

# EDITORIAL



## Speakers call for anti-discrimination law to protect rights of Disabled

HYDERABAD: Speakers at a seminar here called upon the Sindh Government to make Anti-Discrimination Law (ADL) for persons with disabilities in the province in order to provide them an access to equal opportunities, protect their rights and also protect them from discrimination. The demand was raised during a seminar held here at a hotel on Tuesday on occasion of marking International Day of Persons with Disabilities on the theme "Break Barriers, Open doors, for an inclusive society for All" organised by



Nawabshah Disability Forum (NDF) in collaboration with UNESCO. Speaking in the seminar, President NDF, Abid Hussain Lashari said that the persons with disabilities have to face discrimination on daily basis and are helpless to claim their rights. "Even we cannot go to the court to claim our rights because there is no law in the province which enables us to do this despite of 18th Amendment where the province has full authority to make a law and also amend it," he said. Despite Pakistan ratifying the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2011, unfortunately, till today no law has been made in the province to facilitate the rights of persons with disabilities, said Abid Lashari. Demanding an increase in job quota from 2 per cent to 5 per cent, President NDF said that there were five kinds of persons with disabilities in the province and that is why share of jobs should be increased by that proportion.



Speaking on the occasion, Provincial Coordinator UNESCO, Kazi

Ayaz Mahesar said that ratifying CRPD was not enough but there was need of a law covering all aspects for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. Besides, there is a need of institutions to mainstream the persons with disabilities in organisations whether private or government, he said. A representative of CBID Network Pakistan, Ghulam Nabi Nizamani said that the barriers should be broken and door should be opened for all persons with disabilities. "It would be possible only when the representation of disabled persons would be ensured at every forum whether it is government sector or private sector especially at policy making level," he said. According to World Health Organization, about 15 per cent of the country's population has persons with one or the other forms of disabilities and the country is losing about 7 per cent of GDP due to not exploiting the skills of disabled person, Nizamani said.—RT