



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 08 March 2025



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## Executive Summery

On Saturday, 8 March 2025, high organized event for International Women's Day is held. The event is part of many celebration events held in Somalia and in the world today by hundreds of people and agencies for non-government and government institutions in Somalia and in worldwide. In Mogadishu, the women and young girls with diverse impairments organized an event in the SDN office, attended by more than 20 persons, most of whom the females from the PWDs persons with disabilities young and adult age. As well as non-disabled females who are social workers, students, and professionals.

The event theme of this year was unique, which is different than many years in the past, "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality," which has equality rights in society.

### Objectives

- To organize International Women's Day in Somalia
- To invite women and girls with disabilities and other partners
- To raise discussion on the overall situation of women and girls with disabilities
- To Present Case Studies for the Women and Girls with Disabilities situation in the society
- To make recommendations to the stakeholders of the protection of women and girls in Somalia

### THE DEAF SOCIETY IN SOMALIA

The right side Mss. Samira Duale, the founder of Silent Horn Organization for the deaf and the primary school for the deaf students based in Mogadishu, left the side of Senator Samsam Abdul-lahi member of the 10th and 11th Parliaments of the Somali federal government. Mss. Samira is handing sing langue book for the Somalia curriculum.

### Key Speakers in the Event

The members who participated in the IWD 2025 made key speeches in the celebration, mostly actors representing the W&GWD Women and Girls with disabilities

Mr. Rahmao Sh Elmi member of SODWE, Somalia Organization for Disabled Women Empowerment.. Said. As women and girls with impairment in Somalia, life is really tough and challenging, which subjects them to great risk and problems. The Participating in social life is very hard for women and girls in Somalia. The right to education, health, protection, marriage, ownership of property, and participation of cluttered life in the society.

### The Discussion in the event Discussions

Women and girls with disabilities often face societal stigma and stereotypes that portray them as helpless, dependent, or incapable. These perceptions can lead to exclusion from social, educational, and economic opportunities.

### The Role of women and girls in ODPs

SDN stands to ensure the participation of the disabled women and girls in the meetings, workshops, and gatherings for their decisions and the program consultation internal the organization. SDN believes women and girls with disabilities are valuable assets to the disability inclusion in Somalia. Without them, nothing can be achieved on many occasions

### The Recommendations made in the event.

Addressing these challenges requires a holistic and intersectional approach, acknowledging the unique needs of women and girls with disabilities while advocating for equality, justice, and respect.



# **STOP GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DISABILITY.**

**They are Your Family Member Sister, wife, Mother and Grand Mother**

## Introduction

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In Mogadishu, the women and young girls with diverse impairments organized an event in the SDN office, attended by more than 20 persons, most of whom the females from the PWDs persons with disabilities young and adult age. As well as non-disabled females who are social workers, students, and professionals.

The event theme of this year was unique, which is different than many years in the past, "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality," which has equality rights in society. This shows that women and girls are still struggling for equality for all in the world. This also gives an opportunity the women and girls with diverse impairments in Somalia.

The participants of the IWD international women's day On Saturday 8 March 2025 in Mogadishu made discussions, debate and speech for the overall IWD story and backgrounds that pave way the emancipation of women in the world the last five decades of active engagement for advocacy and empowerment for the women participation in the decision makers of private and public sector instructions as the government organs and NGOs.

In Somalia, women account great number in the society compared to the males who are major dominated and make decisions in the country for the private and public sectors. Women are also working very hard to be visible among the decision makers of the above-mentioned institutions in the nations of the world. There are a number of women in the policy and legislative which shows there are factors that support the winners and factors limiting the disability females in the world and in Somalia.

The women and girls with disabilities in Somalia suffer an ordeal in culture culture-oriented society. Where they are subjected to disproportional human rights abuses and violations. Specifically exclusion of basic rights for human beings. The right of education, health care, employment, investment, and the participation of the decision-making stakeholders in the country. for the reason of limitations in the environmental and attitudinal discriminations

Women and girls with disability in Somalia should be granted space for the participation in that where they can have role for the decision making. The women and young girls with different impairments, the deaf, blind, and the physically disabled, are known as disabled in Somalia. There is another impairment that is invisible as disability in Somalia. These types of impairment are widely neglected, and they lead to problems in the backyards of their homes with the caregivers and their parents or husbands

