



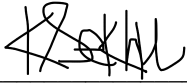
Commission for Gender Equality

Commission for Gender Equality Public Education and Information: Digital inclusion in education and ensuring accessible learning for learners with disabilities.

With the reopening of schools, "Back to School" should symbolise renewed hope and opportunity for every learner. This occasion coincides with the observance of World Braille Day on 4 January, under the theme "Bridging accessibility in a digital-first world," which highlights the vital need for inclusive communication and accessible learning resources. Additionally, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 January as International Day of Education, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development. However, for many blind, deaf, and learners with disabilities, going back to school often means facing obstacles such as inaccessible materials, lack of sign language support, limited assistive devices, and poorly adapted infrastructure. These challenges restrict participation and threaten the right to equal access to quality education. Education that embraces inclusion is a basic human right. Achieving this human right demands for classrooms that are accessible, teachers who are well-trained, supportive learning resources, and environments that value and respect diversity. When schools provide Braille materials, interpretation services, and flexible teaching methods, learners with disabilities are empowered to learn alongside their peers. Inclusion also begins with attitudes. Teachers, families, and communities must promote respect, understanding, reasonable accommodation, ensuring that every learner feels valued, supported and included. Safe learning environments are equally essential to inclusion, ensuring that learners with disabilities can participate in education free from bullying, neglect, or harm, therefore, the Commission for Gender Equality calls on government and other players to commit to removing barriers, creating opportunities and conducive learning environments for all. For more information, visit our social media platforms: X (@CGE_ZA), Instagram (@cgelive), Facebook (Commission for Gender Equality).

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