

Beijing+25: Influencing priorities & opportunities for engagement

presented by

Bonnie Brayton
DAWN Canada



CCIC

Summit on Canada's Global Leadership
November 27th, 2019



About DAWN Canada

Our Mission

Our mission is to end the poverty, isolation, discrimination and violence experienced by Canadian women with disabilities and Deaf women.

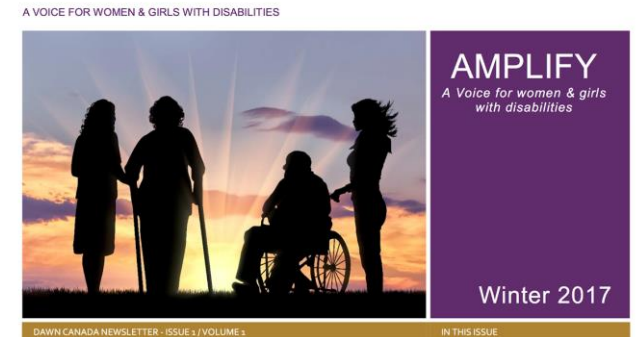
For nearly 35 years, DAWN Canada has worked towards the advancement and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities and Deaf women and girls to address these issues and advocate for change at a systemic level.



About DAWN Canada

How we work

- Grounded in the lived experiences of women with disabilities and Deaf women, using an evidence-based and life-course approach, DAWN Canada works to create change at a systemic level.
- We amplify the voices of women with disabilities and Deaf women by ensuring that our voices are represented at decision-making tables.
- We work to increase the capacity of women with disabilities and Deaf women in their communities in identifying and articulating their needs and leading the change they want to see.



Tackling systemic barriers is about collective responsibility and leadership

By Bonnie Brayton, National Executive Director

This first issue of AMPLIFY is about recognizing the systemic barriers faced by women with disabilities and what those gaps mean to women who are already experiencing violence at the highest rates. With the close of the 16 Days Campaign for 2016 behind us DAWN Canada is bent on keeping policy makers and service providers focused on one thing in 2017 – a better response for women and girls with disabilities.

Canada's record on human rights, particularly reports/findings that have been released this past year all have one common thread: each of them points to the fact that women and girls with disabilities, including Indigenous women and girls have been

completely forgotten. This is evident in the Recommendation of the United Nations Committee for the Covenant on Economic and Social Rights (CESR), the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Canada's pending appearance in March 2017 in Geneva before the United Nations Committee for the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD). How much more evidence do we need to do better? DAWN Canada is determined to AMPLIFY our message until we see real change and that will only happen when there is a sense of collective responsibility towards ALL women. (continued on page 2)



Anti-violence policies exclude women with disabilities Page 3



DAWN News Page 2

About DAWN Canada

How we work

RESEARCH

We work with community-based researchers and academic partners to shift the discussion around how research and community development can and should be done using an intersectional approach.

EDUCATION

We work with partners, sharing research in order to develop curriculum and tools to deepen knowledge and skill in the practice of intersectionality and inclusion to a range of stakeholders.

POLICY

We continue to challenge and engage policy-makers in the review and development of policies so that they are informed by community-defined needs.

ADVOCACY

We are committed to ensuring that the voices of women and girls with disabilities and Deaf women and girls are represented at decision-making tables in the areas that matter to us most.



Intersectionality

Disability is the one intersection that all women in Canada may experience at some point in their lives.

It goes beyond race, class, sexual orientation or geography.



Intersectionality

There is no such thing as neutrality. If you have privilege, you can never be neutral, because you are constantly benefiting off of that privilege—even at the same time as you are also being oppressed. That is what “intersectionality” (for lack of a better word) is about.

Mia Mingus, February 25, 2012



A photograph of two women sitting at a table, smiling and talking. The woman on the left has curly hair and glasses, and the woman on the right has short hair. They are both holding white mugs. The background is a brick wall. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

**The risk of women with disabilities
experiencing **violence** increases if they are
young,
racialized,
Indigenous,
LGBTQI2S,
immigrants,
migrant workers, non-status migrants, or
those who live rurally.**

Intersectionality

What happens when you have overlapping identities?

