

The International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPD)this year focuses on the theme: "Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future." This theme recognises the vital role people with disabilities play in driving change, advocating for their rights, and contributing to global efforts toward equality, accessibility, and sustainability.

# **Leadership and Inclusion: Why This Matters**

### 1. Empowering Voices:

Leadership from persons with disabilities ensures that policies, programs, and decisions reflect the lived experiences and priorities of the disability community. Amplifying these voices is key to breaking down systemic barriers.

#### 2. Fostering Innovation:

Inclusion leads to better outcomes for everyone. When people with disabilities take leadership roles, they bring diverse perspectives and innovative solutions to social, economic, and environmental challenges.

# 3. Driving Sustainability:

A sustainable future is one that leaves no one behind. By placing persons with disabilities at the forefront of leadership, we ensure that global development efforts align with the principles of equity and universal access.

# How to Participate in IDPD 2024

### 1. Support Disability Leadership Initiatives:

Celebrate leaders with disabilities in your community. Share their stories, and advocate for their involvement in decision-making roles within government, businesses, and organisations.

# 2. Organise or Join Events:

Participate in conferences, webinars, or local events focused on disability leadership and inclusion. Events can range from public talks and workshops to exhibitions showcasing contributions from leaders with disabilities.

# 3. Promote Accessible Spaces:

Advocate for greater accessibility in workplaces, public areas, and online platforms to ensure people with disabilities can lead without limitations.

### 4. Spread Awareness:

Use platforms like social media to highlight the day's theme and share resources. Use hashtags such as #IDPD2024, #LeadershipMatters, and #InclusionForAll to amplify the message.

#### A Look Toward the Future

This year's theme aligns with the broader goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a commitment to achieving full inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society. Progress has been made in areas such as education, employment, and political representation, but significant gaps remain.

By prioritising leadership roles for persons with disabilities, we take a critical step toward ensuring that disability-inclusive policies and practices become the norm.

### Be the Change for Disability Inclusion

This 3rd December, let's celebrate the achievements and contributions of persons with disabilities and commit to amplifying their leadership. By working together, we can build a more inclusive and sustainable future where everyone's voice is heard and valued.

# **Related Links**

- United Nations IDPD Overview
- Disability Rights UK





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