



Executive
Non-Departmental
Public Body sponsored by:



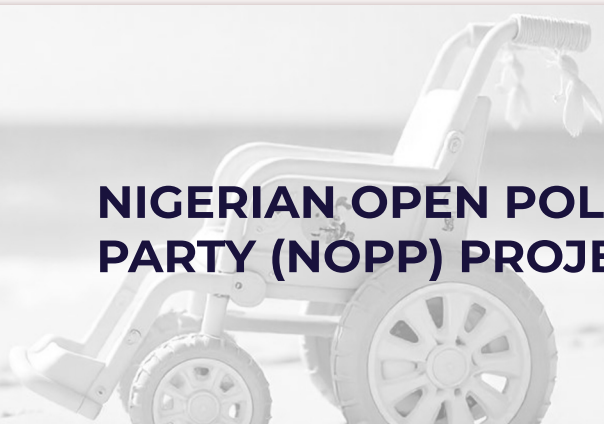
Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT FOR ENHANCING ENFORCEMENT OF THE DISABILITY ACT IN NIGERIA'S POLITICAL SPACE (EDANPS SURVEY 2025)

Promoting Accessibility and Enforcement of the
Disability Act within Nigeria's Political Space

**NIGERIAN OPEN POLITICAL
PARTY (NOPP) PROJECT**



Copyright and Disclaimer

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted in any form without prior written permission from WFD and its Partners. Proper citation is required for any references to this study.

© **2025 Disclaimer:** The 2025 Accessibility Audit for Enhancing Enforcement of the Disability Act in Nigeria's Political Space, also known as the EDANPS Survey 2025, is a landscape study that aims to strengthen the enforcement of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disability (Prohibition) Act 2018. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information presented, the findings, analyses, and conclusions are intended for informational, advocacy and research purposes only and should not be construed as endorsement or critique. The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and its partners bear no responsibility for any direct or indirect errors, omissions, or consequences resulting from the use of the information provided. This publication is intended for informational purposes only. WFD and its partners disclaim liability for any loss or damage arising from the use of this report or its contents.

Citation: Olasoji, A. (2025). Accessibility audit for enhancing enforcement of the Disability Act in Nigeria's political space (EDANPS Survey 2025). Centre for Ability, Rehabilitation and Empowerment & Westminster Foundation for Democracy Publication, London.

This research work was conducted by:



This research work was supported by the:



Author

Adewale Olasoji- Author

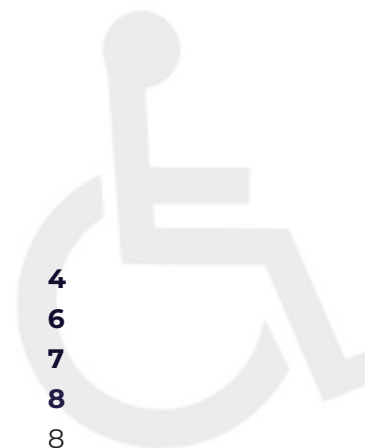
Contributing Editor

Olorunmola Adebawale - Country Director, WFD Nigeria

Sola Folayan - Program Manager, WFD Nigeria.

Table of Content

	Preface	4
	Acknowledgements	6
	Executive summary	7
1.0	Introduction	8
1.1	Background and rationale	8
1.2	Justification	9
1.3	Aim and objectives	9
1.4	Scope and significance	9
2.0	Methodology	10
2.1	Sample design	10
2.2	Sample size and procedure	10
2.3	Data collection methods	11
2.4	Respondent selection	12
2.5	Analytical approach	12
2.6	Limitations	12
3.0	Historical and legal context	13
3.1	Disability inclusion in nigeria's political history	14
3.2	The discrimination against persons with disabilities (Prohibition) act 2018:	14
4.0	Findings	15
4.1	Statistical analysis	15
	Table 1: descriptive overview summary of accessibility features in Surveyed buildings (n = 49)	17
4.2	Physical accessibility of political spaces	17
4.3	Digital accessibility in political engagement	17
4.4	Parking	18
4.5	Main entrance	19
4.6	Stairway/staircase	23
4.7	Doors	24
4.8	Waiting area/ or lobby area/reception	25
4.9	Washroom/toilet	26
4.10	Political participation experiences of persons with disabilities	29
5.0	Implications for nigeria's democratic framework	31
6.0	Recommendations	32
7.0	Conclusion	33
8.0	References	34





Preface

The Accessibility Audit Report for Enhancing Enforcement of the Disability Act in Nigeria's Political Space (EDANPS Survey 2025) is fundamental to the ongoing pursuit of inclusive governance and equitable participation for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the political process of Nigeria. Commissioned by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) in collaboration with the Centre for Ability, Rehabilitation and Empowerment (CARE), this report documents the state of accessibility of persons with disabilities across Nigeria's political institutions and processes, particularly in the context of the implementation of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act of 2018.

Over the year, stakeholders in Nigeria have worked to ensure that the democratic framework of the country do not only uphold the principles of inclusion, equity, and justice, but are seen to be so in practise. However, persons with disabilities still remain largely marginalised within the political space—confronted by systemic barriers, inaccessible infrastructure, and limited opportunities for participation. The Disability Act offers a powerful legal framework to change this reality, yet enforcement remains inconsistent, and political structures continue to reflect deep-rooted exclusion.

This audit was therefore designed to assess the current level of compliance with the Disability Act and proffer actionable recommendations for strengthening the accessibility and inclusivity of Nigeria's political ecosystem. Drawing on data collected from across the six geopolitical zones, the report provides a comprehensive, evidence-based evaluation of the physical, institutional, and attitudinal barriers that hinder the participation by persons with disabilities in political life.

The EDANPS Survey 2025 seeks to galvanize stakeholders—from electoral bodies and political parties to civil society organisations and lawmakers—to prioritize accessibility as a fundamental element of democratic development. It is a call to action: to strengthen enforcement mechanisms, invest in inclusive infrastructure, and amplify the voices of persons with disabilities in political discourse and decision-making.

The insights and lived experiences of many stakeholders contributed to making this assessment and its report possible, and for which we are grateful. Appreciation also goes to the Chairman of the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC), Alhaji Yusuf Mamman Dantalle for receiving the team and showing commitment to inclusivity. The Chairman House Committee on Disabilities, Hon. Bashiru Dawodu Ayinla for his open support for the accessibility audit and the implementation of the Disability Act. The support of the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), Chief Ayuba Burki Gufwan was indeed instrumental to realising this assignment.

The implementation of recommendations contained in the report would further enhance efforts toward a more inclusive political future for Nigeria and her citizens particularly the persons with disabilities. We hope that its findings will serve as a catalyst for sustained reform, inspire renewed commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities, and contribute meaningfully to the full enforcement of the Disability Act within Nigeria's political landscape. Ultimately, this report reaffirms a simple but powerful truth: democracy is strongest when it is accessible to all.

Adebowale Olorunmola

Country Director, Nigeria

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and Centre for Ability, Rehabilitation and Empowerment (CARE), acknowledge with appreciation, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) for funding the 2025 Accessibility Audit Research, a landmark study that sets the foundation for a more inclusive and accessible political future.

In addition, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) and the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) whose members across the selected states served as enumerators which is a most important functionary in surveys. We appreciate their dedication to duty throughout the training and fieldwork periods. Our profound appreciation also goes to all political party representatives for their invaluable support and collaboration in promoting inclusive democracy and empowering Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Nigeria's political space.

Many thanks to all our respondents who generously shared their time and insights. Their responses have been invaluable in helping us understand the challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria's political space. We are grateful for their participation and appreciate the impact their contributions will have in promoting disability inclusion and accessibility.

Finally, we acknowledge the technical expertise of the team led by Adebowale Olorunmola, WFD Country Director and Dr Chike Okogwu, Chief Responsibility Officer, Centre for Ability, Rehabilitation and Empowerment (CARE) with the Technical Coordination of Olusola Folayan, Programme Manager, WFD and support of Daniel James, Oluwaseun Taiwo Oladele and Mr. Olasoji Adewale. The WFD and CARE team equally thank all other team members for their contributions to various aspects of the research from the inception to the final publication, such expertise is well recognised.



Executive Summary

The 2025 Accessibility Audit for Enhancing Enforcement of the Disability Act in Nigeria's Political Space, also known as the EDANPS Survey 2025, is a landscape study that aims to strengthen the enforcement of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disability (Prohibition) Act 2018. This comprehensive audit is supported by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and implemented by the Centre for Ability Rehabilitation and Employment (CARE), with the primary objective of addressing the existing gaps in enforcing the Disability Act.