Women with disabilities who experience violence as children are almost **two times as likely** as those who had not experienced physical abuse to be victimized in the last 12 months.

In general, women with disabilities who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual **experience 2.3 times higher rates of violence** than among heterosexual women with disabilities.

Women who experience mental health related disabilities and those with cognitive disabilities experience **disproportionately high rates** of sexual assault.



Photo: [Disabled and Here](#)



We are not a +

GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS (GBA+)

The Government of Canada has committed to using GBA+ in the development of policies, programs and legislation across all departments.



We are not a





24%
of women in
Canada have
a disability

**Is it really
24%??**



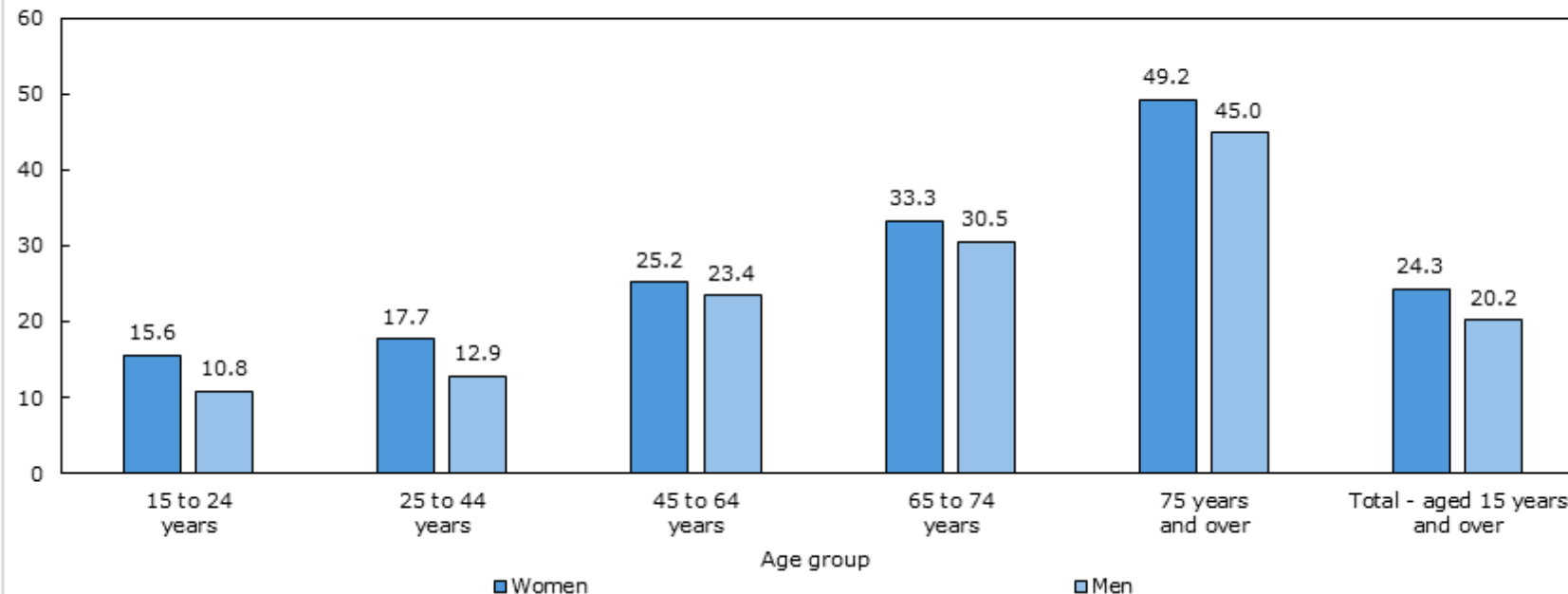
According to Statistics Canada,

24% of women in Canada live with a disability.

Chart 1

Canadian population aged 15 years and over with a disability, by age group and sex, 2017

percent



Note: Differences between women and men are significantly different for all age groups ($p < 0.05$).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017.



