

**CBMA & ADDC Submission, Inquiry into the rights of women and children  
Attachment B**

**Case study: Important achievement from disability and women's rights cross movement coordination in Indonesia**



*Representatives of 24 OPDs give their list of issues to the working group of the House of Representatives that finalized the draft of the bill.*

On April 12, 2022, the Indonesian parliament passed a landmark gender-based violence bill. Lawmakers in the world's largest Muslim majority nation passed the bill after 10 years of concerted advocacy by women's rights activists, and six years of legal deliberation.

However, there was a risk that this law would include damaging and dehumanising provisions in relation to women living with disabilities. Although the proposed law promoted the elimination of violence against women and girls and criminalised forced sterilisation and contraception, women's rights activists—thinking they were protecting the rights of mothers of girls with disabilities—inserted an article into the bill that legalized forced contraception and sterilization of women and girls with psychosocial disabilities and intellectual disabilities.

Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia (HWDI), the national umbrella organization of women with disabilities, strongly opposed this article because it violated the bodily autonomy of girls and women with disabilities.

A partner of ADDC supported HWDI to facilitate dialogue and build agreement between women with disabilities and other women's rights activists, including a convening of women with disabilities with other women's rights activists in October 2018. This support was enabled by funding from the Australian government.

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Dialogue continued between the two movements through the pandemic, covering issues including the human rights of women with disabilities, sexual rights and health rights and gender-based violence affecting women with disabilities. This dialogue culminated in HWDI and Indonesian Mental Health Association (IMHA), along with 24 organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) and civil society groups, submitted a list of issues on the bill as representatives of the disability community in early 2021.

As a result of these efforts, the new legislation includes:

- an article that states that the testimony of witnesses and victims who are persons with disabilities has the same value as those of non-disabled victims
- an additional chapter in the bill for accessibility and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who are survivors of sexual abuse and harassment during the reporting, judicial and recovery phases
- the outlawing of forced sterilisation for all.

Following this success, the coalition has broadened its efforts, advocating to prevent gender-based violence, and for inclusive sexual rights and health rights in Indonesia beyond the COVID-19 context. In addition to other women-led OPDs, the coalition has grown to include the Service Providers Forum, a network of 122 women's rights organizations in 32 provinces across Indonesia that provide case referral, legal assistance and crisis centre services for survivors. HWDI is also working with the Indonesian National Police to improve accessibility for gendered violence prevention efforts, including cybercrimes and response efforts.