Despite significant progress made since the enactment of the Disability Act, accessible political participation for persons with disabilities, politicians with disabilities, and aspiring politicians with disabilities remains a significant challenge. The EDANPS Survey 2025 provides an exhaustive examination of the accessibility challenges encountered by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) within Nigeria's political landscape. This study was conducted across 49 political party offices nationwide and included Focus Group Discussions/ interviews with PWDs who have vied for political office, electable positions, or held political appointments.

The report's findings indicated that despite the passage of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018, significant barriers persist. Key findings include only 22.4% of surveyed buildings have accessible ramps. A mere 10.2% feature tactile signage. 55.1% of political party websites and social media platforms are inaccessible to PWDs. 80% of PwD candidates reported facing discrimination during electoral campaigns.

These statistics paint a picture of systemic exclusion that undermines Nigeria's democratic aspirations and the legal protections promised by the Act. The report positions Nigeria at a critical juncture, highlighting the need for urgent reforms to ensure accessible and inclusive political spaces for PWDs.

Drawing inspiration from international models and benchmarks, such as the UK's robust accessibility laws and Rwanda's parliamentary quotas for PWDs, the report proposes actionable reforms. Recommendations span enforceable policy reforms, comprehensive infrastructure upgrades, and targeted support for PwD political aspirants.

With a population of over 200 million, including an estimated 25-30 million PWDs, Nigeria stands to gain immensely from embracing inclusivity. By addressing these issues, Nigeria can transform its political landscape, setting a precedent for disability-inclusive democracy in Africa and beyond, in line with WFD's mission to strengthen democratic institutions worldwide. In effect, this report offers WFD a detailed blueprint to advocate systemic change, ensuring that PWDs can fully participate in shaping Nigeria's political future.

01

Introduction



1.1 Background and Rationale

The ability to participate meaningfully in political life is a fundamental aspect of democracy. Since Nigeria's return to democratic governance in 1999, following years of military rule, the country has sought to create an inclusive political system that reflects its diverse population of over 200 million. However, this vision remains unfulfilled for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), who according to the World Health Organization, in 2018, about 29 million of the 195 million people who comprise Nigeria's national population were living with a disability.

The political inclusion of PWDs is a fundamental right, and their active participation in the democratic process is essential, as it ensures representation, equity, and social justice.

The enactment of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 was a landmark step toward ensuring the

full inclusion of PWDs in all aspects of society, including politics, by mandating accessibility in public spaces and guaranteeing equal political participation. However, despite the legal framework provided by the Disability Act, compliance remains a significant challenge. The political party offices—the hubs of democratic engagement—remain largely inaccessible, many lack ramps, adequate signage and disability-friendly digital platforms, excluding those who rely on assistive technologies such as screen readers.

Meanwhile, candidates with disabilities continue to face significant obstacles, including financial constraints, accessibility challenges and societal biases that discourage their political ambitions. In many cases, they encounter direct or indirect pressure to abandon their aspirations due to systemic barriers that make meaningful participation nearly impossible.

An accessibility audit which is a systematic

¹ Vemuru, Varalakshmi; Martinez, Rosa Maria; Aderemi-Ige, Toyin Janet; Espinoza, Sabina Anne; Ilesanmi, Michael Gboyega. Disability Inclusion in Nigeria : A Rapid Assessment (English). Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/780571593336878236>

evaluation of a physical platform's accessibility. How accessible they are to persons with disabilities is a critical tool for assessing enforcement of the Disability Act in Nigeria's political space. Given the potential for non-compliance, this report provides empirical evidence on the extent of implementation of the accessibility provisions in the Disability Act, 2018, and identified physical barriers that hinder political participation for PWDs.

1.2 Justification

Nigeria is a signatory to various international and national frameworks promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) and the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018. The political offices serve as centres of decision-making that affect all citizens; hence, the result of The Accessibility Audit for Enhancing Enforcement of the Disability Act in Nigeria's Political Space (EDANPS 2025) would provide concrete data on the state of accessibility in political party offices, holding authorities accountable and informing evidence-based policymaking and resource allocation for necessary upgrades. It is a critical step towards achieving an inclusive democracy. It also ensures compliance with legal obligations, promotes equal participation, enhances governance, and reinforces Nigeria's commitment to the rights of all citizens.

1.3 Aim and Objectives

This study aimed to assess and improve the accessibility of political party offices to ensure equal access and participation for PWDs in political activities and processes. The audit sought to identify barriers, evaluate compliance with legal frameworks, and provide recommendations to enhance accessibility, thereby fostering an inclusive and democratic political system.

The specific objectives were to:

- Evaluate the extent to which political party offices adhere to the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018.
- Examine the physical infrastructure of party offices, including entrances, ramps, elevators, restrooms and pathways, to determine their accessibility for persons with disabilities (PWDs).
- Assess digital accessibility of political party websites and communication platforms to ensure usability for all users, including PWDs.
- Provide practical and actionable recommendations for political parties to enhance the accessibility of their offices, policies and programmes, ensuring full inclusion of PWDs.

1.4 Scope and Significance

This study encompasses Nigeria's political ecosystem—physical infrastructure (party offices), digital platforms (websites and social media), and political processes. The scope covers national, state and local government party offices across Nigeria's 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, though limited to 49 active offices. The audit is a crucial step toward achieving a more inclusive and democratic political system. It will not only ensure compliance with national accessibility standards but also foster greater and meaningful political participation among PWDs, thereby strengthening governance, social equity and national development.

02

Methodology



The methodology involved using a participatory approach by working with the staff of the political party offices, members of organizations of persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders and using observational methods. A three-step approach focused on preparation, agreeing on priorities, and proposing actions to be taken were discussed. These involved our engagement with stakeholders, including Inter Party Advisory Council (IPAC), organisations of persons with disabilities with their physical presence and discussions with individuals with disabilities about potential barriers and facilitators to accessibility within the political party offices.

2.1 Sample design

The study adopted both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods with the use of Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and observation checklist. The FGD and KIIs were used to elicit data from the contestants and political party members with disabilities, and the observational checklist was used to conduct assessments of political party offices in Nigeria.

2.2 Sample Size and Procedure

For the physical and digital accessibility audit, forty-nine (49) political party offices were randomly selected from 19 states across the six geo-political zones of Nigeria. South-West (4 states, 8 political party offices, 8 political party websites, and social media platform); South-South (3 states, 8 political party offices, 8 political party websites and social media platform); South-East (3 states, 6 political party offices, 6 political party websites and social media platform); North-Central (3 states, 10 political party offices, 10 political party websites and social media platform); North-East (3 states, 7 political party offices, 7 political party websites and social media platform); and North-West (4 states, 10 political party offices, 10 political party websites and social media platform). For the Key Informant Interviews, 15 contestants and political office holders with disabilities were purposively selected.

	NE	NW	NC	SE	SS	SW
1	Bauchi	Katsina	Kogi	Abia	Cross River	Lagos
2	Adamawa	Zamfara	Plateau	Anambra	Edo	Ondo
3	Yobe	Kaduna	FCT	Ebonyi	Delta	Osun
4		Kano				Oyo
	3	4	3	3	2	4

(Details of Enumerators and List of Parties allocated to States are attached as appendices)



2.3 Data Collection Methods

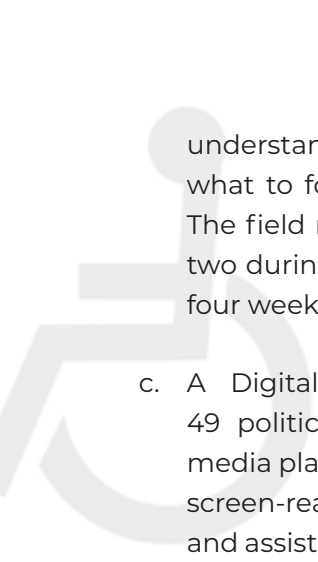
- Engaged with key management staff of political parties and the Inter Party Advisory Council (IPAC) to sensitize them about the accessibility audit and seek their permission.
- Physical accessibility audit conducted across 49 political party offices, including selected national headquarters, state secretariats, and local government party offices (60 political party offices were targeted but adjusted to 49 because of closure due to rent expirations, inactivity or mergers).

A modified 48-question observational checklist was used to assess different components of accessibility using both qualitative and quantitative tools. Thus,

the accessibility assessment consists of site visits to the states. The modified 48-question observational checklist covered both internal and external environments of the political party offices, which included:

- Parking space
- Entrances
- Doors
- Stairways
- Ramp access
- Handrail
- Restrooms
- Signage
- Safety

Researchers were selected and recruited based on their experience with the baseline survey. A two-day training was conducted to broaden their



understanding of disability issues and what to focus on during the fieldwork. The field researchers worked in pairs of two during the fieldwork that lasted for four weeks.

