



# Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



Human Rights Forum  
California Department of Developmental Services  
Consumer Advisory Committee  
November 2009



## Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



The California Department of Developmental Services Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) hosted a Human Rights Forum in November 2009 at their quarterly meeting. Katherine Guernsey, Education and Outreach Director of the United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD) facilitated a discussion about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) treaty. CAC members understand the CRPD is an important civil rights treaty that guarantees people with disabilities the rights to dignity, inclusion and choice.

CAC Believes: Knowing your rights and applying them to your everyday life is important. Members of the CAC believe effective leadership is by personal example. The committee's motto is "*My Life, My Way.*" Before we can live the lives we want, we must first understand our basic rights as human beings.

Using the CAC developed decision-making strategy *Think-Plan-Do*, members identified the key CRPD concepts and they are provided in this easy to read manual that follows the Human Rights Forum presentation video.



# Human Rights

Human Rights are what people need to live with dignity and “enjoy” freedom.

All people have human rights.

Nobody has more human rights than anyone else.





## **Equality**

The right to be treated equally – not different than anyone else.

## **Safety**

The right to be safe from disasters, abuse and violence.

## **Privacy**

The right to privacy – no matter where you live.



# Basic Human Rights

## THE RIGHT TO:

Think what you want.

Be included in the community.

Work in safe conditions.

Be paid a wage you can live on.



## **UNIVERSAL**

They belong to everyone.

## **INALIENABLE**

Can not be taken away.

## **INDIVISIBLE**

Cannot be divided from each other.

## **INTERRELATED**

All human rights affect each other.





**MEMBERS** 192 States (Countries)

**STARTED** 1945 after World War II

**PURPOSE** International peace  
Friendly relations among countries  
Human rights for all



Treaties are agreements in writing between 2 or more countries.

Countries choose to join a treaty.

If a country joins a treaty – it is legally binding.

They must follow what a treaty says to do.

**Treaty = Agreement = Convention**





**The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**  
is a treaty about the human rights of people with disabilities.

**The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**  
is a treaty that helps countries understand how to act to assure  
people with disabilities have important human rights.



There are over 650 million people with disabilities worldwide.

People with disabilities were sometimes treated as “invisible” in many countries.

Many people experience human rights violations.

Countries want to improve the quality of life for all their citizens.

Countries agreed that a human rights treaty specifically for people with disabilities was the best solution!



# Key Points from the treaty

## **All disabilities**

The treaty is for all people with disabilities.

## **Promotes**

Respect for the choices and full inclusion of all persons with disabilities.

## **Requires**

All countries to include people with disabilities and their organizations in decisions that affect their lives.

## **Reports**

Each country reports their progress.





# The Treaty

The Treaty was written by member countries of the United Nations



Many meetings were held at the UN headquarters in New York.

Meetings included many people with disabilities!

Meetings finished December 2006.



# United States Process

## Step #1 "SIGNATORY"

President Obama ordered the treaty to be signed, July 2009.



*This means:*

United States agrees with the ideas in the treaty.

United States is interested in joining the treaty.





