



Important Message from DPI on COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Distinguished Colleagues and Friends of Disabled People's International (DPI),

I hope you are all doing well. More importantly, I pray that you are all safe during this challenging time, as the whole world is experiencing the Corona-virus. On behalf of the DPI family, I would like to express our sincere solidarity with you all and your families wherever you are.

At this time, we share our utmost concern towards the safety and well-being of our sisters and brothers, especially our children and seniors with disabilities. We recognize that this pandemic is doubly challenging for us with disabilities, realizing that many of us may find it difficult to shelter ourselves from the terrible danger that this worrisome and critical disease may cause us and our families. Furthermore, we regretfully recognize that the majority of persons with disabilities in the global south may not have access to sufficient health care or adequate community support. Unfortunately, health care programs around the world, mainly in the global south, continue to show their perpetual denial towards persons with disabilities. Particularly, children, women, and elderly people with disabilities continue to be left behind. Many countries in the global south continue to lack all means of accessible medical information and inclusive health care programs, the matter which would increase chances of keeping our colleagues with disabilities to be subject to the disastrous implications of this dangerous pandemic.

DPI would like to urge its country representatives to do all that they can to:

- Insure that their constituencies are adequately prepared for remaining safe before such challenges caused by this global crisis.
- Follow up on any incident of exclusion that colleagues with disabilities may encounter in case they need immediate medical support.
- Monitor the status of hospitals and medical centers to insure its accessibility and inclusivity of persons with disabilities.
- Reach out to all stakeholders i.e. policy makers and government officials who are in charge of setting up emergency programs to insure that they are

taking into account the criteria of inclusion and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

- Work closely and coordinate with civil society to insure that persons with disabilities are being included in their contingent emergency programs.
- Last but not least, maintain the closest communication possible with their constituencies and offer the maximum psychological support possible, so they can keep up with the isolation and home confinement that COVID-19 has imposed on all of us.

From the DPI leadership, we are committed to:

1. Share with you all, whatever helpful information and guiding tools to help you remain strong and face this pandemic.
2. Be your voice before all international entities that are trying to set up strategies for combating this disease.
3. Intervene with all relevant stakeholders as much as possible, on your behalf and per your request, to help and support you during this time.
4. Coordinate with other organizations of persons with disabilities to insuring that whatever the international community is striving to do to fight this pandemic disease should be inclusive for our disabled sisters and brothers everywhere, and particularly in the global south.

Again, I share with you our organization's utmost solidarity, praying that you and your loved ones remain safe and sound, so we could all-together overcome this pandemic period in the life of our world. Keeping up the high morale is what we all really need in these extremely difficult days!

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs. Henrietta Davis-Wray)
Acting Chairperson, DPI