How does that
break down by
type of
disability?



Table 3

Canadian population aged 15 years and over with a disability, by disability type and sex, 2017

Disability type	Both		Women		Men	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Total population - aged 15 years and over	28,008,860	100.0	14,345,330	100.0	13,663,530	100.0
Pain-related*	4,062,000	14.5	2,374,230	16.6	1,687,770	12.4
Flexibility*	2,795,110	10.0	1,568,970	10.9	1,226,140	9.0
Mobility*	2,676,370	9.6	1,601,010	11.2	1,075,350	7.9
Mental health-related*	2,027,370	7.2	1,272,490	8.9	754,880	5.5
Seeing*	1,519,840	5.4	903,040	6.3	616,800	4.5
Hearing*	1,334,520	4.8	619,360	4.3	715,160	5.2
Dexterity*	1,275,610	4.6	784,120	5.5	491,490	3.6
Learning	1,105,680	3.9	560,970	3.9	544,700	4.0
Memory*	1,050,840	3.8	575,760	4.0	475,080	3.5
Developmental*	315,470	1.1	123,310	0.9	192,160	1.4
Unknown	155,810	0.6	75,150	0.5	80,660	0.6

* significantly different between women and men at $p < .05$

Note: The sum of the values for each category may differ from the total due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017.

More Than A Footnote

24% is just a baseline...

Released in 2018, DAWN Canada's report *More Than A Footnote: A Research Report on Women and Girls with Disabilities in Canada* examines in depth long-standing issues women and girls with disabilities face – social exclusion, high rates of violence, poverty and, homelessness, barriers to education and employment and lack of accessible services.



More Than A Footnote

Some underserved population are not even included in the data

Through this research DAWN Canada has intentionally identified and examined populations that are under the radar in terms of quantifying and identifying 'who are women and girls with disabilities in Canada' including

- **brain injured women,**
- **women living with episodic and chronic illnesses or pain,**
and
- **women with intellectual and learning disabilities,**

many of whom live a lifetime of un-named stigma and discrimination.

**MORE THAN A
FOOTNOTE**
*A Research Report on Women and Girls
with Disabilities in Canada*

**PLUS QU'UNE NOTE
DE BAS DE PAGE**
*Rapport de recherche sur les femmes
et les filles en situation de handicap
au Canada*



More than half of all discrimination complaints in Canada are made on the grounds of disability

According to the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) 2017 Annual Report, 59% of human rights complaints are on the grounds of disability.¹

64% of these complaints are employment-related.²



1,2 The Canadian Human Rights Commission (2017) People First: 2017 Annual Report to Parliament. Available [here](#).

Accessible Canada Act

The Accessible Canada Act became law in June 2019

The Accessible Canada Act is the beginning of developing a system-level approach.

Through this legislation, there will be new legal requirements for advancing accessibility in federal employment, the built environment, transportation, procurement of goods, services and facilities, information and communication technologies, communication, and the design and delivery of programs and services.

It is historic not only for its focus on disability rights but also for its recognition of the intersectional nature of discrimination.



A first in law: recognizing intersectional discrimination

DAWN Canada is particularly glad to note that the [amendments](#) to the bill made by the Senate respond thoughtfully to gender, sexual orientation, and race (particularly black and Indigenous) referencing the specific marginalization(s) that create additional barriers for some Canadians with disabilities more than others.



“Laws, policies, programs, services and structures must take into account disability and the multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination faced by persons with disabilities,” reads the amendment on intersectionality.



Beijing +25

Why we need this report

Lack of an intersectional approach in the process and preparation of civil society reports on Beijing+25

Civil society reports fail to reflect the lived experiences not only of women with disabilities but many women whose experiences of discrimination, marginalization and oppression are influenced by multiple identity and social factors.

This process also fails to recognize that without the relentless advocacy and labour of women with disabilities, much gender-based analysis would continue without the critical inclusion of our experiences.



