



**#IAMABLE OUTCOME DOCUMENT
ST JOHN'S, ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

People with disabilities, both invisible and visible disabilities, from across the Commonwealth gathered in Antigua and Barbuda from the 4th to 6th December 2017 for an I am ABLE conference and resolved as follows:

Acknowledging that both the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and civil society organisations in Antigua and Barbuda have made efforts to uphold the rights of people with disabilities and improve our quality of life.

Appreciating that to become effective disability advocates greater efforts must be made to obtain data about young people with disabilities and a move to have disaggregated data that reflects both age and disability.

Further, the need to have knowledge sharing on the legal framework for the protection of rights of persons with disabilities and key skills such as public speaking and public presentation, media and communications and resource mobilisation and financing to ensure that ideas can be effectively executed and supported by the required resources.

Advancing the need for greater public-private-partnership to create an enabling environment and successfully resourcing work to advance disability rights.

Resolves that,

- The **Government of Antigua and Barbuda**, through the Ministry of Health and the Environment, having obtained Cabinet approval, will set up an I am ABLE Commission. The Commission will have an office and a paid full-time staff to harness the optimism and ideas that emerged from the Conference. It will also serve to monitor, implement and enforce the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It will be a place where persons with disabilities can register their complaints to ensure an accessible and inclusive society.
- The **Halo Foundation** will:
 - (1) Providing free public transportation for persons with disabilities from Barbuda if they wish to travel home before the end of the year.
 - (2) One scholarship per year for a child with special needs to attend the Victory Center.
 - (3) An annual award for a person with disabilities who have demonstrated exceptional abilities.
- A steering committee comprising of representatives of the Government, the business community, civil society and youth, with a minimum of 2 young people, will be formed to follow through with the post-conference I AM ABLE action plan.
- Language used in legislation such as the Mental Health Act and the Representation of Peoples Act will be reviewed to ensure it is in line with the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disability to remove discriminatory and outdated language.
- The **National Youth Council of Antigua and Barbuda** in collaboration with the Commonwealth Youth Council organise a Vote Like A Boss campaign specifically targeting youth with disabilities to meet with political parties and the Electoral Commission, analyse manifestos, participate (voter education) and vote in the electoral process.
- The **Commonwealth Youth Council** will run an #IamABLE Disability Youth Advocates Pilot will be implemented in a High School in Antigua where a group of 50 youth aged 14-18 will be trained to become effective disability advocates through a toolkit and online training sessions with disability activists from across the Commonwealth.
- All schools will be encouraged to mainstream disability in all their activities and the commemoration of all international days in 2018 and increase information and sensitisation sessions in schools. (For example, 6th March International Women's Day but focus on women with disabilities, 6th April World Autism Day.)

- Efforts will be undertaken to have early testing in schools for learning difficulties such as dyslexia and dyspraxia, hearing and other invisible disabilities such as autism.
- The national disabilities data bank will be revised by 2019.
- A living and mobility skills module will be crafted and introduced into the curriculum in schools.
- Policies will be devised to mainstream people with disabilities in different aspects of development, especially tourism.

Attached:

Annex I : *Conversation and solutions proposed on health, education, political participation, and employment.*

Annex II: *Action Plan*