# United States Process

## Step #2 "RATIFICATION"



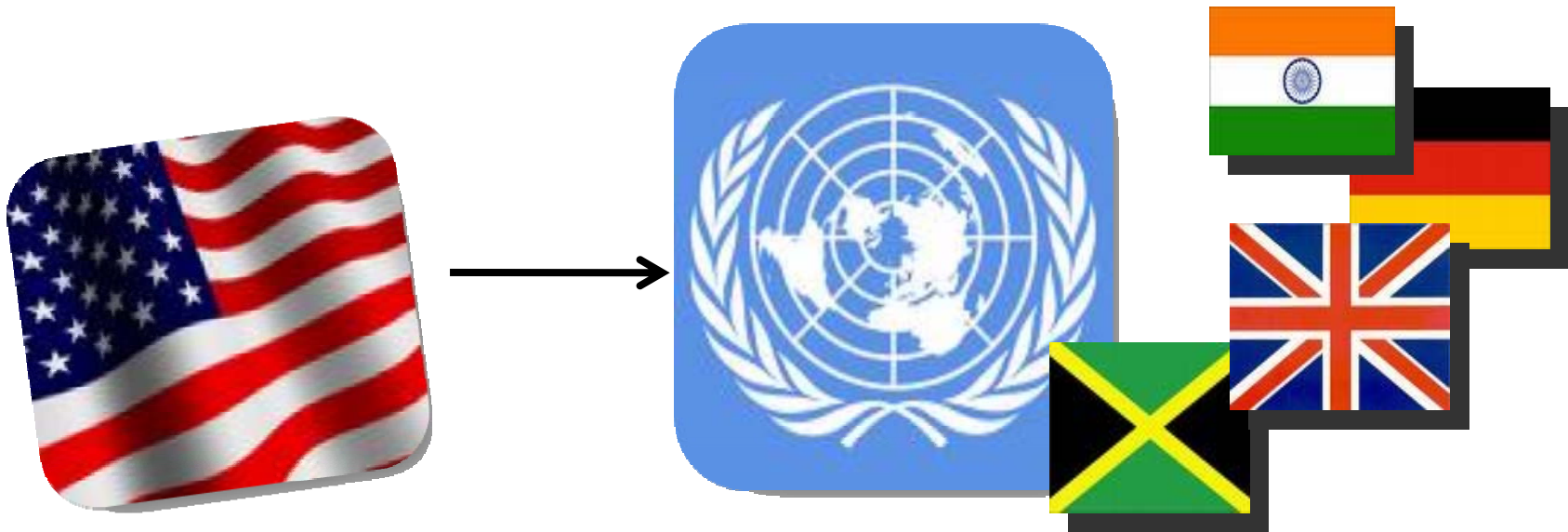
To become law in the United States, the Senate votes to accept the treaty. There needs to be a two-thirds majority vote for approval.





# United States Process

## Step #3 "STATES PARTY"



When the United States ratifies (approves) the treaty  
it must follow what the treaty says to do.



Argentina	Egypt	Lesotho	Rwanda
Australia	El Salvador	Malawi	San Marino
Austria	Gabon	Mali	Saudi Arabia
Azerbaijan	Germany	Mexico	Serbia
Bangladesh	Guatemala	Mongolia	Slovenia
Belgium	Great Britain/ Northern Ireland	Morocco	South Africa
Brazil	Guinea	Namibia	Spain
Burkina Faso	Haiti	New Zealand	Sudan
Chile	Honduras	Nicaragua	Sweden
China	Hungary	Niger	Syria
Cook Islands	India	Oman	Thailand
Costa Rica	Iran	Panama	Tunisia
Croatia	Italy	Paraguay	Turkmenistan
Cuba	Jamaica	Peru	Turkey
Czech Republic	Jordan	Philippines	Uganda
Denmark	Kenya	Portugal	Uruguay
Dominican Republic	Laos	Qatar	Vanuatu
Ecuador		Republic of Korea	Yemen





## Emergencies and Disasters

*Lives can be in jeopardy if people with disabilities do not plan and are not ready to take action quickly in a disaster.*