- c. A Digital Accessibility Audit of the 49 political party websites and social media platforms was conducted, testing screen-reader compatibility, captioning and assistive technology availability (e.g., hearing loops) using a combination of WAVE (Web accessibility evaluation tool) and manual testing with screen readers and keyboard navigation to identify and ensure thoroughness.
- d. Focus Group Discussions were conducted with 15 contestants and former or current political office holders with disabilities across different political parties to explore their political journeys and lived experiences in the Nigerian political space. The sessions, lasting 1-2 hours each, were recorded, transcribed, and anonymized, covering campaigns, office experiences and policy impacts.

2.4 Respondent Selection

The respondents comprised the PWDs who have contested or held political offices between 1999-2024, and are members of the political parties that IPAC is coordinating. They are also members of the Elect-Ability group, which is made up of contestants with disabilities, former and current appointive and elective political office holders. This group's credibility and diversity (gender, disability type, region) make it an ideal lens for the report and analysis for the accessibility audit, to ensure findings reflect authentic challenges and triumphs. These individuals offer a longitudinal view of Nigeria's political evolution and bring firsthand expertise. Their experiences, from grassroots campaigns to elective and appointive roles, ground the report in practical realities.

2.5 Analytical Approach

Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics to summarise accessibility findings. Qualitative data were content-analyzed and coded into themes, with coding responses into statistical tests, reframed as “evidence” that assessed links between accessibility and entrances), with a low p-value (under 0.05) indicating a connection; a high one (e.g., 0.5) indicating no connection. This dual analysis—numerical and qualitative—ensures reliability of the study's results.

2.6 Limitations

The sample size decreased from 60 to 49 due to non-functional offices. While the audit covered 20 states across the 6 geo-political zones, the study did not cover all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), potentially leaving out unique accessibility challenges in the excluded areas. Also, some political party offices were inaccessible due to security concerns or political sensitivity, limiting the ability to conduct a thorough audit in those locations. Furthermore, some political party offices were located in rented or shared buildings, leading to inconsistencies in accessibility features, as infrastructure is not always under the control of the parties. Despite these, triangulation across methods—surveys, digital tests, and interviews—enhances and reinforces the study's reliability, offering a solid foundation for WFD's advocacy of this project.



Historical and Legal context

3.1 Disability Inclusion in Nigeria's Political History

Disability inclusion in Nigeria's political history has evolved significantly over the years thus reflecting the country's gradual recognition of the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs). Despite various legal and policy advancements, the journey towards full political inclusion remains fraught with challenges. Nigeria's commitment to disability rights gained traction with its ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2007 and its optional protocols in 2011.² However, the absence of a domestic legal framework hindered meaningful implementation until 2018, when the Nigerian government enacted the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act.³ The Act mandates equal opportunities for PWDs, including their participation in

politics, public service, and decision-making processes.

Political Participation of PWDs

Despite legal provisions, the participation of PWDs in Nigerian politics has remained limited due to structural, social and economic barriers. Political parties, while essential in shaping governance, have been slow in adopting disability-inclusive policies. A 2023 study on Nigeria's 18 political parties revealed that while some have made efforts towards inclusion, significant gaps remain in the implementation of disability-friendly policies⁴

2. Vemuru, Varalakshmi; Martinez, Rosa Maria; Aderemi-Ige, Toyin Janet; Espinoza, Sabina Anne; Ilesanmi, Michael Gboyega. Disability Inclusion in Nigeria : A Rapid Assessment (English). Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/780571593336878236>

3. Federal Republic of Nigeria. (2018). Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act. Retrieved from <https://www.lawsofnigeria.org>

4 Westminster Foundation for Democracy. (2023). Study on Inclusive Practices in Nigeria's Political Parties. Retrieved from <https://www.wfd.org>

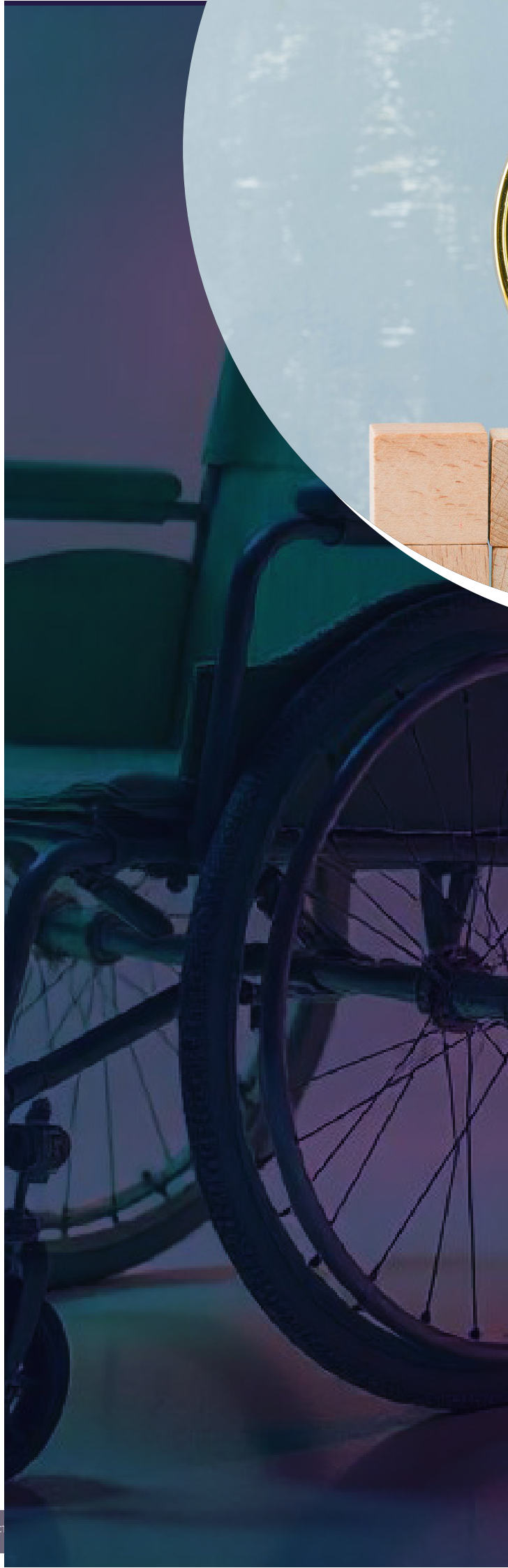
Additionally, accessibility challenges such as inadequate sign language interpretation, inaccessible polling stations, and a lack of campaign materials in alternative formats further hinder PWD engagement in the electoral process.⁵

3.2 The Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018: _____

The Disability Act, enacted on 23 January 2019 outlines provisions that enhance PWD participation in politics and public life and guarantee their rights in governance and civic engagement. Key provisions include:

- Equal Opportunities - Part 1: Guarantees PWDs' civil and political rights without discrimination.
- Enabling Environments - Part 2: Guarantees rights to access to public premises and accessibility aids in public buildings.
- Inclusive Leadership - Part 6: Guarantees political participation rights. It requires political parties to ensure PWDs' inclusion in leadership and decision-making; and mandates government support for PWDs engagement in public affairs, including NGOs, political parties, and associations.

⁵ Inclusive Friends Association. (2021). Assessing Nigeria's Electoral Process for Persons with Disabilities. Retrieved from <https://www.inclusivefriends.org>





Findings

4.1 Statistical Analysis

Table 1: Descriptive Overview Summary of Accessibility Features in Surveyed Buildings (N = 49)

Accessibility Feature	Yes (%)	No (%)	Summary
Step-free entrances	51.0	49.0	Slightly over half of buildings offer step-free access.
Accessible ramps	22.4	77.6	Most buildings lack ramps, a major barrier for wheelchair users.
Doorway width (≥ 32 inches)	65.3	34.7	Two-thirds comply, but over a third remain inaccessible.
Automatic/easy-to-open doors	36.7	63.3	The majority lack hands-free entry options.
Designated drop-off areas	12.2	87.8	Very few buildings provide drop-off zones for mobility-impaired users.
Accessibility signage	10.2	89.8	Signage is critically lacking in nearly 90% of buildings.
Designated accessible parking	24.5	75.5	Three-quarters of buildings lack reserved parking spots.
Parking close to entrance	30.6	69.4	Even when present, parking is often not conveniently located.
Parking space width	42.9	57.1	Over half fail to meet width standards for accessibility.

