



Justice4Yemen Pact
ميثاق العدالة لليمن



On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities: Towards Building a More Inclusive and Just Society for All

The Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition

December 3, 2024

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, observed on December 3rd each year, we come together to unify our voices in advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities in Yemen. [Approximately 4.9 million](#) individuals with disabilities face additional and severe challenges due to the ongoing conflict. We all believe that this group possesses legitimate rights that cannot be compromised and that progress toward an inclusive society requires the establishment of principles of equality and justice for all without discrimination.

This day serves as an opportunity to emphasize the importance of enhancing community awareness about the issues faced by persons with disabilities and to encourage ongoing efforts to ensure their rights, advocate for their inclusion, and protect their dignity. Everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy social and cultural life without restrictions. We recognize the capabilities of individuals with disabilities and their determination to build their country, but the difficulties and challenges they face weaken their ability to do so.

The number of people with disabilities in Yemen has increased due to the war. According to recent estimates by the Humanitarian Coordination Office in Yemen, their number has reached 4.9 million individuals. [The International Organization for Persons with Disabilities](#) has indicated that this increase is directly linked to the war, particularly the injuries resulting from the use of explosive weapons (airstrikes, landmines, etc.), which often lead to amputations.

The plight of people with disabilities in Yemen has expanded due to the conflict. The displacement of over four million people has resulted in individuals with disabilities facing particularly harsh living conditions in camps, making them more susceptible to infectious diseases exacerbated by seasonal rains, floods, and the low level of sanitation and hygiene services. Additionally, they encounter barriers related to their financial resources and limited access to specialized education. Most displaced individuals with disabilities live in camps that do not consider the needs of persons with disabilities, adversely affecting their access to services. Women and girls with disabilities among the displaced face significant difficulties in accessing basic services such as water, sanitation,



healthcare, and education. [Studies](#) have confirmed that displaced women with disabilities are subjected to varying degrees of violence, including physical, verbal, and psychological abuse.

One of the gravest challenges for persons with disabilities during the conflict is the significant drop in educational enrollment, with dozens of their dedicated schools shutting down. This disproportionately affects their integration efforts, restricting their opportunities and diminishing their chances for effective participation in society. [Reports](#) indicate that 58 out of 60 schools dedicated to the education of persons with disabilities in Sana'a have ceased operations due to the conflict, with only two continuing to educate. In Taiz, [the Director of the Disability Fund](#) stated that prior to the war, the number of students with disabilities in schools reached 1,200, but this number has now dropped to 350. Similarly, university and institute students previously numbering 400 have declined to 135, and the number of associations and institutions working to support persons with disabilities in Taiz has diminished from 17 to 7.

Funding operations that many students and patients relied upon from the Disability Care Fund have decreased sharply due to a significant drop in its revenues. This decline has been observed in both [Sana'a](#), where companies and official institutions have not fulfilled their responsibilities to the fund, and in [Aden](#), where the Yemeni government, as a signatory to the "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities," has not met its obligations to provide essential support, including critical financial allocations for persons with disabilities and the organizations that serve them. The government must do everything in its power to facilitate the work of humanitarian bodies and organizations, improving cooperation to ensure that aid programs include persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups, without discrimination against them. We emphasize the need for more inclusive policies that meet the needs of this group and work to remove the barriers that hinder their effective participation in society and in political efforts related to peace negotiations in Yemen. Together, let us build a society that embraces diversity and values everyone, recognizing that disability is not an obstacle to ambition and creativity, but rather a challenge that can be overcome with awareness and perseverance. Many significant challenges obstruct the path of persons with disabilities, whether regarding access to inclusive education, equal employment opportunities, appropriate healthcare services, or accessible public facilities. Therefore, on this day, we reaffirm the necessity for dedicated efforts to change this reality.

Recommendations:

-Support the Disabled Care and Rehabilitation Fund in Aden and Sana'a with all necessary resources to enable it to provide services to all persons with disabilities.



-The Yemeni government and the Ansar Allah (Houthis) should resume the operation of all schools, physical therapy centers, and organizations dedicated to persons with disabilities, providing them with necessary financial resources and operational tools.

-Provide equal opportunities in higher education, scholarships, employment, and healthcare, empowering persons with disabilities to achieve their potential and participate fully in society without discrimination.

- Empower persons with disabilities to make decisions that affect their lives, and ensure they are a fundamental part of shaping policies and programs directed at them.

- Implement appropriate measures and policies that guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure the provision of inclusive environments, whether in public facilities, educational institutions, or workplaces.

- Expand community awareness programs across all media platforms and public institutions aimed at changing prevailing concepts about disability, promoting values of respect and equality, and highlighting the contributions and value of persons with disabilities.

- Establishing an independent accountability mechanism is essential for Yemen to achieve justice and ensure accountability for those responsible for human rights violations.

- Empower local human rights organizations in Yemen to effectively respond to the specific needs of marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities. Encourage humanitarian organizations and agencies to better integrate the rights of persons with disabilities into humanitarian processes and employment.

- Urge the Yemeni government to review national legislation and adopt a more rights-based approach in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to amend discriminatory laws, particularly in labor law.

- Call on the Security Council to ensure that decisions related to Yemen highlight the status of persons with disabilities and request regular updates and enhanced monitoring measures in line with Resolution 2475.

Justice4Yemenn pact coalition

- 1- SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties.
- 2- The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV)
- 3- Watch for Human Rights.
- 4- Abductees' Mothers Association (AMA) .



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5-Al-Amal Women's and Sociocultural Foundation (AWS) .

6- Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children (CSWC) .

7- Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism .

8- Marib Dam Foundation for Social Development (MDF) .

9- Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC) .

10 - Musaala Organization.