

WOMEN & DISABILITY

Women with disabilities are recognized to be multiply disadvantaged, experiencing exclusion on account of their gender and their disability.

-United Nations

- Women with disabilities make up 20% of the population of women in Australia – nearly **2 million** people.¹
- Literacy rates for women with disabilities globally may be as low as **1%**²
- Only **16%** of Australian women with disabilities are likely to have any secondary education, compared to 28% of men with disabilities.³
- Only **25%** of women with disabilities are in the global workforce.⁴
- Men with disabilities are **twice as likely** to be in paid employment as women with disabilities.⁵
- Open employment and disability employment services in Australia assist **twice as many** men with disabilities as they do women with disabilities.⁶
- 51% of women with a disability in Australia earn **less than \$200 per week** compared to 36% of men with a disability.⁷
- Disabled women generally have a disposable income **below 60%** of the median income for the country in which they live. ⁸
- Women with a disability are 37.3% **more likely** than women without disability to experience some form of intimate partner violence.⁹
- **19.7%** of women with a disability reported a history of unwanted sex compared to 8.2% of women without a disability.¹⁰

¹ Stop the Violence, *Facts and Figures* <http://www.stvp.org.au/stats.htm> Accessed on 12 March 2014

² United Nations, *Fact Sheet on Persons with Disabilities* <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=33&pid=18> accessed on 12 March 2014

³ Stop the Violence, *Facts and Figures* <http://www.stvp.org.au/stats.htm> Accessed on 12 March 2014

⁴ United Nations, *Fact Sheet on Persons with Disabilities* <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=33&pid=18> accessed on 12 March 2014

⁵ Stop the Violence, *Facts and Figures* <http://www.stvp.org.au/stats.htm> Accessed on 12 March 2014

⁶ Stop the Violence, *Facts and Figures* <http://www.stvp.org.au/stats.htm> Accessed on 12 March 2014

⁷ Stop the Violence, *Facts and Figures* <http://www.stvp.org.au/stats.htm> Accessed on 12 March 2014

⁸ European Union, *Men and Women with Disabilities in the EU* http://www.edac.eu/indicators_desc.cfm?v_id=163. Accessed on 11 March 2014.

⁹ Stop the Violence, *Facts and Figures* <http://www.stvp.org.au/stats.htm> Accessed on 12 March 2014

¹⁰ Stop the Violence, *Facts and Figures* <http://www.stvp.org.au/stats.htm> Accessed on 12 March 2014

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- Disabled women and girls are often at **greater risk**, both within and outside the home, of violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation.¹¹
- Women with disabilities experience a **wide range of violence** by personal attendants (emotional, physical and sexual abuse) and by health care providers (emotional and sexual abuse), as well as higher rates of emotional abuse both by strangers and other family members than non-disabled women.¹²
- An alarming number of women and girls with disabilities have been, and continue to be, victims of **forced sterilization**.¹³
- Forced sterilization is an act of violence, a form of social control, and a **violation of the right to be free from torture** and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments or punishments.¹⁴
- The global mortality rate among females with disabilities is much higher than that of males.¹⁵
- Only 4 in 10 Australians are aware of the greater risk of violence experienced by women with disabilities.¹⁶

¹¹ United Nations, *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (2006) <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml> Accessed on 11 March 2014.

¹² International Network of Women with Disabilities, *Document on Violence Against Women with Disabilities* 2010, <http://www.asocias.org/violencia/index.html> Accessed on 11 March 2014.

¹³ Human Rights Watch, *Sterilization of Women and Girls with Disabilities: A Briefing Paper* (November 10, 2011) <http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/11/10/sterilization-women-and-girls-disabilities> Accessed on 11 March 2014.

¹⁴ Human Rights Watch, *Sterilization of Women and Girls with Disabilities: A Briefing Paper* (November 10, 2011) <http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/11/10/sterilization-women-and-girls-disabilities> Accessed on 11 March 2014.

¹⁵ <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=33&pid=18> accessed on 12 March 2014

¹⁶ <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/2013-national-community-attitudes-towards-violence-against-women-survey>