Smooth, slip-resistant pathways	53.1	46.9	Nearly half of pathways pose barriers due to obstacles or poor surfaces.
Curb cuts/ramps at crossings	6.1	93.9	A vast majority lack safe crossing options for mobility-impaired users.
Hallway/corridor width (≥36 inches)	55.1	44.9	Over 40% of corridors restrict wheelchair access.
Non-slip floors, no tripping hazards	55.1	44.9	Safety concerns remain in nearly half of the buildings.
Lightweight/automatic doors	16.3	83.7	Most doors are inaccessible for those with limited mobility.
Accessible-height reception desks	55.1	44.9	Nearly half of the desks are too high for wheelchair users.
Accessible seating in waiting areas	53.1	46.9	Inclusive seating is absent in nearly half of the waiting areas.
Signage for the Deaf	14.3	85.7	Significant gap in support for Deaf individuals.
Elevators with braille/tactile/audible features	0.0	100.0	No elevators meet accessibility standards for the visually impaired.
Handrails on both sides of staircases	49.0	51.0	Half lack dual handrails, posing safety risks.
Step edges with contrasting colours	16.3	83.7	Most steps lack visibility aids for the visually impaired.
Accessible restrooms (grab bars, turning space)	30.6	69.4	Over two-thirds lack adequate restroom accessibility.
Accessible-height restroom fixtures	20.4	79.6	Majority of fixtures are inaccessible to wheelchair users.
Restroom doors with lever/automatic features	24.5	75.5	Three-quarters of restroom doors are hard to operate.
Emergency alarms in restrooms	2.0	98.0	Almost no restrooms have safety alarms; a critical risk.
High contrast/tactile signage throughout	10.2	89.8	Wayfinding support is severely lacking for the visually impaired.

Notes:

- Percentages are rounded to one decimal place for clarity.
- The table includes a selection of key features (25 out of 48) to provide a snapshot.
- The summary column highlights the primary takeaway for each feature, reflecting the analysis provided.

4.2 Physical Accessibility of Political Spaces

- a. Across the 49 political party offices audited, physical accessibility emerged as a glaring weak point. Just over half—51%—of these buildings boasted step-free entrances, meaning nearly one in two locations poses an immediate barrier to those with mobility impairments. Ramps, a basic necessity for wheelchair users, were barely present in only 22.4% of offices.
- b. Doorways offered a slightly brighter note, with 65.3% meeting the 32-inch width standard, yet this still leaves over a third too narrow for easy passage. Restroom results showed that only 30.6% were equipped with sufficient turning space, while a staggering 79.6% lacked accessible toilets with wash-hand basins at an accessible height, effectively excluding wheelchair users from basic facilities.
- c. Safety provisions compounded these issues. Emergency exits were inaccessible to wheelchair users in 73.5% of cases, and 98% of restrooms lacked emergency alarms, leaving PWDs vulnerable in crises. Statistical analysis revealed some patterns: buildings without ramps were 90.9% guaranteed not to have step-free entrances, a connection confirmed by a strong statistical link ($p < 0.05$).

A contestant with a physical disability (wheelchair user) and a participant in the Focus Group Discussion described campaign venues with steep steps and no ramps, forcing reliance on aides or abandonment of the political events.

The data and stories align: physical spaces in Nigeria's political arena remain largely hostile to PWDs and undermine their ability to engage as voters, candidates or officeholders.

4.3 Digital Accessibility in Political Engagement

Communication Accessibility

Communication barriers, particularly in signage, further isolate PWDs, especially those with visual impairment. The audit found that 89.8% of party offices lacked high-contrast, tactile signage, essential for independent navigation. Braille was almost absent, missing from 95.9% of locations, rendering these spaces indecipherable to blind individuals. This near-total omission reflects a profound neglect of visual communication needs, starkly evident in the focus group's accounts. One visually impaired respondent recounted arriving at a party office only to wander because he was unable to locate meeting rooms due to missing tactile cues—"I felt invisible," he said. Where tactile signage existed, it rarely coincided with other accommodations, leaving PWDs with partial solutions at best. For instance, a building might have a single Braille sign at the entrance but no further guidance inside. This connotes a half-measure that fails to deliver true access. These findings highlight a communication gap that not only hinders physical movement but also diminishes the sense of inclusion of PWDs in political processes, from attending meetings to participating in strategy sessions.

Technology Accessibility

Digital and technological access proved equally dismal, with profound implications for PWDs in an increasingly online political landscape. 82.1% of party websites and social media platforms were inaccessible, lacking features like screen-reader compatibility or captions for videos. Assistive technologies, such as hearing loops or screen readers, were available in a mere 6.1% of offices, a figure that dwindles to 9.1% even among those with accessible digital platforms. This disconnect was palpable in the focus group, where a visually impaired candidate lamented, "I can't follow party updates online—no screen readers, no support," illustrating how

digital exclusion bars PWDs from critical information flows.

The statistical analysis offered little reassurance at this juncture. Unlike physical features, where some alignment emerged (e.g., ramps and entrances), technology access showed no consistent patterns with other accessibility measures. Consequently, this reflects an ad-hoc approach. For example, a party might boast a compliant website but lack on-site assistive tools, leaving deaf or blind users stranded during physical visits. The data paints a clear picture: technology, a potential equaliser, instead amplifies exclusion, with 93.9% of offices unprepared to support PWDs digitally or in person. A necessity in modern campaigns, online voter engagement remains a significant challenge for candidates, 80% of whom contested elections but struggled to connect with voters digitally.

Know more about

Our Priorities

Together we the people achieve more than any single person could ever do alone.

our manifesto

Deepen Democracy

Screenshot of an inaccessible party website during the survey, lacking alt text or captions.

4.4 PARKING

According to the accessibility audits conducted by the research team, there is a general parking space or area allocated for the staff and public at some of the political party offices. However, the common problem identified is no accessible car parking spaces provided close to the party offices for persons with disabilities.

The principle of accessible parking is to

ensure persons with disabilities get close to the building or space they are visiting from the roadside safely and with as little difficulty as possible.

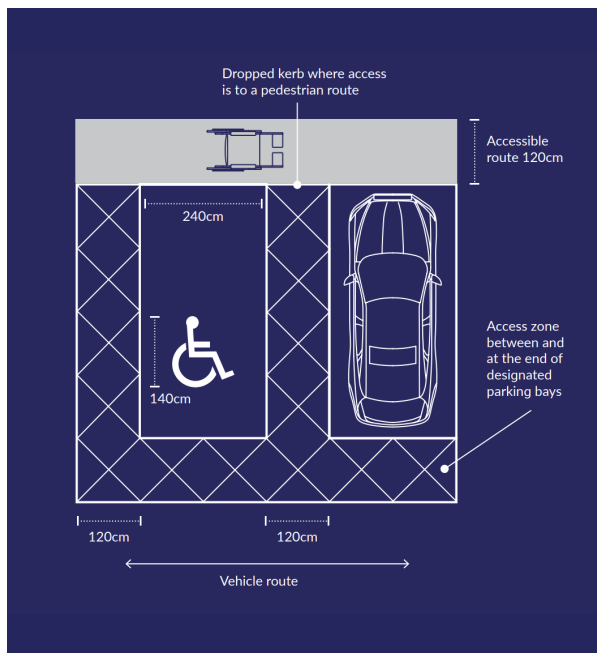
Accessible car parking spaces are slightly larger than other car parking spaces. This is to allow for space to manoeuvre aids and equipment (such as wheelchairs, crutches, and walking frames), and for an individual to help persons with disabilities if required. The extra space surrounding the vehicle is essential; without it, the person with disabilities may not be able to get in or out of the vehicle.

Most of the political party offices visited had a parking space that could be allocated as an accessible car park for persons with disabilities in their general parking space but they were not allocated for it.

The general requirements for accessible parking are as follows:

- Allocating the area close to the main entrance as an accessible parking area for persons with disabilities as it is within 30 meters from the main entrance.
- A parking area close to the main gate entrance.
- Avoid positioning the long edge of the accessible area next to a wall where possible. If this is necessary, add 300mm width to the transfer zone.
- Reserved accessible parking area should be at least 240cm x 500cm (2400mm x 5000mm) in size.
- A clearly marked reserved access area measuring 120cm (1200mm) wide should be available on the side and at the rear of designated parking bays. (See Pic 1 & 2)
- Having the international symbol of access for identification in the separated parking slot and pre-cast wheel stoppers

to separate the travelling pathway from the parking.



Picture 1: A blueprint of a standardized accessible parking lot for Persons with Disabilities



Picture 2: A parking lot with an international disability sign and car

- g. Disability parking areas should lead to an accessible route (an accessible curb ramp, accessible pathway, accessible building entrance among others).

4.5 MAIN ENTRANCE

Concerning the main entrance, the accessibility audit focused on whether the office building/main building of the political party offices is accessible to persons with disabilities. Some political offices have traditional main entrances for offices which include steps at the entrance without a ramp or a slope at the entrance to make wheelchair users accessible. Without a ramp or a slope with a gradient of no more than 1:2, it is difficult for wheelchair users to access the entrance. For instance, a separate accessible entrance for persons with disabilities was recommended which includes a ramp with railing and tactile stickers along the ramp.

