



The National Commission for persons with Disabilities is a special group that was put in place by a Law known as the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities) Act, 2014.



The purpose of that Law is to end all kinds of discrimination against Persons with Disabilities. This means that persons with disabilities have



the same rights and must be treated with the same respect dignity and fairness as everyone else in Society!

The mission of the Disabilities Commission is to:

- Protect Disability Rights
- Promote Responsibility
- Ensure Accessibility
- Encourage Inclusion and
- Advance Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

The Secretariat of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities

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**A**ccessible  
Designing things and places in such a way that everyone can use them.

**E**mpower  
Encouraging people with disabilities to do things for themselves, and to always be their very best.

**I**nclusion  
Making sure that persons who have disabilities are always considered, included and involved in Society.

**O**ppportunity  
People with disabilities must have the same chances (or equal opportunities) to fully participate in Society.

**U**nity  
Reminding everyone that people with disabilities are a part of our family and community.

For more information on the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities) 2014, Act, how it affects you and your business, and how you can help, please view a copy of the Act online at [www.disabilitiescommissionbahamas.org](http://www.disabilitiescommissionbahamas.org). You may also contact the Secretariat of The National Commission for Persons with Disabilities; we will be happy to answer your questions, arrange an onsite meeting with you, or provide disabilities-related training/ orientation for your staff.



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**Protecting Rights**  
**Promoting Responsibility**  
**Ensuring Accessibility**  
**Advancing Equal Opportunities**

*What you should know about*

# The National Commission For Persons with Disabilities

*Let's go together!*



**The Commonwealth of The Bahamas**

The Bahamas' Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities) Act, 2014, is designed to end discrimination against persons with disabilities as well as promote their rights and advance equal opportunities, amongst other provisions.

## The National Commission for Persons with Disabilities

The National Commission for Persons with Disabilities is a statutory body that has been mandated to carry out the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act. Among other functions, the Commission has powers and responsibility to:

- Ensure that the rights of all persons with disabilities are respected and upheld;
- Formulate policies and recommend measures to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities;
- Register all persons with disabilities as well as register all organizations for persons with disabilities;
- Design programs and initiatives to promote the employability, independence and overall well-being of persons with disabilities;
- to provide special recommendations for persons with increased vulnerabilities such as women, children, the elderly, the poor and persons with dual or multiple disabilities;
- Ensure adequate accessibility to health care, education and employment opportunities;



- Monitor, evaluate and ensure compliance with the International Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities;



- To consult with the Government and others to ensure the provision of suitable equal opportunities for housing, transportation, and education of persons with disabilities;

- To issue orders requiring owners of premises or operators of services normally available to the public to make physical, structural, administrative or procedural adjustments necessary to accommodate persons with disabilities,

The Commission is comprised of 15 persons who represent the community of persons with disabilities and as well as a cross-section of stakeholders.

### Secretariat of the Commission

The work of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities is assisted and administered by the Secretariat of the Commission. The Secretariat is comprised of a team of full-time personnel which undertakes the day-to-day affairs of the Commission.

### Complaints of Discrimination

A person with a disability who feels discriminated against by an employer, business place or provider of service to the public may complain to the Commission. The Commission will seek to have the complaint resolved amicably, and only if necessary will issue adjustment orders or request the Attorney-General to take appropriate legal action.

In the future the Commission will appoint inspectors who shall be empowered to investigate and recommend prosecution or any other remedy against any persons who infringe against any provision of the Persons with Disabilities Act.



### Commission Priorities

After the Commission was formally constituted and appointed in December 2014, it immediately began to work on its priority agenda. The Commission is busily engaged with a number of important issues, including:

- Advancing accessibility components of the Act;
- Examining and making recommendations to amend other legislation which affect persons with disabilities, such as the Road Traffic Act and Housing Act;
- Public awareness initiatives to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, the provisions of the Act, and the work of the Commission;
- Exploring policies and initiatives to encourage the training and employment of qualifying persons with disabilities and violation of the Act.
- Addressing serious complaints of alleged discrimination;
- The registration of and engagement with persons with disabilities and organizations for persons with disabilities to help shape national policy.