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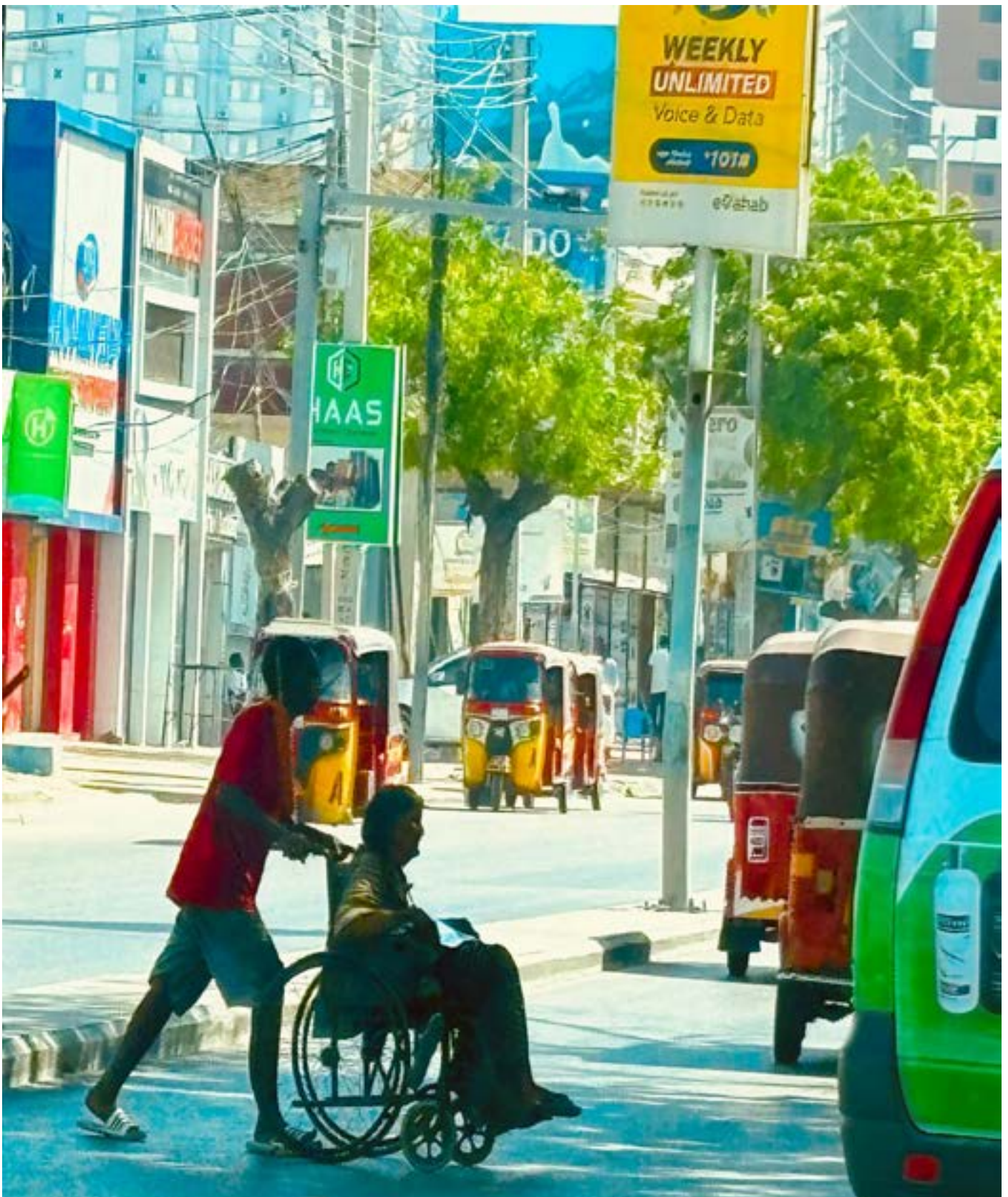
### THE DEAF SOCIETY IN SOMALIA

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Mrs. Samira is a Somali diaspora based UK London where she left the support of tens thousands of children without schools and she has opened two schools in Mogadishu with the cooperation of deaf team members in the Silent Horn organization based UK.

Mrs. Samira says. I wonder why deaf people have nor rights in Somalia. They are not part of the disability or the non-disability. Because the national disability agency established 2021 the council without a member of the deaf representation, she has been advocating inclusion n deaf people in the NDA council, Unfortunately February 2025 prime minister made extension of the mandate new four years without the participation of deaf people.