Therefore, we would like to recommend that a ramp be built according to the standards we have given in the audit reports at the main entrance of the party offices to make sure that it is accessible for persons with disabilities at all times.

Additionally, some of the name boards of the party offices are not accessible for low-vision impaired individuals due to a lack of contrasting colours. The name boards must be in an accessible format (large font size), with contrasting colours (white colour font on black background), and in sign language. Similarly, the notices on the noticeboard were recommended to be posted in large font sizes.

General recommendations for the main entrance are as follows:

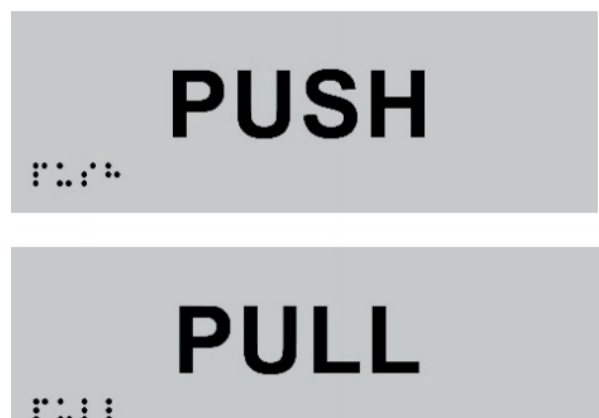
- a. At the main entrance, it is suitable to install an alternative doorway with accessible ramp access for persons with disabilities.
- b. The ramp should be 900mm in width, gentle gradient; preferably 1:20, but no steeper than 1:12.
- c. Landing of at least 1200 mm of length,

at 10,000 mm intervals. Double handrails on both sides at 700mm to 850mm.

- d. Raised curbs on open edges (75mm). Handrails extend horizontally 300mm beyond the top and bottom. The surface of the ramp should be non-slip. Edge protection on both sides of the ramp is essential.
- e. Tactile is necessary along the ramp.
- f. Surface materials should be slip-resistant when wet, firmly fixed and easy to maintain. The colour of the ramp surface should contrast visually with the landing surface. The frictional characteristics of the landing and ramp surfaces should be similar.
- g. Tactile pathway and increasing lighting facilities & name boards in sign language.
- h. The notices in the main entrance should be in large font size for the access of low-vision individuals, in braille and sign language.
- i. Sufficient lighting at the entrance.
- j. Signage and a push & pull sign in braille/ sign language at the main entrance door.
- k. A door kick plate is also necessary for the front main door entrance and other

doors.

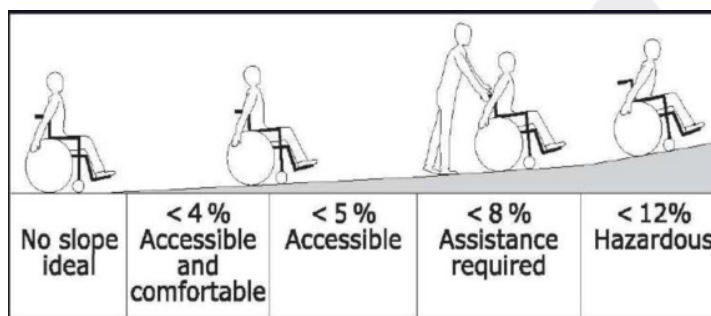
- l. A clear space on both sides of the door that allows a wheelchair to approach the door and open is necessary.
- m. A colour band at the eye level for the doors.
- n. Have no doormat or, if required, a door mat that is sunken into the floor to create a level surface that is fixed firmly with no loose edges.
- o. The available signage should be large for identification and at an accessible height.
- p. The clear door width must be at least 900 mm.
- q. The entrance door should be able to be operated independently.
- r. Installing an alternative name board with the white font colour on a black background but with a large font size for proper identifications and directions with sign language.
- s. The height of the door handle is between 900 mm and 1100 mm.
- t. The accessible entrance must be identifiable.



Push & Pull signage in braille & sign language signage



Accessible entrance signage



Different gradients of the ramp.

Slope of ramp	Maximum Length	Recommended use
10% (1:10)	Less than 1 m	Very short distances only
8% (1:12)	2 m	Maximum slope for general use
5% (1:20)	Up to 10 m	Preferred slope

Recommended slopes and lengths of ramps

- Measure the length along the bottom of the ramp in cm (a).
- Measure the height in cm (b).
- Divide the length by the height ($a \div b$).
- If the answer is 20 or higher, the gradient meets the standards.
- If the answer is less than 20, then the gradient is too steep and does not meet the standards.

For example:

- $a = 570\text{cm}$
- $b = 25\text{cm}$
- $570 \div 25 = 22.8$ (higher than 20).

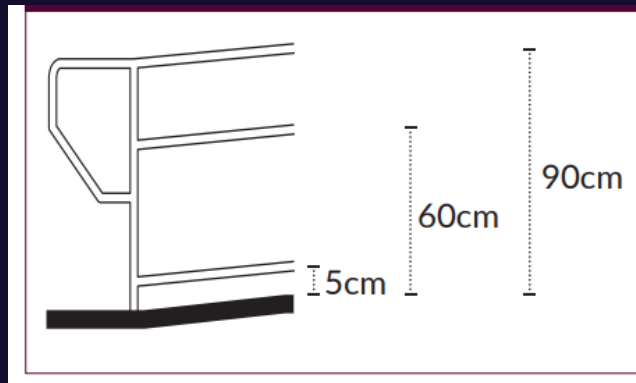
The gradient meets the standards

Handrails on ramps

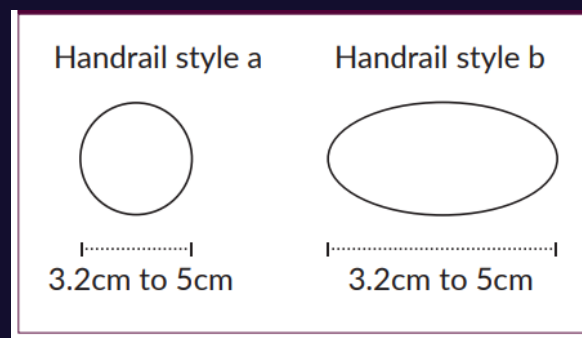
- Ramps should have a double-height handrail on both sides at a height of 90cm/ 900mm and extend beyond 30cm/300mm from the beginning of the ramp.



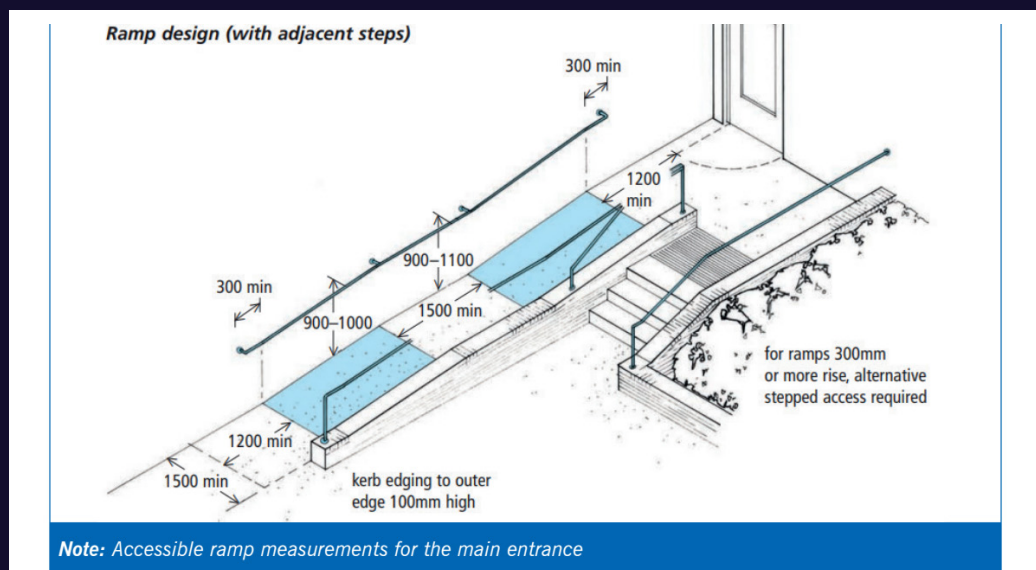
- There should be a clear space of at least 120cm/1200mm between handrails.
- If the ramp is not between two walls, it should have an edge protection (such as a small kerb or bar) at least 5cm tall.



- The colour of the handrail should contrast with the background.
- The diameter of the handrails should be between 3.2cm/32mm and 5cm/50mm.