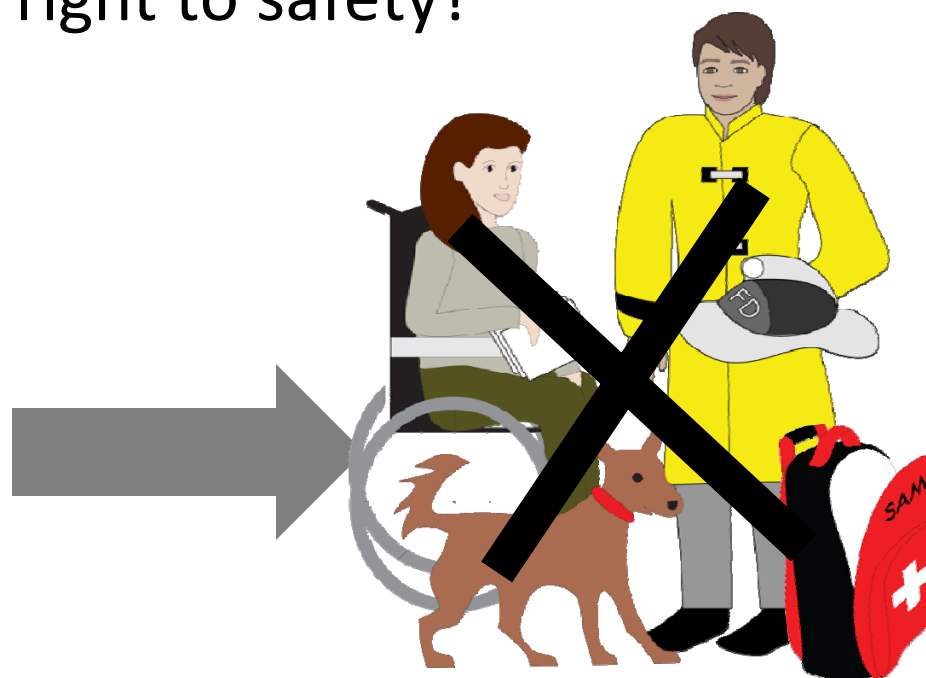
Examples:

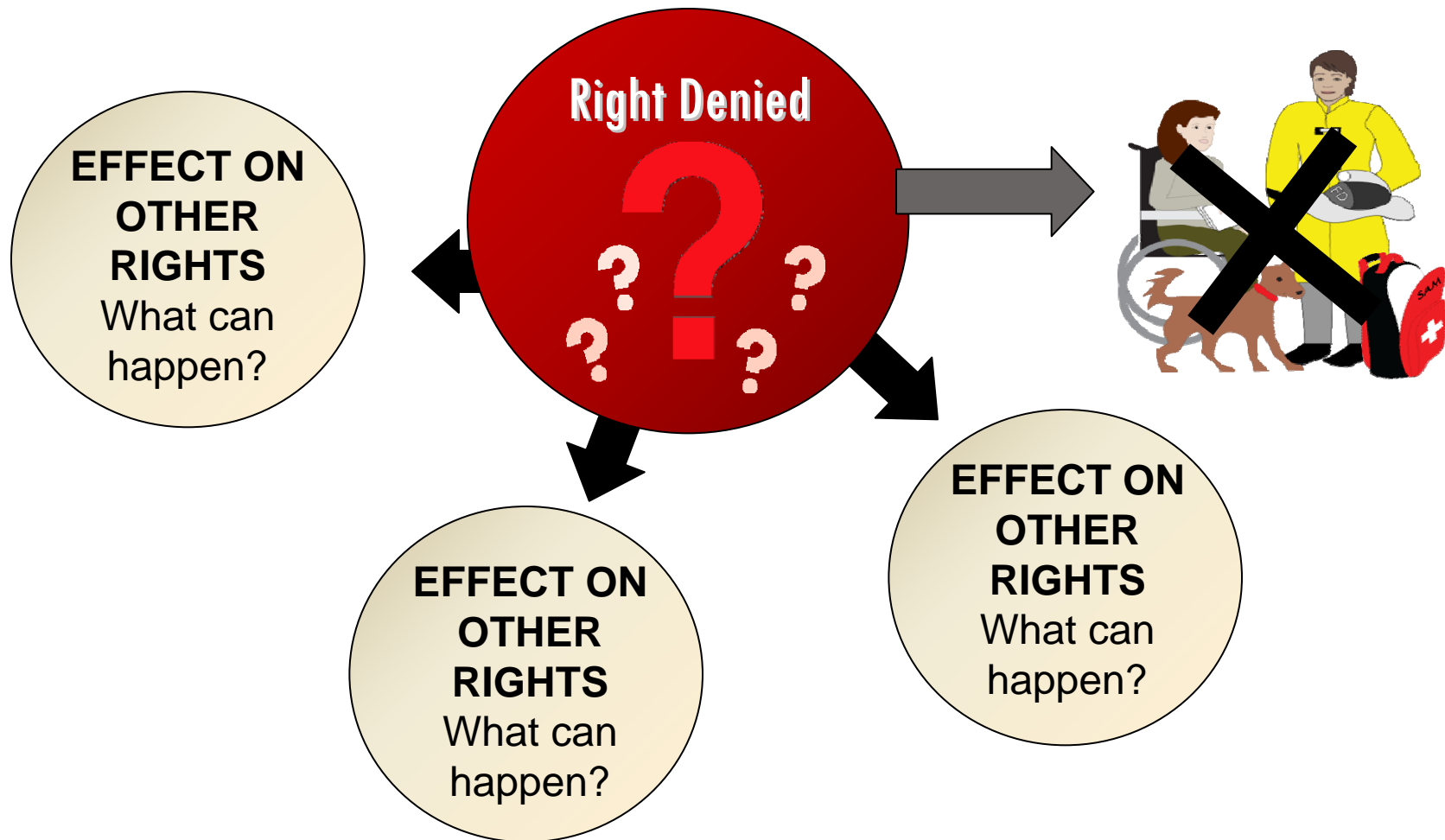
Natural disasters – floods, fires and earthquakes

