



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

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Date: 18 October 2016**

Press Release

DPA joins the International Disability Alliance in calling for gender balance

The DPA joins with the International Disability Alliance in calling for gender balance on all UN Committees following news from 1 January 2017 only 1 out of the 17 members of the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a woman.

“This cannot hope to represent the lived experience of people with disability,” IDA Board member and DPA Coordinator Nelly Caleb said.

“The Committee now stands as the treaty body with the fewest number of women members, and could represent the worst example of gender parity in treaty body history.”

This is particularly troubling as non-discrimination and equality between men and women are enshrined as general principles within the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

There is a specific provision concerning women with disabilities which calls on States Parties “to take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Convention.”

Further, the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals seek to realise the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (Goal 5)

“In the DPA vision for 2013-2017, our first fundamental principle is that the life of a person with a disability has equal value to, and shall be accorded the same rights, dignity and respect as that of a person without an obvious disability.

”Our second principle is that we believe in the equal rights of men and women and that people with disabilities have equal rights as all other citizens of Vanuatu, and that these rights must be protected and promoted.”

The IDA is encouraging all concerned people and organisations to sign the call for action on their website, <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/>.

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