- The surface of the ramp should be non-slip and well-drained.



4.6 STAIRWAY/STAIRCASE

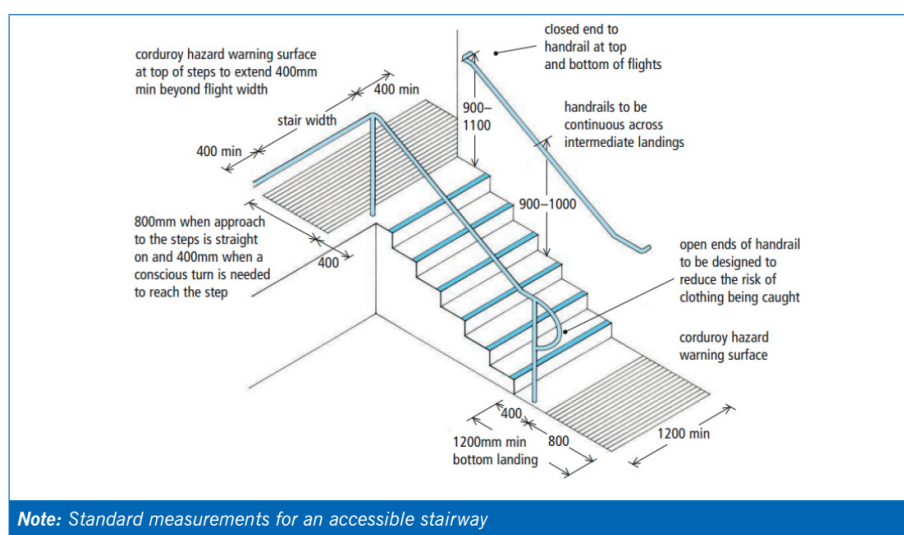
The principle of accessible stairways/staircases is to provide safe stairways for the comfort of all users, especially those with mobility problems. The common problems identified by the audit related to the staircase are steps that are too high, stairways without suitable railing, and steps without a colour contrast strip along the nosing.

The main recommendations given for the stairway/staircase are the step edges should be in a different colour or texture easily identifiable by low-vision and visually impaired persons. Warning tactile stickers installed at the beginning and end of all flights are essential. Through the recommendations, it was pointed out that stairways are a major barrier for wheelchair users. The provision of ramps or lift access must always be considered to enable wheelchair users' access to other levels of a building.

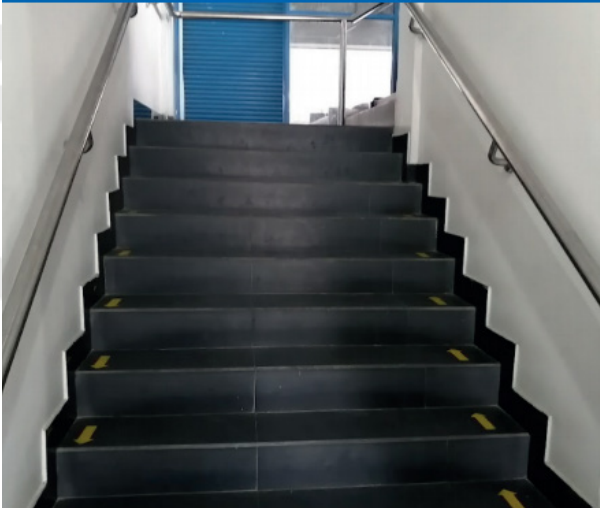
In addition, services available upstairs should not be limited to upstairs but have similar services on the ground floor; thus, the wheelchair can access those services. We also recommend that if such services are not possible to be relocated to the ground floor, the officers should come down and provide the services to persons with disabilities.

Guidelines for stairway:

- The minimum width of the stairs is 1200 mm.
- Continuous handrails, on both sides, at a height between 800 mm - 900 mm.
- The handrail installed in the centre of the stair width more than 3000 mm.
- Suitable colour contrast in the handrail with the wall.
- A landing located after the stairs, covering a level difference of more than 2500 mm.
- The landing length is not less than 1200 mm.
- Nosing should be used on the front face as well as on the top of each step so that they are visible when ascending and descending.
- The location of the emergency (fire escape) stairs is clearly identifiable.
- Treads must have a non-slip surface.
- The risers having open gaps in the steps are not suitable.
- Isolated steps should be avoided.



ACCESSIBLE STAIRWAY/STAIRCASE



Note: Accessible stairway with tactile

4.7 DOORS

The main concerns identified related to the doorways were that doorways have steps at the threshold, doors had handles that are difficult to grasp and use or are in a position that is difficult to reach; doors did not have enough space in front of them for a wheelchair user to position themselves.

The main requirement pointed out by persons with disabilities was the necessity of a colour band (specifically for glass doors) and a kickplate for the doors. For a step at the doorway, a small ramp at the threshold to help overcome a step for a wheelchair user is recommended.

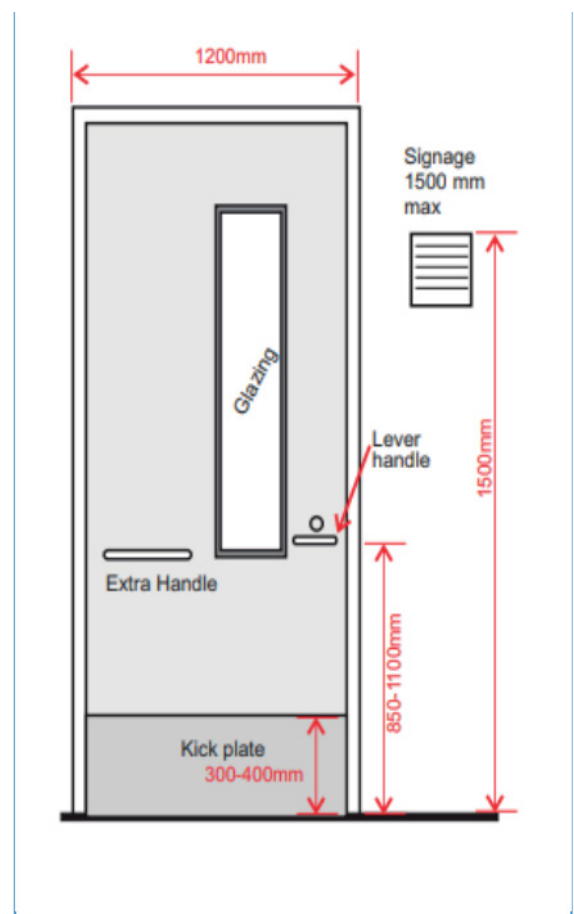
- a. It is recommended that fixing a kick peddle to open the door will be easy for a person without both hands.
- b. It is recommended that all name boards on the doors such as the name boards of the "Chairman", "Secretary" etc. be in large font with black background and white letters, and in braille at eye level.
- c. The doors must be able to operate without much effort.
- d. Automatic doors must have sufficiently long opening intervals.
- e. Push buttons for automatic doors located at a maximum height of 1200 mm.
- f. There should be sufficient space beside the

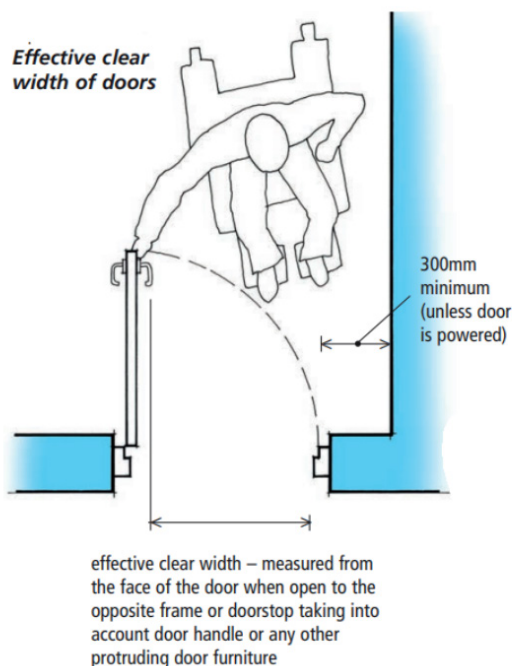
latch side of the doors (400-450 mm.)

g. In double-leaf doors, the width of one of the leaves must be at least 900 mm.

h. Doors fitted with spring closers must have an extra pull handle.

i. Manual door accessories/hardware (handles, locks, pull etc.) located no higher than 1200 mm – 1300 mm.



