

BIG ISSUES IN OUR LIVES

What Needs to Change

What **Accessibility** looks like for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Our Experience with Accessibility

Accessibility is an important part of making sure that people with intellectual disabilities can be included in the community. People often think that accessibility is just about things like making buildings accessible, or making sure there is sign language.

For people with intellectual disabilities, accessibility is about being able to understand and take part. When our accessibility needs are not met, we are excluded.

"The first step to participation is to be able to go to public and private spaces. If we cannot access those spaces, we cannot imagine being participants in events happening there."

SELF-ADVOCATE, NEPAL



Article 9 of the CRPD protects our right to accessibility.

Our Rights

- It says that governments need to make sure that the services we need to live in the community are accessible. It also says that we have the right to accessible information.

Big Problems We Face

Information

- People don't think that it is important to make information accessible
- We aren't given enough time to understand and ask questions
- When people make easy to understand information, we aren't included
- Information is often only shared by small text

Services

- It is difficult to use services like transport because the information is not clear
- Staff at services like train stations do not know how to help us



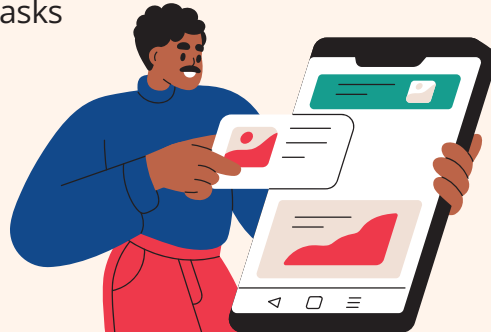
"Organisations make Easy Read with a service provider and upload it onto a hard-to-use website. They do not involve us or not share it with our organisations. How do we know that it is there? A lot of time and money is wasted this way."

SELF-ADVOCATE, MALAWI



Accessibility Looks Like...

- Clear signs, with pictures and simple words about where to go
- Different types of communication, like audio, words and pictures
- Extra time to think about information and do tasks
- Clear communication
- Predictable environments and routines
- Simple processes without unnecessary steps
- Support to understand information
- Places to rest or take breaks



What Needs To Change

What Governments Can Do

- Require Accessible Information
 - - Use minimum standards for accessible information, like the *Listen Include Respect Guidelines*
 - - Work with people with intellectual disabilities
 - - Require accessible information for services

- Change Services
 - - Make transport accessible

What Organisations and Services Can Do

- Give people enough time to understand information and do tasks
- Train staff about disability awareness and good support
- Make all events and activities easy to understand



"When I became a member of the local council in my community, I asked to receive information and documents enough time before the meeting."

SELF-ADVOCATE, MALAWI



What Others Can Do

- Understand that accessibility benefits everyone
- Learn about people's accessibility needs
- Support people to understand

Resources from our network

➔ [The Listen Include Respect Guidelines](#)

This document was made by self-advocates from the Inclusion International network. It was prepared for the Global Disability Summit in 2025. The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) funded this work through UNICEF. The content represents the views of people with intellectual disabilities around the world — it does not necessarily represent what GIZ or UNICEF think.

"We all know what it feels like when we go to a conference and we are not included – like if we can't understand and read a program."

SELF-ADVOCATE, UNITED STATES



OUR BIG MESSAGE ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY

People with intellectual disabilities around the world want accessible communication and information in all systems and services.

We must be part of developing plans and services that affect our lives, like transportation.