### Aging disability life

In life, most aging people are faced with some form of impairment in their late life. Many of them suffer from disability that leads them to neglect. Somalia is a country without public services for the aging population and welfare. Some of them suffer in the streets of urban towns. The elderly are not listed in the disability category in Somalia.

## Key Speakers in the Event

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These problems and barriers are stereotypes that many people believe women and girls with disabilities have no value equal to their colleagues women and girls without disabilities. Marriage is very hard and rare among them. The health care for the mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, delivery and breastfeeding in childhood. All these make the basic life for women and girls with disabilities in Somalia.

Mr. Abdullahi Hussein Osman, the chairperson of the IEDP Institute of education for disabled people, said we welcome the IWD 2025 and appreciate the celebration. Disability inclusion in Somalia stands verbal commitment that needs to be made into practical action to the best benefit of the people. We have TVET workshop in Mogadishu that serves skills training for the youth.

This can help reduce inequality and injustice in the society. Reduce poverty in the society and increase resilience for climate change. The women and young girls with disability accounts great number among the PWD society , unfortunately, they are invisible.

That is caused by lack of participation in the decision-making process to ask their demands and solutions for their problems. Most the PWDs suffer poverty caused by joblessness and poor skills. This prevents them to be part of society. ODPs need a partnership to implement a number of programs supporting the PWDs in general and particularly the women and young girls with disabilities

Mrs. Sadio Mohamed Isakh member of the BOWDA Banadir Women Disability organization based in Mogadishu and member of the SDN network organs. Said. The women and the young girls in Somalia suffer more problems, and the women young girls with impairments are more vulnerable and risk too many cases that are preventable.

The marriage is restricted and divorced is very much where majority of the married PWDs females end intentional conflict based impairment, vulnerability and weakness the male partner believe.

The divorced women with children or without children suffer another millstone of or problem in the journey of live. Their chaired are taken by the families of the former husband. This caused painful negligence for the care and upbringing the child.



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## THE CASE STUDIES OF THE WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES



Mrs. Hawo Abdirahman Hassan Deputy Chair Disability Youth Organization, Activist Women

### Case Study 1

Young, visually impaired female, said we worked very hard to learn education in Somalia, which is disrupted by civil wars. We have moved to Nairobi to finish our education in the secondary after returned back home Somalia. After a year of unemployment, I got married and now I am a mother with a child. Divorced, struggling with the care, education, and support of her young girls. After years, I

I have started to work at Al-basir school for the blind boarding as a protection officer, working on the safety of the students in the school, especially the young pupils with visual impairment who are far from their mothers. I was a mother of more than 12 young girls, taking care of them as a guardian.

I Was Part of People worked Campaign disability Agency Establishment. i was dumped out of the circle and recruited new people, unfamiliar and educated, to represent NDA National Disability Agency. The term served 4 years without achievement, the prime minister made an extension new 4 years. No change has been made to the cycle dominated by non disabled brokers.

I feel that I am a victim of education, commitments and talents, which is hated by the circle dominated brokers in the NDA we hope that our legislators in the 11th Parliament help to make interventions and investigate the problems in the disability. We are hijacked by non-disabled persons using government authority.



Mrs. Habibo Abukar Ali Deputy Chair Somali Association Female Disability SAFDI

### Case Study 2

Mrs. Habibo Abukar Ali Deputy Chair Somali Association Female Disability SAFDI. I work human rights activist for women. I have been working for the company for the disabled people for more than one decade. Now I am jobless, widowed, and struggling with life.

We want support for the women and girls disability empowerment for the economic and skills that can help them to achieve their goals in the life.



Mrs. Nasro Farah Jama the chairperson of the Somalia Umbral Disability People Camps SUDPC

### Case Study 3

Nasro Farah Jama the chairperson of the Somalia Umbral Disability People Camps SUDPC in Mogadishu. We are group of IDP camps based outside Mogadishu surrounded by hundreds of camps. We have need for shelter, water and food.

There are over 2000 persons in the IDP camps for the disability people. The majority of the people based are disability people and members from their families. There are also martialized people based. This year Somalia Umbral Disability People Camps SUDPC accommodated more than 200 families evicted from the government land.

These people have not been provided resettlement aid. We are very much concerned the situation of the evicted disability people suffering lack land, shelter, wash and livelihoods. We send emergency call to action to the government and international donors.