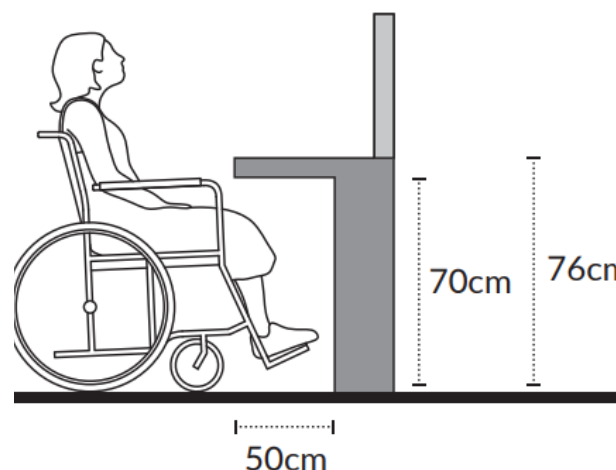


4.8 WAITING AREA/ OR LOBBY AREA/ RECEPTION

Generally, a waiting area/reception is necessary for the political party offices as the visitors or members need to wait until their turn to get a particular task done by the officials. While some of the political party offices had a separate waiting area close to the reception, some did not have such an area due to lack of space and the structure of the building. However, through the accessibility audit, the necessity of having a waiting area specifically for persons with disabilities was pointed out.

It is therefore recommended that:

- There should be a reception counter clearly signed and identifiable from the entrance.



Accessible counter measurement

- One section of the counter should be lowered to ensure it is accessible for wheelchair users and people with dwarfism.

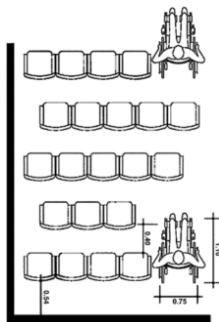


International Symbol of Accessibility

- The lowered section should be at least 150cm wide.
- The surface should have a maximum height of 76cm.



- There should be a knee space with a height of 70cm from the floor and a depth of 50cm from the base of the counter.



4.9 WASHROOM/TOILET

The principle of the accessible washroom/toilet is to provide a restroom with sufficient space that accommodates the needs of people with various needs, ensuring facilities and fixtures are within easy reach. There are no political party offices that have an accessible washroom/toilet. Some other party offices have washrooms/toilets which are not even accessible to people with non-disabilities. Lack of a proper toilet is a notable problem and not having a clean washroom/toilet is a significant aspect noted by the accessibility audit team.

There were other issues related to the washrooms/toilets such as the doorway being too narrow or having a step at the doorway, the door that opens into the toilets being too narrow for wheelchair access, reducing space available inside the toilets, and not enough space inside to turn around or approach the toilet, inadequate drainage causing pooling of water and slip hazards, taps that are difficult to grip, lack of supports available to people. (e.g., grab bars).

An accessible toilet is a necessary feature for all buildings and spaces where toilets are provided. Hence, it is recommended that:

- a. A building should have separate toilets for persons with disabilities, and that accessible toilets/washrooms be built or some of the available toilets/washrooms should be retrofitted and converted to accessible washrooms and toilets.

- b. Accessible toilets may be integrated within general toilet facilities. At least one accessible facility for men and one for women should be provided.
- c. Accessible toilets may be separated from general toilets. These should be available for people of all genders to use and should be located near the entrance and waiting areas.
- d. The accessible toilet should be clearly



labelled with the international symbol of accessibility, alongside relevant written and tactile information. It is useful to incorporate a reminder that not all disabilities are visible.

- e. The accessible toilet should have a sliding door or a door that opens outwards, to allow more space for a wheelchair to be manoeuvred inside. The door should not open inwards.
- f. Accessible toilets should have doors that can be locked from the inside, and released from the outside by staff in case of emergency.
- g. Doors should be easy to use for people with limited strength or manual dexterity.
- h. Door should have:
 - i. Clear opening width of 900mm/90cm;
 - ii. A clear space on both sides of the

door that allows a wheelchair to approach the door and open it;

- i. Door locks—that are located 900mm/90cm high as far from the opening edge as possible. The toilet door should be locked from the inside and also the door should be released from the outside by authorized staff in case of emergency.
- j. There should be a clear turning space of 1500mm/150cm by 1150mm/50cm to ensure that a wheelchair user can go in and out, turn around, and use elements in the toilet.
- k. Floor surfaces should be well-drained, waterproof, non-slippery, and non-glare.
- l. The facilities should have sufficient natural or artificial light, good ventilation, and should be free from loud background noises.
- m. The accessible toilet should be clean and free from strong smells.
- n. The colour of key elements in the toilet should contrast with the background.
- o. The emergency alarm system should be positioned near the toilet itself, easy to reach and easy to operate.

Toilets

- a. The centre line of the toilet should be positioned no more than 500mm/50cm from the side wall.
- b. There should be a clear space of at least 900mm/90cm on the open side of the toilet.
- c. The toilet seat should be at a maximum height of 480mm/48cm.
- d. The following equipment should be easy to operate and should be positioned near the toilet, at a maximum height of 1100mm/110cm above the floor:

- i. toilet paper dispenser
- ii. flush control (if hand operated)

- e. detachable bidet shower head.
- f. A sanitary bin should be located near the toilet.
- g. The toilet should have a grab bar measuring 60cm long on the side wall, located no more than 25cm from the rear wall and at a maximum height of 68cm.
- h. There should also be a moveable U-grab bar on the open side of the toilet, and a grab bar on the rear wall.

Washbasins

- a. A washbasin, soap, paper towel dispenser, and hand sanitizer should be provided near the toilet, at a maximum height of 110cm from the floor.
- b. The rim of the washbasin should be no more than 74cm from the floor.
- c. There should be a knee space underneath the washbasin.



- d. The taps should be easy to use for people with limited strength or manual dexterity (for example, using a closed fist). Round taps should not be used such as:
- e. It is recommended that tap controls be installed on one side of the washbasin,

to increase accessibility for people with dwarfism and children with disabilities.

- f. Vertical grab bars should be mounted around the washbasin.
- g. A mirror can be mounted above the washbasin, with the lower edge no higher than 60cm from the floor.



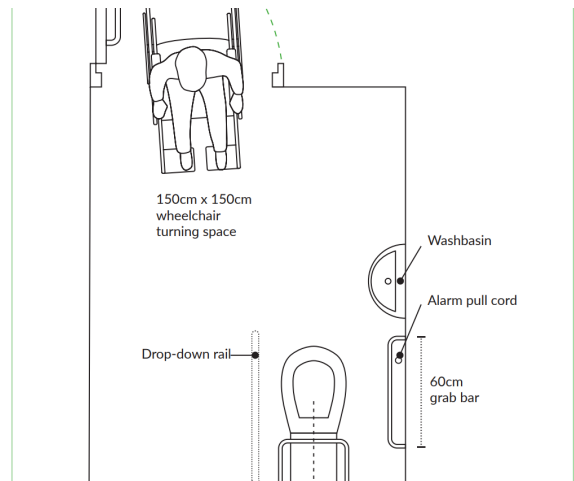
Accessible toilet



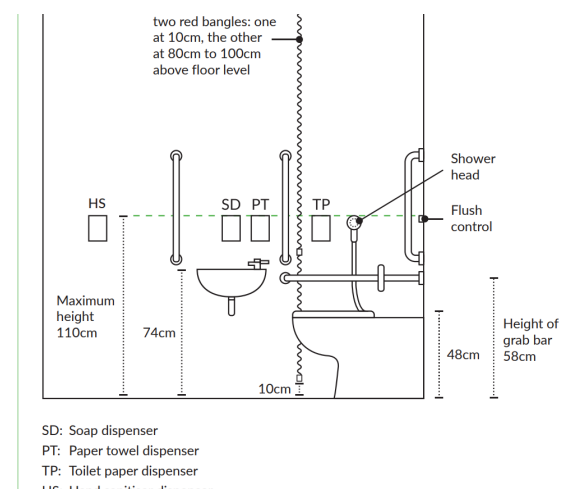
Accessible toilet



Inaccessible toilet



Accessible toilet overhead view



Accessible toilet side view

4.10 Political Participation

Experiences of Persons with Disabilities

Focus group data highlights:

The research which also has a focus group section and is enriched with voices from experienced PWDs who have held and contested political/elective positions, lays bare the multifaceted barriers that Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) encounter in the nation's political sphere. Despite the promise of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018, the findings reveal a landscape where physical inaccessibility, communication gaps, technological shortcomings, and societal biases converge to limit the participation of PWD. This section weaves together statistical data and personal testimonies to explore electoral participation, campaign challenges, workplace conditions, public engagement, policy influence, and gender dynamics, offering a holistic view of the struggles and resilience of PWDs in Nigeria's political arena.

