

# Position Statement 3

# Participation

## WWDA Youth Believe

* We all have the right to equal participation in political, economic, social and cultural life.
* Participation requires access to information that is accurate and accessible.
* Meaningful participation requires freedom from all forms of violence.
* Meaningful participation requires Gender and disability equality.

## The Facts

* Women and girls with disability are often denied the right to participate and make choices about their lives.
* Women and girls with disability living in institutional and group home are often denied information, education and support to participate equally.
* Abuse, bullying and discrimination can stop young women and girls with disability from participating.
* Women and girls with disability are leading the global push for their human rights to be acknowledged and respected.
* Participation is a human right!

## What It Means

### Participation

Having the opportunity to be involved in events and activities in your school and in your community, that are of interest to you. Participation can also mean being involved in decision-making and having the opportunity to share your ideas and be listened to.

### Human Rights

Rights to freedom, dignity and fairness that all people have, no matter their race, ethnicity, nationality, age, sex, gender, sexuality, disability or political beliefs. Human rights are protected by international law.

### Equality

Having access to the same rights and opportunities as everyone else, along with the support to act on those rights and opportunities.

### Discrimination

Being treated unfairly or differently because of who you are, where you live, what you believe, or because you have a disability.

## Learn More

### Human Rights and Participation

Human rights are protected under international law. These rights are described in documents called conventions or treaties. Countries such as Australia can agree to be bound by these laws.

#### WWDA Youth Human Rights Workbook

The WWDA Youth Human Rights Workbook explores and explains the Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW).

<http://youth.wwda.org.au/workbook/>

#### Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The CRC describes and protects the human rights of children and young people. Check out the “For Youth” page to learn more about your rights:

[www.unicef.org/rightsite/433.htm](http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/433.htm)

#### Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

The CRPD describes and protects the rights of all people with disability. You can find an easy to understand version of the convention at:

[www.unicef.org/publications/index\_43893.html](http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_43893.html)

#### Australian Human Rights Commission

The Commission has put together some great ideas about how to get involved in human rights and make a difference. Visit:

[www.humanrights.gov.au/education/students/get-involved-students](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/students/get-involved-students)

## Help & Support

#### In an Emergency

If you or another person is in immediate danger, Call 000 (Triple Zero)

#### eheadspace

The eheadspace online and telephone service supports young people and their families going through a tough time. Visit: <https://www.eheadspace.org.au/>

#### Kids Helpline

If you need to talk about anything, you can call, email, or have an online chat

with Kids Helpline. Visit [www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au) or call 1800 55 1800

#### 1800 RESPECT

Support if you have or are currently experiencing sexual, domestic or family violence. Visit [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au) or call 1800 737 732

#### Disability Advocacy Services

A disability advocate can help you to access support around your human rights. To find an advocate near you, visit: <http://finder.dss.gov.au/disability/ndap/>

## Get Involved

#### United Nations Youth Association Australia (UNYA)

UN Youth Australia is a national youth-led organisation that aims to educate and empower young Australians on global issues. Visit: [www.unyouth.org.au](http://www.unyouth.org.au)

 Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA)

WWDA represents more than 2 million disabled women and girls in Australia. We are run by and for women with disabilities. We operate as a transnational human rights and systemic advocacy organisation. [www.wwda.org.au](http://www.wwda.org.au)

#### WWDA Youth Network

#### WWDA Youth Network aims to empower young women and girls with disabilities to become strong, confident, proud and educated on their rights and options. Follow us and get involved at:

Web <http://youth.wwda.org.au>

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/WWDAYouth>

Twitter <http://www.twitter.com/WWDA_Youth>

YouTube <http://goo.gl/BqDQ47>

Instagram <http://www.instagram.com/WWDA_Youth>

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For further information and citations, please access:

* WWDA Human Rights Toolkit and comprehensive WWDA Position Statements available at, <http://www.wwda.org.au/papers/toolkit>
* WWDA Youth Human Rights Workbook and WWDA Youth Position Statements available at, <http://youth.wwda.org.au/workbook/>

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