



MOTHER MATTERS

The right of women with disabilities to motherhood

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INFORMATIVE PILLS

Informative pills provide brief explanations related to disability studies, accessibility for healthcare professionals, and motherhood for women with disabilities. They are based on a microlearning approach, a learning methodology that divides content into short units focused on a single topic or skill.

- RISKS and SUPPORT -

Data about violence on PwDs

A systematic review published in The Lancet found that adults with disabilities are at a higher risk of violence compared to those without disabilities. Specifically, the study reported that 24.3% of individuals with mental illnesses experienced recent violence, 6.1% of those with intellectual impairments, and 3.2% with non-specific impairments. A global study published in The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health journal revealed that nearly one-third of children and teenagers **with disability** face emotional and physical abuse, with 20% experiencing neglect and one in 10 subjected to sexual violence. A report by Human Rights Watch highlighted that women with disabilities are three times more likely to experience rape, physical abuse, or sexual assault compared to their non-disabled counterparts.



momsproject.eu



Mother Matters



moms.mothermatters



[MoMs_MotherMatters](https://www.youtube.com/MoMs_MotherMatters)



Forced sterilisation of persons with disabilities remains a widespread and deeply troubling violation of fundamental human rights. Despite international legal protections, this practice continues both across Europe and around the world. The most vulnerable to this abuse include people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, particularly those placed under guardianship. Women and girls with disabilities, as well as others capable of becoming pregnant, are disproportionately affected, facing systemic discrimination and an alarming lack of bodily autonomy. A study analyzing data from the National Survey of Family Growth from USA (2011–2015) found that 22.1% of women with cognitive disabilities had undergone sterilization, compared to 14.8% of women without disabilities. Furthermore, women with cognitive disabilities were sterilized at younger ages, averaging 27.3 years, compared to 29.8 years for those without disabilities.

As of August 2022, at least 13 EU countries, including Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, and Slovakia, permit some form of forced sterilization. In contrast, nine EU Member States explicitly criminalize forced sterilization as a distinct offense, either as a war crime, a crime against humanity, or as a form of gender-based violence. These countries are Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden. According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, from 2017 to 2019, persons with disabilities were victims of 26% of all nonfatal violent crimes, despite accounting for about 12% of the population. The rate of violent victimization against persons with disabilities was almost four times higher than that for persons without disabilities.