Electoral participation among PWDs, while notable, remains constrained by systemic hurdles. The survey found that 80 percent of respondents had contested at least one election, a figure that underscores a determined engagement despite the odds. Among these, 60 percent demonstrated remarkable persistence by running in multiple elections, driven by a deep-seated motivation to advocate for disability rights. One respondent captured this ethos succinctly: "I want the Nigerian disability legal framework to be a top priority in the legislations of this country." Globally, PWDs account for approximately 15 percent of the population, yet their representation in political offices worldwide—and particularly in Nigeria—falls far short of this proportion. In stark contrast, developed democracies like the United Kingdom and Canada mandate inclusive electoral frameworks to guarantee accessibility at polling stations and equitable representation. Nigeria, however, is

confronted with structural barriers, societal prejudices, and lack of political party support, rendering successful candidacies elusive for PWDs.

Campaigning presents a gauntlet of challenges, with discrimination a universal experience among respondents. All recounted instances of bias, often exacerbated by political opponents who exploit their disabilities to undermine their viability. 60 percent highlighted financial constraints as a primary obstacle, noting the high costs of campaigns—sometimes reaching millions of naira—that outstrip their resources. Meanwhile, 40 percent pointed to mobility barriers, such as inaccessible roads and campaign venues with no ramps or step-free access, echoing the physical audit's finding that only 22.4% of party offices have ramps.

Several respondents shared stories of being pressured to withdraw, with opponents asserting that a person with a disability could not win—an attitude that reflects deep-rooted stigma. Unlike in some nations where political parties allocate funds to underrepresented groups, Nigerian parties offer no structured financial assistance to candidates with disabilities leaving them to fend for themselves in a resource-intensive electoral process.

Once elected, PWD officeholders face workplace accessibility issues that hinder their effectiveness. Only 40 percent reported having accessible office spaces, with 60 percent noting the absence of essential assistive technologies like ramps, screen readers, or hearing loops—mirroring the survey's broader finding that just 6.1% of offices provide such tools. In countries like Canada and the United States, public buildings must adhere to strict accessibility laws, including ramps, wide doorways (e.g., the 32-inch standard), and emergency provisions. Nigeria, however, has yet to enforce similar standards, leaving lawmakers with disabilities to navigate ill-equipped

environments.

Beyond physical infrastructure, accessibility gaps extend to communication: many legislative sessions and meetings lack sign language interpreters, audio-enhanced tools, or accessible voting systems, further isolating officeholders with disabilities and limiting their ability to contribute fully.

Public interaction and community engagement remain vital for PWDs, yet these too are fraught with difficulties. Despite the challenges, 80 percent of respondents reported full participation in community events, a testament to their commitment. However, 60 percent faced obstacles due to disability-unfriendly public spaces—venues without ramps, signage, or interpreters. Highlighting barriers that extend beyond offices to public forums, the audit's data reveals that 89.8% of offices lack tactile signage, while 95.9% fail to include braille.

A female respondent powerfully illustrated the compounded struggle: “In Nigeria, if you are a woman and then also a woman with a disability, it becomes a double discrimination.” Political events often fail to provide alternative communication materials or accessible facilities, curtailing PWDs’ ability to connect with constituents. Nevertheless, their resolve to advocate for change within their communities shines through, even as the environment works against them.

On the policy front, PWDs have attained some successes, with 60 percent directly influencing measures that benefit their community. Notable achievements include securing a 50 percent waiver in election fees for candidates with disabilities and automatic councillorship tickets in certain state elections—steps that ease financial and procedural burdens. Yet, these gains are modest against the backdrop of the Disability Act's broader non-implementation. The Act mandates accessibility and equality, but without enforcement mechanisms—

like the fines or full implementation of the Equality Act—prognosis remains bleak. While expressed frustration is palpable, the significant, far-reaching overhaul needed to transform public spaces truly inclusive remains a distant goal.

Gender adds another layer of complexity, with all female respondents reporting double discrimination stemming from their disability and gender. Women with disabilities rank among the most underrepresented groups in Nigerian politics, a trend Nigeria exemplifies. The focus group highlighted this vividly, with women recounting not only physical barriers but also societal attitudes that question their leadership capacity twice over. One respondent's words—“it becomes a double discrimination”—resonate with the audit's broader findings of exclusion. Proactive policies, such as reserved seats for women with disabilities in legislative houses, could begin to dismantle this dual barrier, aligning Nigeria with global calls for gender and disability equity in politics.

This narrative, culled from the findings, reveals a political landscape where PWDs exhibit extraordinary resilience yet face relentless obstacles. From the 80 percent who contest elections to the 60 percent who influence policy, their efforts stand out against a backdrop of inaccessible offices (only 40% compliant), inadequate party support, and pervasive discrimination. Physical barriers like missing ramps (22.4%) and narrow doorways (34.7% below 32 inches) intersect with communication gaps (95.9% without Braille) and technological deficits (55.1% inaccessible websites), painting a picture of exclusion that the Disability Act is yet to rectify. For WFD, these insights underscore the urgent need for comprehensive reforms—legal, infrastructural, and cultural—to ensure Nigeria's democracy reflects its full diversity.





05



Implications for Nigeria's Democratic Framework

5.1 Implications for Nigeria's Democratic Framework

The Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 mandates the inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in all spheres of public life, including political participation, and accessibility of public buildings and spaces in Nigeria. However, the audit's findings indicate that most political party offices are inaccessible to PWDs, systemically marginalising them from engaging in political activities, attending meetings, or seeking political office due to the various barriers.

The Political Party offices that fail to comply with these legal requirements are not only violating the national laws but also ethical standards of equality and

justice. Inaccessible political infrastructure reinforces societal inequities by maintaining barriers that prevent marginalized groups from participating in governance. This perpetuation of inequality contradicts democratic ideals, which strive for equal opportunity and participation for all citizens, regardless of physical ability. Ensuring accessibility is a step towards addressing these systemic inequities and promoting a more inclusive political environment.

Addressing the shortcomings identified in the accessibility audit is not merely a matter of legal compliance but a fundamental step toward strengthening Nigeria's democratic framework. Hence, Nigeria can move closer to a truly inclusive democracy that upholds the rights and dignity of every individual by making sure that political party offices are accessible to all citizens.

06

Recommendations



- a. Political party offices should be retrofitted with ramps, elevators, accessible restrooms, and braille signage. Future offices should be built following universal design principles.
- b. An independent enforcement body should be established through the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities to monitor political party compliance with accessibility laws such as Persons with Disabilities (Accessibility) Regulation, 2023.
- c. Political parties should introduce affirmative action policies to increase PWD representation and ensure that internal party structures include PWDs in leadership roles.
- d. National awareness and sensitisation campaigns should be launched to emphasize the importance of accessibility in political participation and collaborate with civil society organisations to track and report compliance levels in political offices.
- e. Regular training on disability rights and accessibility should be conducted for political party officials and other relevant stakeholders.
- f. Political events, campaigns, and meetings should incorporate sign language interpreters and alternative communication methods.
- g. There is need to amend Part V of the Electoral Act 2022 to introduce policies that mandate political parties to reserve quotas for PWDs, similar to gender-based representation policies in other countries such as Kenya.
- h. Digital accessibility features and content should be mandated for all political parties' websites and social media platforms such as screen-reader-compatible websites and assistive tools.



07

conclusion



The Accessibility Audit Survey 2025 lays bare Nigeria's failure to fully include PWDs in its political sphere, despite the 2018 Disability Act. Physical and digital barriers, coupled with discrimination, exclude a significant population, undermining democratic equity. Yet, the resilience of PWDs and modest policy gains offer hope. Strengthening legal enforcement, improving infrastructure, enhancing monitoring mechanisms, and

fostering inclusive political participation are crucial steps toward building a truly democratic society that serves all citizens equitably. Implementing these recommendations, rooted in global best practices will reinforce Nigeria's commitment to equal political representation and create a governance framework. Hence, Nigeria can lead Africa in disability-inclusive governance, a goal resonant with WFD's mission.

08

References



- Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018, Nigeria.
- Kenya Persons with Disability (Act), 2023
- Equality Act 2010, United Kingdom.
- INEC Reports on Electoral Accessibility, 2023.
- IPAC Disability Group Data, 2024.
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006.
- WFD Inclusive Governance Guidelines, 2023.

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is the UK public body dedicated to supporting democracy around the world. Operating internationally, WFD works with parliaments, political parties, and civil society groups as well as on elections to help make political systems fairer, more inclusive and accountable.

 www.wfd.org

 [@WFD_Democracy](https://twitter.com/WFD_Democracy)

 [@WFD_Democracy](https://www.instagram.com/WFD_Democracy)

 [**Westminster Foundation
for Democracy \(WFD\)**](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Westminster-Foundation-for-Democracy-(WFD))



Scan here to sign up to WFD news



WFD

Executive
Non-Departmental
Public Body sponsored by:



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

