

Parallel Reply to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

Twins and Multiple Births with Disabilities: A View on CRPD

Submitted by: Taipei Twins Association

Address: F16-1, No. 136, Minquan W. Rd., Datong Dist., Taipei City 103, Taiwan

Telephone: 886-2-2557-6980 / twinchueh@gmail.com

Authors: Chueh Chang, Yen-Yun Chen and Kuei-Chun Wen

In relation to:

Comments of IRC, paragraphs **13**, **20**, and **28**

CRPD, articles **16** (Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse), **23** (Respect for home and the family), and **31** (Statistics and data collection)

General Situation

Nowadays, the low birth rate has become a national security issue as the number of newborns declines every year. There are 305,312 new births in 2000 and rapidly decreasing to 165,249 in 2020. However, neither little attention has been paid to the increased birth rate of twins, nor special support programs needed by families with twins/multiple-births.

Relevant information on motherhood, parenting, teamwork, and family harmony specialized for these families are also lacking. The mothers and families of twins/multiple-births face many difficulties with pregnancy, childbirth, parenting, and education. For example, parents with multiple-births bear extra physical, psychological, economic, and disciplinary burdens, which could lead to higher risk of problems, such as family disharmony, divorce, child abuse, ineffectiveness at work. In addition to that, twins/multiple-births are not only a high-risk group start with fertility, pregnancy, and childbirth but with the risk of developing into physical or mental disabilities, yet they are not categorized as high-risk or vulnerable families. The above situation violates Article 31 of CRPD, in particular, the lack of welfare, health, economics and medical statistics or relevant information for twins/multiple-births.

The government's reply to IRC's comments lacks consideration of the above situation stated; hence we make suggestions accordingly:

Paragraph 13(a) of IRC's comments (related to the CRPD Article 16: Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse)

1. There is a lack of attention and suggestions for improving the twins/multiple-births families facing domestic violence or parent divorce due to the massive stress of caring for children.

Paragraph 20(b) of IRC's comments (related to the CRPD Article 23: Respect for home and the family)

1. According to paragraphs 39- 41 of "Implementation of the CRPD Second Report Submitted under Article 35 of the Convention", a checkbox for "twins/multiple-births" is not available in various physical and mental disability surveys conducted by the government, as well as the early treatment services, programmes, and guidelines.
2. According to paragraphs 190 and 192 of "Implementation of the CRPD Second Report Submitted under Article 35 of the Convention", the support

to twins/multiple-births families is not included. In addition, the implementation of place children and youth does not consider the essential of placing twins/multiple-births in the same place.

Paragraph 28(b) of IRC's comments (related to the CRPD Article 31: Statistics and data collection)

1. There is a lack of data collection and analysis on twins/multiple-births, and a checkbox for "twins/multiple-births" is not available in various physical and mental disability surveys conducted by the government. The actual needs of twins/multiple-births families are marginalized.