Beijing +25

*“We must **disrupt** the whole of this process with a **serious discussion** about how intersectional human rights needs to be the standard in feminist solidarity and reporting.”**



* DAWN Canada (2019) Executive Summary-DAWN Canada Beijing +25 report



DAWN Canada
DisAbleD Women's Network
Réseau d'action des femmes handicapées

469, rue Jean Talon Ouest, #215 Montréal, QC H3N 1R4

www.dawncanada.net

sans frais / toll free: 1-866-396-0074

Beijing +25 Report: Executive Summary

Prepared by Dr. Jihan Abbas and Sonia Alimi

November 2019



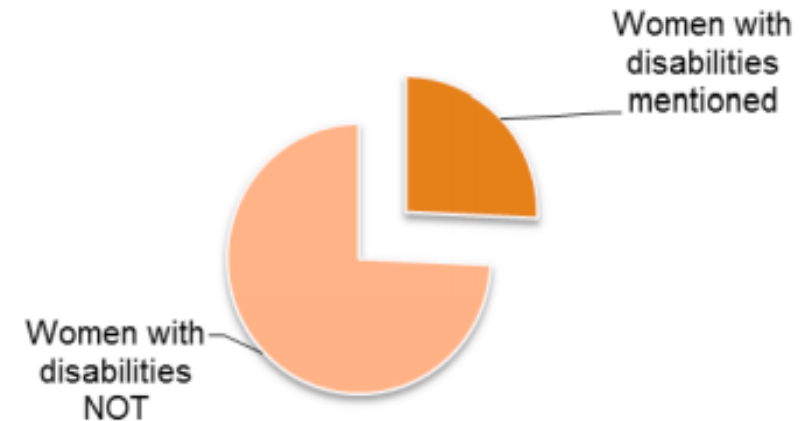
African women with disabilities

Inclusion of women with disabilities in national gender policies in Africa in 2019: Women with disabilities are tremendously ignored!

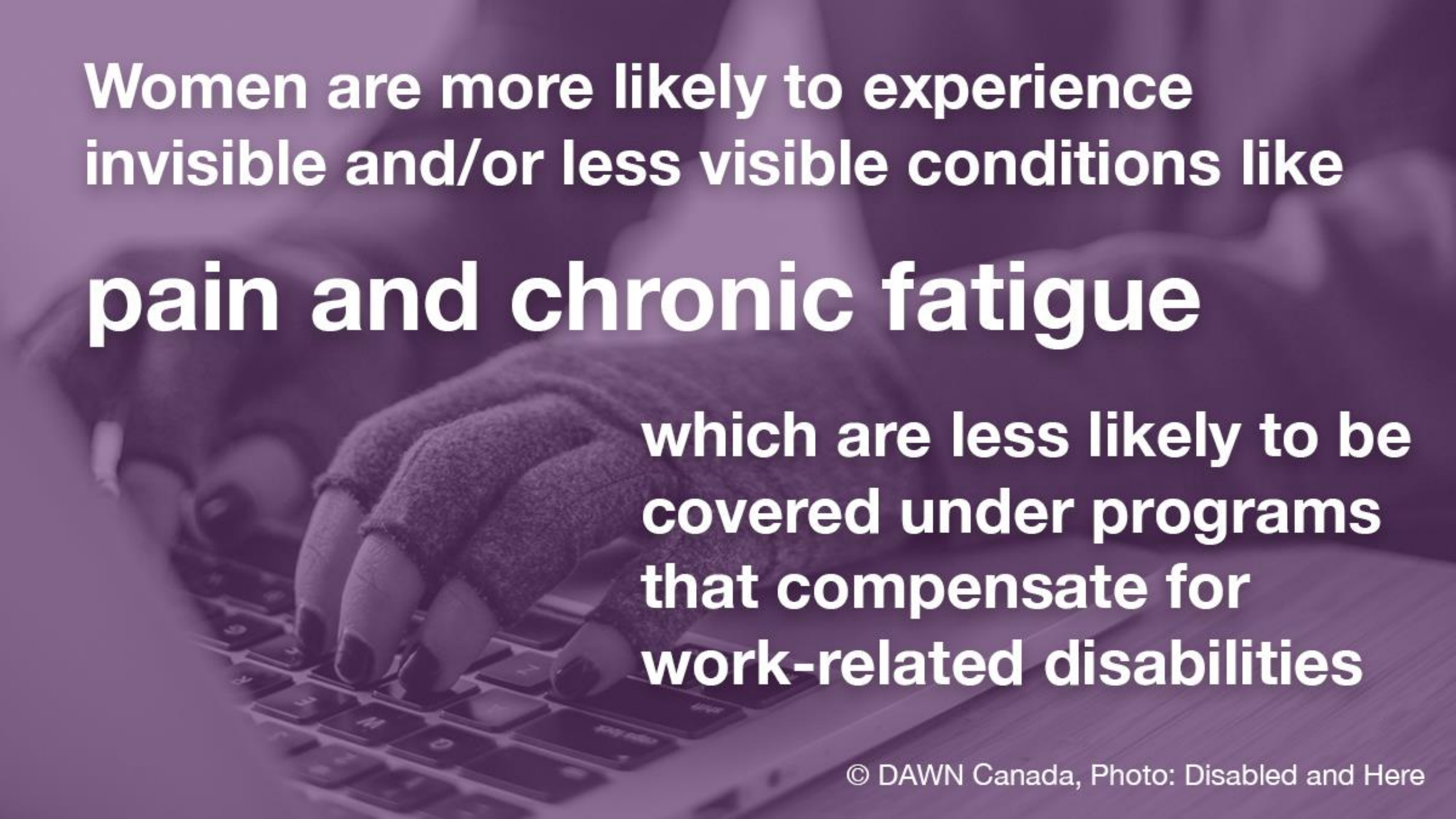
Over 54 African countries, there are 48 countries equipped with a national gender equality policy or strategy and among them 38 for which the text is available online.

