 

**Symposium on Inclusive Education in Zambia 2018**

**Theme: “Building capacity for Inclusive Education Practice”**

**Terms of Reference**

Disability Rights Watch (DRW) has been advocating, with many other organisations, for the development of a new National Policy on Education which is guided by Inclusive Education principles, especially for the purpose of fully and effectively including learners with disabilities in the general education system. This has been in line of the recognition of Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and other international standards and instruments. From this year going forward, DRW has included the recognition of Sustainable Development Goal No. 4 (quality Inclusive Education ((IE)) and the General Comment No. 4 on Inclusive Education among its reference documents.

Disability Rights Watch recognises that there are many players in the field of IE in Zambia and has partnered with the Norwegian Disability Consortium to co-host the third Inclusive Education Symposium. In response to the feedback from the last IE symposium the partners have resolved to extend the symposium to two days to allow for comprehensive discussion among stakeholders.

Although DRW focuses on children with disabilities, the organisation recognizes the fact that the goal of IE is to reach out to ALL marginalized groups among them orphaned and vulnerable children, street children, ill and the girl child. Concerted efforts towards harmonising and improving the delivery on IE practice and policy is therefore important if the goal of IE is to be realized. Thus it is important to bring together those working on IE to share experiences, hold open and honest discussions and seek to influence the strengthening of policy and legislative measures to facilitate effective inclusive education.

The 2018 symposium will seek to draw in sharing of practice from pilot sites such as the Norwegian Disability Consortium supported programme in three districts of Southern Province. It will also share practices from the ZAPD IE Pilot in Luapula and Leonard Cheshire Disability in Eastern and Southern Provinces.

**Background to the 2018 Symposium on Inclusive Education**

Disability Rights Watch engages community volunteers and paralegal caseworkers working within the partner DPOs and CBR communities. The partner DPOs identified IE as an advocacy theme in the past two years extending to the year 2017. In view of this, DRW has been actively involved sensitizing the partners on inclusive education. Some of the partners have gone further to engage DRW to train youths with disabilities on IE and strategic advocacy. The ultimate position of the partners has been that, there is need to develop a National Policy on Education that reflects the IE principles correctly. But there have been some differences in nomenclature, principle and strategy towards IE when it comes to policy planning and development. DRW and its partners found it prudent to call like-minded stakeholders to clarify IE and have a united voice towards the development of a policy that reflects IE principles.

This process has been ongoing since 2016 and the symposium as a platform has been growing and each year focuses on a critical area of focus. Stakeholders in 2018 felt there was need to focus on issues of capacity to deliver Inclusive Education.

**Goal**

The goal of the symposium is to contribute towards the development of a National Policy on Education that reflects IE principles. Such principles should also be clarified in the Seventh Development Plan (7NDP) for the purpose of sustainable budgeting towards meeting quality IE.

**Theme**

*“Building capacity for inclusive education practice – every child counts”*

**Objectives**

* + - To raise public and stakeholder awareness on inclusive education principles and application.
		- Build momentum for scale – up of Inclusive Education pilots by government by documenting best practices through the symposium platform.
		- Identify and analyse capacity gaps for the effective delivery of inclusive education and develop a set of recommendations for action by the state and stakeholders.
		- Assess the effectiveness of current advocacy efforts for supportive inclusive education policy and legal framework and financing for I.E.

**Outputs of the Symposium**

1. Inclusive education policy briefs. A couple of professional briefs will be published and shared with government and stakeholders arising from key issues identified by the symposium.
2. Documentation of papers in a symposium annual book which will among other things outline the current situation of IE in Zambia with clear recommendations around nomenclature, principles, strategies and implementation focus of IE. The book will come with a DVD of the video clips demonstrating inclusive education in action filmed from Southern Province.
3. Reviewed advocacy strategy and joint action plan with clear roles for key stakeholders to influence government policy and implementation of key government instruments such as the National Development Plan and Education Policy for IE for all learners.

**Date of the Symposium**

The dates for the symposium are Thursday 29th November, 2018 and Friday 30th November in Lusaka at the Cresta Golfview Hotel.

**Participants**

The participants of the symposium will be drawn from DRW partners directly involved in IE advocacy; DRW Southern Province Paralegals; Leonard Cheshire Disability IE programme in Livingstone; Zambia Agency for Persons With Disabilities Inclusive Education pilot programme in Mansa, University of Zambia; Ministry of General Education (Hq, Southern Province IE Coordinator, IE Coordinators from Kazungula, Zimba and Livingstone); Zambia Federation of Disability Organisations IE Coordinator (Kazungula). Special invitation will be made to the Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled for Botswana. Special invitation will also be made to the Norwegian Disability Consortium both at Norway and Zambia level. ILO and UNICEF will also be invited.

**Strategic advocacy approaches towards IE national plans and policies.**

Subject experts including Duncan Little of Enabling Education Network (EENET), who is currently working with the NDC’s CBR Programme to develop a training of trainers’ manual on Inclusive Education, representatives of the British Council who have attended inclusive education conferences in Dubai and South Africa will speak at the symposium in addition to other speakers to be identified by the team through this call.

The papers will cover appropriate terminologies and definitions to be used in inclusive education, appropriate principles, and illustrations of successes, challenges, and recommendations for success.

A call for papers is therefore made from a targeted team of experts and implementers. This call is deliberately targeted to a particular group of selected experts and implementers because the symposium is an advocacy oriented one.

**Deadline for Abstracts**

The deadline for paper submissions is 9th November, 2018. Please send papers to opportunityzambia2@yahoo.com and bruce@disabilityrightswatch.net For clarifications and comments please call Bruce on +260977579205

**About Disability Rights Watch**

Disability Rights Watch is a duly registered Disability Service Organisation with the Patents and Company Registration Authority as a company by guarantee and the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities. It is specialized in capacity building of organisations of and for persons with disabilities in the field of strategic advocacy, including strategic litigation; human rights with emphasis on the UNCRPD; resource mobilization and organisation development with emphasis on strategic management.

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