## The Discussion in the event Discussions

- Women and girls with disabilities often face societal stigma and stereotypes that portray them as helpless, dependent, or incapable. These perceptions can lead to exclusion from social, educational, and economic opportunities.
- Gender bias often compounds their challenges. Society may prioritize the needs of men and boys with disabilities over those of women and girls, or undervalue their abilities and potential.
- Many schools are not equipped to support students with disabilities. Lack of accessible infrastructure, specialized teachers, and adaptive materials can prevent girls with disabilities from attending school or receiving quality education.
- Even when they are able to access education, girls with disabilities may face discrimination, harassment, or a lack of support, which can lower their educational outcomes and limit future opportunities
- Healthcare systems often fail to meet the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities. This can include a lack of accessible medical facilities, trained healthcare providers, and awareness about the unique health concerns of disabled women.
- Women and girls with disabilities often face challenges in accessing sexual and reproductive health services. They may be denied information, face medical discrimination, or be coerced into sterilization or other forms of reproductive control.
- Women and girls with disabilities are at an increased risk of violence, including sexual and physical abuse. They may face additional challenges in reporting abuse due to communication barriers or a lack of accessible support systems.
- Women and girls with disabilities often face difficulties accessing employment due to physical, social, and attitudinal barriers. Employers may hold discriminatory views about their capabilities or fail to provide necessary accommodations.
- Disabled women and girls may experience higher rates of poverty due to the lack of economic opportunities. They are often more dependent on others for financial support, which can limit their independence and ability to escape situations of abuse or marginalization.
- Due to societal attitudes and physical barriers, girls and women with disabilities may be excluded from social activities, cultural events, and community participation. This isolation can have a significant impact on their mental health and sense of belonging.
- Women and young girls with impairments suffer barriers to Access to assistive technologies the wheelchairs, hearing aids, prosthetics, and services to accomplish their day-to-day life in society at the public and private
- Women and young girls with impairments suffer barriers to communication the sign language interpreters and braille language publications for personal assistance is often limited or unaffordable, which can hinder independence and participation in society
- Women and young girls with impairments suffer barriers in public and private Schools and universities, barriers for the accessibility of student girls with disabilities, including physical infrastructure, materials, and trained staff This is causes limited enrollment and increased dropout out





### A GROUP OF VISUAL IMPAIRED STUDENTS IN CEREMONY

■ Ensure Accessibility – Make events, speeches, and campaigns accessible (e.g., sign language interpreters, wheelchair-friendly venues, and captioned videos).

■ Amplify Voices – Highlight stories of women with disabilities who are breaking barriers in different fields.

■ Advocate for Policy Change – Push for equal rights, workplace inclusion, and protection against discrimination.

■ Support Disabled Women-Led Initiatives – Promote businesses, organizations, and movements led by women with disabilities.

■ “Empowering Women with Disabilities: Breaking Barriers, Building Futures”

■ “Inclusion for All: Recognizing the Strength of Women with Disabilities”

■ “Accessible Futures: Gender Equality Must Include Disability Rights



## The Ordeal of PWDs Mother

Mrs. Hawo Maxamed is a young female double amputee, She is a mother of three children of three different fathers. Each time she marries, she is divorced when she becomes pregnant. After delivery male date was arranged for her with a new family.

former husband asked for a reunion, she refused and burgled her home, masked, collected her cellphone, linked bank account, and social media accounts that were very popular online. The police conducted an investigation and arrested the criminal, and returned all her belongings. Where she forgives her in the respect of the father of her child.

Mrs. Hawo Maxamed based IDP camps outside Mogadishu Daynile district, suffers barriers in the movement on deep sand streets. There is lack of public service in the area that could make follow-up on her condition as a specific case vulnerability

Mrs. Hawo Maxamed is a member of active social media user among girls in Somalia. Her TikTok has nearly half of million active followers for marketing deals. Unfortunately, she does not get access to the marketing deals and the profit from the viral videos posted on the platform.



The theme was "Inspire Inclusion", emphasizing the importance of embracing diversity and empowering women in all areas of life.

and the disability inclusion in the overall target of the day in the world and in Somalia.

Women and girls with disabilities in Somalia face disproportional inequality and discrimination in the public and private ways of life as well as in normal cultures with double discrimination as a female and disability person.

Women and young girls with disabilities need support and protection. the CSOs, ODPs and Ministry of Family should give special attention and establish unity that serve for them. A group of Female with wheelchair participated in an event.