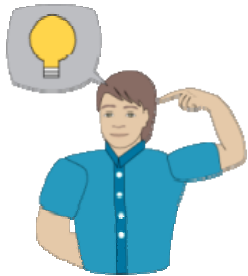




What can happen if people with disabilities  
do not have the right to safety?

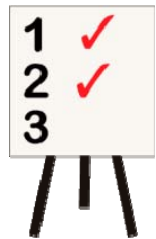






## **THINK:**

What can the treaty do for people with disabilities in the United States?



## **PLAN:**

What are ways to tell people about the treaty?



## **DO:**

Take Action – **Lead by example.**






## Human Rights Forum

This booklet was produced for the California Department of Developmental Services Consumer Advisory Committee's quarterly meeting, November 2009. The CAC believes the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an important human rights treaty that assures people with disabilities dignity, inclusion and choice.

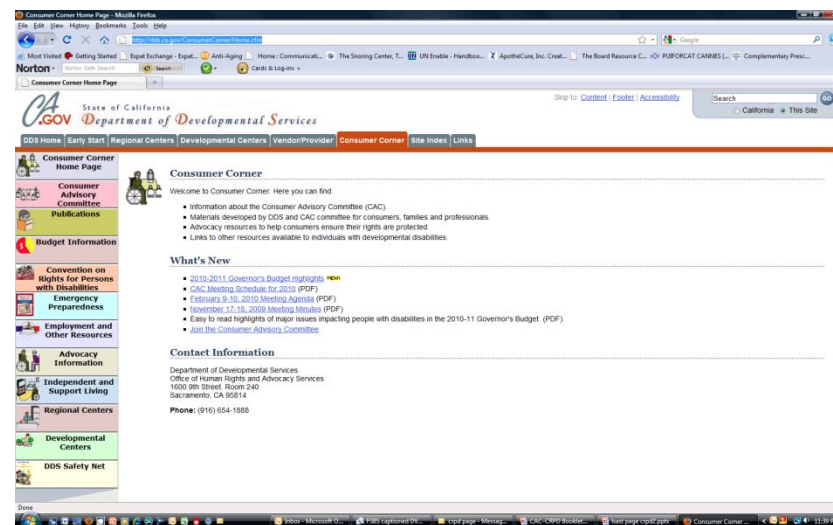


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**California Department of Developmental Services**  
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CAC advocacy publications and videos can be viewed at:  
<http://dds.ca.gov/ConsumerCorner/Home.cfm>



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