

assumed that a disability in itself includes any other disability.



D. Appropriate Terminology for Persons with Disabilities

General terms should be used when referring to persons with disabilities. The terms "person with a disability" and "disability" are acceptable to all types of disability. However, if disability needs to be elaborated in more detail, then general terms for specific disabilities should be used. The following list presents a summary of some disabilities, and how we should refer to them in the media.

Proper general term	Wrong general terms
Person with disability	Person with special needs Person with defects Invalid Handicapped
Proper specific terms	Wrong specific terms
Blind Person with sight	Eyeless Gaman
Deaf Hard-of-hearing	Deaf- mute
Person of short stature	Dwarf, Shorty, Midget
Proper specific terms	Wrong specific terms
Person with physical disability	Paralysed/paralytic Crippled Handicap Invalid Hunchbacked Heavy –handed
Person with Down Syndrome	Mongoloid, Person with mental impairment
Person with Autism	Person with autism disease Mentally underdeveloped person
Person with intellectual disability	Insane Late development Crazy Idiot Retarded With mental impairment
Person with psychosocial disability	Schizophren Psychopath Crazy



THE PROPER TERMINOLOGY AND APPROACH TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

DISABILITY AND THE PROPER APPROACH

A. Definition based on the Convention and Kosovo Legislation

Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) provides the following definition for persons with disabilities:

"Persons with disabilities are those individuals with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society in the same way as the rest of society."


The term persons with disabilities is used in the Constitution of Kosovo, and is emphasized in the principles of equality and discrimination.


The legislation in force in Kosovo provides the following definition: "Disability is the limitation of access and ordinary activities in the daily life of a person, as a result of physical, sensory or mental impairments that prevent him/her from participating in ordinary daily activities."


There are different approaches which reflect society's attitudes towards people with disabilities, and in some cases more than one model can be used at the same time.


B. Models of approach toward disability

Below are some brief descriptions of the different models that can be noticed in society:

 **Charity model** - when it is believed that persons with disabilities are constantly seeking help and are not able to become full participants in society. Within this model, they are seen as pitiful.

 **Medical model** - when persons with disabilities are treated as if their disability is the cause of any barrier. In this model, persons with disabilities are encouraged to adapt to barriers and the environment, rather than working towards a general approach.

 **Social model** - When disability is defined as a consequence of a person's interaction with his /her environment. This model, although more advanced and more receptive to disability than previous models, is highly focused on the external environment rather than the individual.

 **Rights-based model** - here, the emphasis falls from dependence to empowerment. Persons with disabilities have the same basic human rights as all citizens, and the government must guarantee these rights and be responsible for their protection.

C. Proper terminology and word formation when addressing persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities represent about 15% of the world's population today. However, this number is high, a very low one is represented in the media and society. Moreover, due to lack of proper information or in some cases due to the mentality, very often we refer to persons with disabilities using inappropriate terms, which can often be insulting. This trend also prevails in Kosovo. However, in the absence of a code, this leaflet, developed in cooperation with the organizations of persons with disabilities, shall serve as a guide for the use of appropriate terminology for persons with disabilities. Below are some general rules and principles, based on the publication of "Rules of Conduct for Persons with Disabilities" and in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities in Kosovo, which should be applied during word formation.

The main principle that should be followed when referring to persons with disabilities is that they enjoy the same rights as everyone else. This means that they do not want to be treated or described as "special". Disability does not define a person, but his/her personality and values define him/her. If the emphasis falls on disability, a "specialty" is created which as such creates inequality in society and puts people with disabilities in "special" positions. Persons with disabilities should be referred to as persons with full rights, not special ones. Expressions that create distinctions should never be used. The other principle to

be followed is that the disability is personal, and as such it can only be mentioned or elaborated with the consent of the person with a disability. When referring to a person with a disability, the term should be general and acceptable to him/her. The general accepted term is "Person with a disability". Terms such as "handicap", "paralytic", "invalid", "with special needs", or "late development" should be avoided. The only acceptable term for any reference is "disability".

If you are to refer to a disability of a person, use the language that puts the individual before the disability. For example, you could say "Person with a physical disability" or "Person with Down syndrome." Do not place the emphasis on the disability during word formation.

Furthermore, we should be careful with expressions that associate the individual with the disability. For example the preposition "with" is acceptable such as in cases like "Person with disabilities" or "Blind person". Terms such as "suffering from", "victim of", "ill with" and "limited by" should not be used. These terms add a negative and offensive nuance to disability and as such should be avoided. In some cases the term "affected by" may be used, but in most cases it has been replaced.

The term "Person with special needs" does not necessarily mean a person with a disability. Special need is defined as the circumstance where a person needs means or assistance to

achieve a certain goal. Part of such needs may be: children with difficulties in learning, the elderly, people who have suffered injuries, etc. Disability is something permanent or long-term, which may bring about circumstances for special needs, but is not necessarily related to it. Therefore, "Persons with special needs" should not be confused with "people with disabilities."

Persons with disabilities should not be categorized as a separate group. References should be individual or for specific groups (if it is acceptable for them to be defined as such a group). Disabilities should also not be categorized as a separate group. Each disability is individual, and a person may have one or more disabilities. However, it should not be