



**Advocating for Rights &
Promoting Abilities of
People with Disabilities
since 1999**

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MEDIA RELEASE

Nelly Caleb addresses UN on discrimination against women in Vanuatu

Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association Coordinator Nelly Caleb will address an international meeting in Switzerland on how women with disability in Vanuatu are facing major discrimination.

Ms Caleb has been invited to make a three-minute address to a United Nations working group debating the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) from February 22 to 25.

Last year DPA made a submission to the pre-session working group, saying that a prejudicial community attitude was the biggest obstacle faced by women and girls with disability in Vanuatu.

Ms Caleb says that it's an opportunity for women and girls with disability in Vanuatu to be heard by a large international audience at the meeting in Geneva.

"It's very important that DPA highlights these issues to the United Nations so we can work together towards our vision for an all-inclusive barrier free and right based society in Vanuatu," Mrs Caleb said.

The submission highlights the four main issues facing women and girls with disability:

- Access to justice
- Stereotypes and cultural practices
- Violence against women
- Education/health /employment

"Girls and women with disability often face problems at home but find it difficult to report because justice is not accessible to them.

"Women and girls with disabilities were not part of the in-depth discussion of the cyclone Pam disaster assessment or in the disaster's preparedness, response and recovery; and as a result their rights and interests were ignored.

"Chances for revenue and opportunities for income generation are very limited.

"Less educational opportunities, poor income opportunities due to attitudes and accessibility which excludes them from earning money.

"DPA advocated for women and girls with disability to be inserted in the Vanuatu draft gender policy but little has mention..

"DPA urges the Vanuatu Government and Department of Women's Affairs to establish a budget specifically for the inclusion of women and girls with disability."

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