



COSP 17 statement by TRIUMPH-Uganda at Civil Society Forum

Session 3 - COSP theme 3: Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities to decent work and sustainable livelihood.

For everyone, with or without disability, work and livelihood are of paramount importance to ensure living independently in the community, on an equal basis with others.

The presence of discriminatory laws and policies impose restrictions on persons with psychosocial disabilities to access equal opportunities for work and livelihood. Owing to these barriers, persons with psychosocial disabilities face higher unemployment rates, are pushed into poverty, have low or no financial stability and limited career advancements in various avenues.

State Parties should repeal all discriminatory laws and policies and harmonize laws with the CRPD. There should be a focus on building capacity of all stakeholders on the CRPD, rights of persons with disabilities and inclusive employment.

State Parties should also work on making financial support available for persons with disabilities to support them in self-employment or setting up of their own business. State Parties should also invest in opportunities for skill development. Reasonable accommodation is not optional and should be enforced

While ensuring the right to work and employment is accessible for persons with psychosocial disabilities, there needs to be an emphasis on community support systems by actively engaging communities and families, stronger community networks, strengthening peer support networks and informal support systems. Once the family and community are also mobilized and made aware, only then access to the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities becomes possible.