Among the 38 national Gender Equality Strategies and policies we have been studying, only 11 mention women with disabilities.*

Inclusion of Women with disabilities in Gender Equality Strategies and Plans



* Spotlight on the inclusion of women with disabilities in gender equality policies in Africa

A person wearing a grey fingerless glove is typing on a laptop keyboard. The background is a blurred image of the same person's hands and the laptop, with a purple overlay.

**Women are more likely to experience
invisible and/or less visible conditions like
pain and chronic fatigue**

**which are less likely to be
covered under programs
that compensate for
work-related disabilities**

Employment

Chronic and episodic disabilities

82.4% of the adult population aged 18 to 64 years with disabilities in Canada were classified as having an episodic disability.¹

Employers require ongoing supports in order to be able to understand episodic disabilities and accommodate workers appropriately including training, toolkits and access to resource networks. ²

¹ based on an analysis of the 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability by Furrie et al.

² More Than A Footnote: A Research Report on Women and Girls with Disabilities in Canada. 2018. DAWN Canada. Appendix 5: Episodic Disabilities Information by Wendy Porch from Realize



Employment

Women with disabilities and employment

44.5% of women with disabilities report feeling disadvantaged in their employment because of their disability

12.6% of women with disabilities have been refused a job in the last 5 years because of their disability.¹

¹ Burlock, A. (2017) Women with Disabilities. Women in Canada: a Gender Based Statistical Report. Statistics Canada. Available [here](#).



A photograph of two women sitting at a wooden table in a room with a brick wall. The woman on the left has curly hair and is wearing a dark top. The woman on the right is wearing a patterned sweater. They are both smiling and looking at each other. There are some items on the table, including a small potted plant and some containers. The image has a purple tint.

Women with disabilities report that they have limited options in terms of **contraceptives**, as practitioners are surprised that they are **sexually active** and fail to ask about contraception and **STIs**.

Women with disabilities and access to health

Access to health is a pressing concern for women with disabilities, not only because of physical barriers but also because of significant attitudinal barriers rooted in ableism and a devaluing of disabled bodies.

