CRC**

² White Paper on Persons with Disabilities 2002

- **CEDAW**
- **CRPD – Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Since Ratifying the CRPD, Barbados appointed a Monitoring Committee that was to have submitted its first report in 2015. However to date that has not been completed.

- **Other Policy measures agreed to by Barbados**

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**

According to the document signed by government delegates gathered at the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in Mexico City in April 2017; the delegates recognized that governments bear the fundamental responsibility for fulfilling the commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- **United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF)**

It is hoped that the necessary support envisaged through this UN plan is directed to the support of the programs developed by CSO's in partnership with government towards the realization of the goals of the CRPD.

4. Implementation of UPR recommendations

1. **102.11** - This recommendation which the government of Barbados supported has been met when the CRPD was ratified in 2013.
2. **102.115** – This recommendation which was supported by the government of Barbados has not been implemented. This forms the basis for our recommendation.

1. BARBADOS COUNCIL FOR THE DISABLED RECOMMENDATION

102.115

Justification:

The lack of a comprehensive national census that captures the relevant statistics critical in advancing and addressing the issues that face persons with disabilities in Barbados is severely hindered due to grossly inadequate data.

Pursuant to the White Paper on Persons with Disabilities which the government of Barbados (*Debated as a Green Paper on May 30, 2000*) accepted as its Policy on Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in 2002, many of its objectives are not being met.

The Barbados Council for the Disabled has struggled over the past two decades to access necessary data required to effect any substantive changes in the lives of persons with disabilities. As a result it has had to depend on its own research which has been heavily influenced by anecdotal evidence. A national Census was last conducted in 2010.

Having highlighted this fact to the National Disabilities Unit on numerous occasions through their representative that sits on the Council's Board, no serious initiatives have been developed to address this crucial informational tool that could change the lives of persons with disabilities.

The Barbados Council for the Disabled (BCD) has participated in numerous workshops and projects that required adequate data on the economic and social conditions that affect the lives of PWD.

- a) One such project that the BCD implemented for a number of years was the **Sexual & Reproductive Health Program**³ which was supported by UNFPA and to a lesser extent the National HIV/AIDS Commission.⁴ Though we were successful in identifying the related issues, a lack of sufficient funding and research brought the program to a halt.
- b) The Council has been conducting Disability Sensitivity Training (DST)⁵ to service providers through its Fully Accessible Barbados Program (FAB)⁶ and as a result the lack of awareness about the different types of disabilities among the population and how to address their needs is beginning to be recognized. However, though the BCD captures the information relative to businesses that are training their employees on DST, it does not help the service providers in determining the population of persons with disabilities that would access their services.

Suggested Recommendations

1. Establish a system of data collection which allows an accurate representation of the situation of Persons with Disabilities in areas such as education, employment, housing, health and access to public facilities.

³ Annual SRH Program Report

⁴ SRH Partnership with HIV/AIDS Commission

⁵ Disability Sensitivity Training (DST) – www.barbadosdisabled.org.bb

⁶ Fully Accessible Barbados – www.fullyaccessiblebarbados.com

With the advanced data collecting tools in the market now there is no excuse why Barbados should not now be in a position to conduct a National Census that could address the lack of information that would support the implementation of almost all of its Treaty obligations and by extension its policy obligations.

- a) Conduct a Public Education Campaign to create awareness of the benefits, and a platform that such a census would guarantee services and programs for Persons with Disabilities.
 - b) Data Protection to ensure confidentiality in accordance with Article 31 CRPD.
 - c) Ensure that the current legislation (Barbados Statistical Services)⁷ addresses the ethical principles in collection and use of statistics.
2. Data and Research should be accessed by inter-sectorial agencies in alternative Universal Format, and used to help to assess the implementation of the CRPD.
 3. To increase the annual budget to the Barbados Statistical Services to provide a Disability Census.
 4. Fully implement research as outlined in the White Paper on Persons with Disabilities tabled in Parliament in 2002.
 5. Local NGOs will work with BSS to develop and implement the National Census on Persons with Disabilities within three (3) years

⁷ <http://www.barstats.gov.bb/census/index.html> - Barbados Statistical Services