# EDF Women’s Committee meeting Annex 2

## Concept notes for EDF 3rd Manifesto on the Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities in the European Union

### Background information

During the past ten years, since the adoption of [the 2nd manifesto on the rights of women and girls with disabilities by the European Disability Forum](http://www.edf-feph.org/content/uploads/2020/12/final_manifesto_en.docx) in May 2011, the world has been confronted with some grand humanitarian challenges, including the Covid 19 pandemic and the impacts of climate change acceleration. What women and girls with disabilities can provide to protect their right to health as well as the other rights, could be primarily fulfilled through the empowerment and leadership abilities. In other words, women with disabilities, not as victims of crises, but in the garb of leaders and change-makers, could advocate for their rights and to address their needs in society.

By using all lessons learnt from the aforementioned challenges, this is the time to bring the experiences of women and girls with disabilities to the action. It is clear that successful leadership for women with disabilities can benefit quality education, proactive businesses, and impactful and inclusive public policy-making.

For the purpose of the current document, the term leadership is not limited to the technical meaning of undertaking official leading positions. It is a milestone which lets everybody lead their lives in a satisfactory manner. Women and girls with disabilities, as students, mothers, employees, and in general, as members of societies, should be able to lead their affairs independently. In other words, this right must be recognized in all relative policy-making processes. Therefore, this is to consider different rights of women and girls with disabilities through the lens of leadership.

### Proposed outline

**Preface**

The preface which is written by a pioneer in the field

**Introduction**

* Bridge-building to the 2nd Manifesto (reaffirming the basic concepts of equality and awareness-raising) with reference to the CRPD, CEDAW and Sustainable Development Goals
* From empowerment to leadership: a crucial necessity for women with disabilities
* What would be the outcome of the current document (in light of the European elections)?
* What would be the Committtee’s expectations of the current document?
* For whom is this document?

**Chapter 1 - Recent humanitarian crises: the lessons learnt**

* How do the humanitarian crises amplify the necessity of empowerment and leadership for women with disabilities?
* Covid 19 as an example of health crisis
* Climate change acceleration as an example of environmental crises
* Increasing poverty as an example of economic crisis
* The war in Ukraine as an example of humanitarian crisis
* The lessons learnt
* Key recommendations

**Chapter 2 - Empowerment**

* Definition or framework of empowerment for women and girls with disabilities
* What is the current situation? Where are we now? is there any progress made in recent years in the EU?
* Elements of empowerment:
	+ accessibility
	+ inclusivity
	+ awareness-raising
	+ Equal recognition before the law/legal capacity
	+ Community based services/rehabilitation
	+ Education and vocational training
* Key recommendations

**Chapter 3 - Leadership**

* Definition and framework of leadership of women with disabilities in society
* What is the current situation? Where are we now? is there any progress made in recent years in the EU?
* Body autonomy and sexual and reproductive health (based on this reality that personal autonomy, is the grassroot for leading abilities in other fields.)
* Equal employment opportunities and decent work
* Active civil and political participation in decision-makings within society (individually and / or as OPDs)
* Key recommendations

**Concluding remarks**

### Proposed timeline

* June 9 - Sharing the proposal with women’s committee
* June 9-20 - Receiving remarks from Committee members
* June 21-22 - Assessing the comments and remarks
* June 23 - Presentation and discussion in the Committee meeting
* June 26 -30 - preparing final edition of the proposal
* July 2 - September 15 - drafting
* September 16-30 - Sharing the first draft with Women’s committee and EDF Board, and receiving remarks
* October 1-20 - Preparing final draft
* October 21 - Sending final draft to the Committee members and EDF Board
* October 21-November 30: Design of the manifesto and Easy to Read format
* December: Publication

### Survey on women with disabilities and mothers of persons with disabilities in Europe

The questionnaire on priorities of women with disabilities in Europe, which includes 22 questions for women with disabilities as well as mothers of children with disabilities, is one of the fundamental data sources for the EDF’s 3rd Manifesto. The [questionnaire](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=x493RNXEo061m9g8AYWbzhps9YmYthRAh5cyxvhyPdpUM05SUlZUVFE0S0haOFcyOFE2TDhDVUpDNiQlQCN0PWcu) has been widely disseminated among the target group all over Europe. From 15th of May to 15th of June, the recipients have been able to fill it out.

In this survey, the questions are designed in a way to collect some detailed and qualitative data on the priorities of women and girls with disabilities in Europe. Accessibility, healthcare services, employment, and political activity, are among the main titles of the survey. In addition, four descriptive questions have been defined on gender-based violence. While considering the sensitivity of the matter and the necessity for confidentiality, with a wide range of options below each question, the acquired data can be used as a reliable and accurate set of information. Among the features of the current questionnaire, is the possibility to collect disaggregated data by country of residence, age, and type of disability.

The focus points of the survey are in proper match with the content of the 3rd Manifesto. Therefore, to give the voice to the primacies of women and girls with disabilities, the document is referencing the existed challenges, on the basis of some genuine information.