Discrimination in healthcare settings continues to prevent women with disabilities from having their health needs adequately met. These can include forms of pressure and neglect among healthcare providers including:

- Minimizing or ignoring reports of pain;
- Not providing adequate time for communication needs;
- Providing only limited treatment options
- And, pushing patients beyond their physical limits*.

*Ann Curry, D. N., & Navarro, F. (2002). Responding to abuse against women with disabilities: Broadening the definition of domestic violence. In *End Abuse Health Alert*. Available at: https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/HealthCare/responding_to_abuse.pdf



A person with short dark hair and glasses is sitting in a hospital bed, wearing a patterned hospital gown. They are holding a white disposable coffee cup with both hands. The background is a plain wall with some medical equipment visible. The entire image has a purple tint.

32% of people
with disabilities report facing
physical barriers when
accessing **healthcare**
facilities. Since women with
multiple chronic
conditions are higher
users of primary care, these
barriers impact them at
higher rates.

Health ethics

Canada's Medical Assistance in Dying Act

The act itself is in violation of Canada's obligations where disability and right to life are concerned :

- Girls and women with disabilities, because of the nature of their disability, may be more vulnerable
- Pressure on women with disabilities to access assisted dying so they are not "burdens" for their families.

This Act fails to account for these real reasons many women with disabilities may seek out assisted dying which include :

- A lack of access to needed services and supports (suicide prevention, addictions treatment, trauma-informed services etc.)
- Because disability still remains deeply stigmatized

Gladu-Truchon decision in 2019

**MORE THAN A
FOOTNOTE**
*A Research Report on Women and Girls
with Disabilities in Canada*

**PLUS QU'UNE NOTE
DE BAS DE PAGE**
*Rapport de recherche sur les femmes
et les filles en situation de handicap
au Canada*



African women with disabilities

Women with disabilities in Africa are significantly more affected by HIV/AIDS than the general female population.

The vulnerability of women with disabilities to HIV is the result of the interaction between different factors external to individuals, such as poverty, gender-based violence or restrictions on access to services.

HIV prevalence in Women	Burkina Faso	Guinea Bissau	Cap Vert	Niger
Women in general Source: Spectrum data in the 4 countries ²⁶	1.1%	4.1%	0.7%	0.3%
Women with disabilities Source: HI 2019 ²⁷	5.4%	8.8%	1.7%	0.4%



Media

"In a society driven by visual representations of narrow beauty standards, women with disabilities have been largely invisible as value is placed on bodies that most satisfy the socially constructed aesthetic, and because disabled bodies are culturally considered an aberration, they fall short and they are dismissed."

Kenya

"The representation of disability in the media is often through negative stereotypes. Women have historically been branded as 'hysterical' in mainstream portrayals, and even current portrayals of things like women who are bipolar tend to present women with disabilities without empathy and as dangerous."

US / Canada



How women's participation can be measured

One way in which women's participation can be measured is through their representation in positions of **Power and Decision Making**.

In Canada, a combination a combination of stigma and barriers have meant low numbers of those with known disabilities in political office.

The representation of **disability in the media** is another way to assess social norms related to disability.

However, the representation of disability in the media it is often through negative stereotypes.



*“DAWN calls on allied individuals and organizations to involve women and girls with disabilities and the organizations who represent them in all aspects of research, education, policy, and practice.”**



* DAWN Canada (2019) Executive Summary-DAWN Canada Beijing +25 report



AWWDI

@awwdinigeria

This was the collective traumatizing moment for us, women with disabilities attending the CSO #Beijing25Africa forum when one of us fell off the ramp from hell and rushed to Hosp with injuries #AU #CRPDNow @IDA_CRPD_Forum @MIW_CRPD @adf4africa



<https://twitter.com/awwdinigeria/status/1188720636186595328>





Webinar: Women with Disabilities and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)

• Hosted by APWLD & APWWDU • 26 June 2019

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-y96RP4_Kk



Contact us

Our contact information

Web: www.dawncanada.net

Twitter: @dawnrafhcanada

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dawnrafhcanada

Email: admin@dawncanada.net

Tel: 514-396-0009

