09

DAY09·THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SUPPORT MUST BE ACCESSIBLE.

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we're asking what accessible support looks like in practice. When services aren't accessible, people are left without support.

UNDERSTANDING THE TOPIC

Women with disabilitiesface higher rates of violence. Women and Gender Equality Canada reports that 55% of women with disabilities experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime, compared with 37% of women without disabilities.

Abuse can also involve a partner or caregiver controlling medication, mobility devices or personal care. Removing barriers is the responsibility of organizations, not of the person seeking help.

WHERE ORGANIZATIONS CAN IMPROVE

- Physical: step-free entrances, clear routes and accessible rooms and washrooms.
- Communication: TTY, text and email options, sign language interpretation and plain language.
- Digital: websites and forms that work with screen readers; captioned videos.
- Service process: asking about access needs at intake, and support that doesn't cost someone essential assistance.

ONE PRACTICAL ACTION

REMOVE ONE BARRIER.

If you work or volunteer with an organization, review one way people reach you— your phone line, website, intake form or entrance. Name one barrier and a step to remove it this month.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Accessibility is part of safety.

LEARN MORE

DisAbled Women's Network Canada (DAWN Canada)
dawncanada.net
Women and Gender Equality Canada — 16 Days of Activism
canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/commemorations-celebrations/16-days.html
Statistic: Women and Gender Equality Canada news release, December 2025.

NEED SUPPORT?

You don't have to work out next steps alone.
Women's Habitat 24-hour crisis line: 416-252-5829
Assaulted Women's Helpline (24/7): 1-866-863-0511 · #SAFE (#7233) on a Bell, Rogers, Fido or Telus mobile
AWHL TTY: 1-866-863-7868
In immediate danger, call 911.