



In commemoration of the



## International Day of Persons with Disabilities

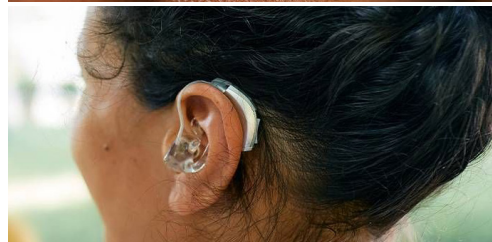
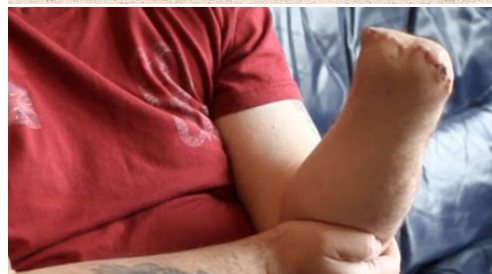
DECEMBER 3

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) commemorated annually on December 3, is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts and achievements of persons with disabilities (PWD) within our society.

This year's theme, **“Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world”** encourages us to remove the attitudinal, physical and technological barriers that hinder persons with disabilities from becoming active members of the public or private workforce. It recognizes the link between knowledge and skills that must be acquired by persons with disabilities in order to access employment in an innovative, rapidly changing world. All employers are encouraged to embrace the use of assistive technology by persons with disabilities, thus creating a more inclusive work place.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, continues to work collaboratively with international and local organizations towards increasing accessibility, removing barriers that hinder persons with disabilities from being included, amending existing legislation and creating new ones that will uphold and advance the rights and dignity of all persons with disabilities, and their ability to participate in the continued development of our country.

In full appreciation of this year's theme, the Ministry is hosting several initiatives to reaffirm our commitment to promoting inclusion and celebrating the diversity of persons with disabilities who make meaningful contributions to our society. Our Performance and Artistic Expression Competitions will highlight their abilities, bring awareness on how they feel about Human Diversity and their need for inclusion. The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services reiterates its commitment to helping, empowering and transforming the lives of the most vulnerable amongst us, including persons with disabilities and takes pride in exhibiting their diversity.



*Senator the Honourable Donna Cox*  
Minister of Social Development and Family Services

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