## **SOME OF THE COMMON PROBLEMS AGAINST DISABILITY WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SOMALIA**

Women and girls with disability in Somalia are great in the numbers compare to the male with disabilities. Most of them are hidden back woods or kept in the homes where they suffer some time disproportional human rights violation compare to the male with disabilities in Somalia who may have active involvement in the society. While female with disabilities suffer some time GBV violence against women.

In some cases women with disabilities are mostly widowed with one or two children, divorced for their impairment in some conditions. Some of them their children taken by the family of the father while some other are left them without family support for the future.

Young girls with disabilities have another kind of problem compare to the young male with impairment. They don't get easily marriage because of their impairment. Most of the suffer barriers in the system for their impairments. The young girls in the age of dating are subjected violent attack

mostly verbal and in some occasion physical. Although rape exist so far we have not seen cases in court compare the justice of girls without impairment access for courts. In most cases violation against girls with impairment are solved by arbitrary laws among the family both the victims and offender. Over all children, youth and women with impairments in Somalia suffer equally more with Somalia people in the post conflict state Somalia served more than three decades of armed conflicts. A fragile state recovering destruction in the public and the private sectors.

There number of females with impairments realizing the need to join the disability inclusion and established organizations serving girls and women with disabilities in Somalia. These organizations are not popular In the civil society equally the organization led by male with disabilities. in the enrolment for education compare to the male with impairment. Beside the girls with disabilities face disproportionate education dropouts for verity reason.

Discrimination as genders, disability and barriers in the education instructions infra-structures ad-hoc toilets and dressing room for the girls students with impairments. In the employment women and young girls suffer exclusion for their impairment attributed attitudinal discrimination that some of the employers believe that they very weak physical and sensory to accomplish their duties in the job. This has subjected female with impairment higher rate of unplowed in society and in the disability people.





### **The Recommendations made in the event.**

Addressing these challenges requires a holistic and intersectional approach, acknowledging the unique needs of women and girls with disabilities while advocating for equality, justice, and respect. Women and young girls deserve equal rights with other people.

### **Recommendations to the Government**

The Somali federal government should establish Strong legal frameworks and support systems should be in place to protect women and girls with disabilities from violence, including sexual, physical, and emotional abuse. This includes providing accessible reporting mechanisms and specialized services for survivors.

The Somali Federal Government should enact and strictly CRPD and laws that protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities, ensuring access to formal and non-formal education and employment in the private and public sectors. Accessible health care facilities are free from barriers.

The Ministry of Family and Human Rights should focus the cooperation with ODPs representing and serving the rights of women and girls. This will help and empower women and girls with disabilities to participate in the decision-making tables for the women in Somalia.

### **Recommendations to the Donors**

The International community and donors working the human rights protection, humanitarian aid, and development programs should focus their attention the ODPs representing and serving the rights of women and girls. This can give them space and opportunity to participate in the partnerships, investment and development programs. The number ODPs representing women and girls is small compared to the male-led ODPs. There is a wide exclusion in the partnership.

### **Recommendations to the ODPs**

The ODPs representing and serving the rights of the women and girls should be increased to implement massive campaigns nationwide to sensitize the public and private institutions and organizations, as well as the civil society and donors working on the development, human rights, and humanitarian programs, to ensure disability inclusion overall and specifically the rights of women and girls with disabilities. With special attention given to the service providers' institutions for education, health care, employment, and protection.

### **Recommendations to the CSOs**

Somalia CSOs should ensure the participation ODPs representing and serving the rights of the women and girls in their networks and programs. The SCOs should advocate to increase accessibility and inclusion in educational institutions, schools, and universities, and health care providers should be accessible with practical communication interoperations for sign language and braille publication books and materials supporting women and girls with sensory disabilities. And a ramp for physically challenged persons. All these can insure the participation of the women and girls in their achievements.





Consultation Meeting CSOs, OPDs and Ministry  
A member of the SDN took a picture with Mrs. Khadija Al-makhsumi the Minister of the family and Human Rights, in a consultation meeting with civil society, where CSOs and ODPs were listened to by the minister and her team, the deputy, and the directors.

The members of the SDN were briefed that CRPD implementation and the state report should be sent. The NDA mandate expired in January 2025 need a new council and participation ODPs and the deaf people missing now in the council.

Members from the PWDs were hoping the consultation for the NDA with minister that did not happen. now there is protests against an unconsulted renewal made by the minister and the cabinet.



#### The role of women and girls in ODPs

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