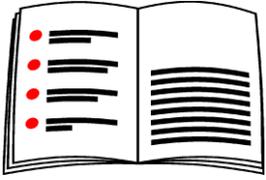


Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) (Amendment) Act, 2021

Main Points



Easy Read version



This booklet will help you to understand, in an easier and shorter way, the things written in the document called ***Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) (Amendment) Act, 2021.***



To know exactly what is written in the full document, you can read it by following the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/24vn6yty>

This booklet was prepared by Alistair de Gaetano and Blaine Schembri.

The Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act



There is a law called the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act, that created the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD).

The Commission makes sure that the rights of disabled persons are respected by everyone, and when this does not happen, the Commission speaks to people who are not respecting the rights of disabled persons, and even takes them to court if necessary

Why We Are Changing the Law



We are changing the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act to make sure that the rights of disabled persons can be protected in a better way.

We are also changing the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act to make sure that disabled people can make complaints when their rights are not being respected, so that a special group of people can help to make sure that the rights of these disabled people are respected.



Malta is also passing another law called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. This new law will make sure that disabled persons in Malta will have all the rights that they deserve.

At the same time, by changing the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act, we are making the Commission on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) stronger, so that it can support disabled people to fight for their rights, when these rights are broken.

The following will make sure that CRPD will become stronger:

The UNCRPD Redress Panel



The first way in which changing this law will make the Commission stronger, is by creating a new Panel.

The Panel is a group of people who work to make sure that the rights of disabled persons are protected, and its full name will be the 'UNCRPD Redress Panel'.



If a disabled person feel that their rights were not respected, they can complain to the Panel.

For example, a disabled person can complain to the panel if they are being treated unfairly at work because they are disabled, or because they are not being given the right support at school.

The Panel will assist disabled persons with small complaints, and complaints that do not involve money. For big complaints, disabled persons can still go directly to court.



When a disabled person complains to the Panel, the people who form part of the Panel will speak to the disabled person, and to other people who support the disabled person. They will also speak to the other people about whom the disabled person was complaining.

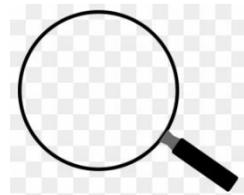
The Panel will then make a decision about the disabled person's complaint.



If the disabled person disagrees with the decision of the Panel, or if the other people about whom the disabled person was complaining disagree about the decision of the Panel, then they can go to court.

The Panel will also make sure that disabled persons are supported in the best way possible, so that it will be easy for disabled persons to make a complaint to the Panel when they need to.

CRPD's Investigations Unit



The second way in which changing this law will make the Commission stronger, is by creating a new part of the Commission. This will be called the Investigations Unit.



Here, there will be people who will check that, for example, different people, Government offices and businesses, respect the rights of disabled persons, for example, by making sure that shops are accessible for wheelchair users.



Where the Investigations Unit find that the rights of disabled persons are not being respected, they will talk to the people responsible, for example the shop's owners, and unless things change, the Investigations Unit can also issue fines, for example to the shop's owners.