

# Disability Rights Movement

## TIMELINE



1971

**Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons** was the first specialized international document regarding disability adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.



1948

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly following the end of World War II, outlining fundamental human rights to be universally protected.

1973

**Law 11/73: "Handicapped Care Services"** was enacted, aiming to support individuals with disabilities through legislative measures



1975-1990

**Lebanese Civil War** was a multifaceted conflict, involving various factions and foreign interventions. It began on April 13, 1975, and caused widespread devastation, leading to significant loss of life, disabilities and displacement. The war ended with the Taif Agreement in 1989 and the official cessation of hostilities in 1990.



**1975**

**Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons**

marked the first U.N. document to give "disability" a definition and recognized the rights of individuals with disabilities to enjoy the same civil and political rights as others.



**1978**

**Establishment of "Friends of the Disabled Association"**

which started by providing advocacy and rehabilitation services for parents of children with intellectual impairments, founded by Mousa Charafeddine.



**1981**

**International Year of Disability**

was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly and called for an action plan at the national, regional, and international levels with emphasis on equalization of opportunities, rehabilitation and prevention of disabilities.



**1981**

**Establishment of the Lebanese Sitting Handicapped Union (LSHU)**

which marks the initial formation of an organization focusing on the rights and advocacy of people with disabilities. It was formed by and for people with physical disabilities. It is currently known as the Lebanese Union for People with Physical Disabilities (LUPD)

**1983-1992**

**Decade of Disabled Persons** was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, aiming to increase activities designed to improve the situation and status of persons with disabilities.





**12, 13, 14, 15;  
OCTOBER, 1987**

**Anti-war march from the  
South to the North of  
Lebanon**

One of the most successful and  
widely supported events organized  
and led by organizations of people  
with disabilities



**1988**

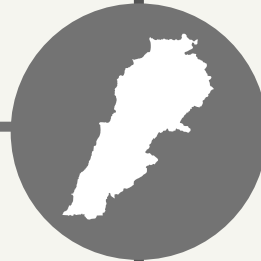
**Establishment of National  
Association for the Rights  
of the Disabled (NARD)**

which was founded by Nawwaf  
Kabbara, followed by the creation of  
the "Echo of Disabled Magazine" by  
NARD in 1989



**1985**

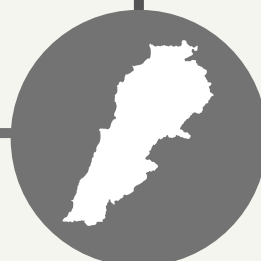
**Establishment of Arcenciel**  
Following a period of preparation  
since 1982, co-founded by Pierre Issa



**1988**

**Establishment of Youth  
Association of the Blind  
(YAB)**

which was founded by Amer  
Makarem



**1992**

**Establishment of the  
Ministry of Social Affairs**

A new governmental framework  
was established to address social  
welfare and development issues  
within the country



**1993**

**Formation of the Foundational National Council for Disabled People (NCDP)**

A pivotal legal entity and centralized committee dedicated to addressing the concerns of individuals with disabilities



**1994**

**Rights and Access program**

A leading program in the governmental and disability domain initiated by the "Foundational National Council for Disabled People"



**1997**

**Establishment of the Lebanese Universities League for the Blind (LULB)** which was founded by Ibrahim Abdallah



**08 JUNE, 2000**

**Adoption of Law 220/2000** where the government formally adopted Law 220 in May, which was published in the Gazette in June, 2000.

**2002**

**Establishment of the Learning Deaf Centre (LCD)** which was founded by Hussein Ismail for people with hearing impairments



**2006**

**Endorsment of UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities**

was adopted by the United Nations, and it is the formal acceptance and commitment by a country to adhere to the principles and guidelines set forth to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities.

**2007**

**Lebanon signed the CRPD**  
demonstrating an initial  
commitment to the principles of the  
convention it indicates the country's  
intention to explore the treaty  
further and signals its support for  
the document's principles.



**2009**

**Establishment of Lebanese  
Association for Self-  
Advocacy**

which was founded by Mrs. Fadia  
Farah, emerged following years of  
experience and activism in the field  
of cognitive disabilities.

**MARCH, 2022**

**Sara Minkara visits Lebanon**  
who is a Lebanese American citizen  
appointed as the United States  
Special Advisor on International  
Disability Rights. Minkara engaged  
with members of the Lebanese  
parliament, who subsequently  
endorsed a decree urging the  
Lebanese government to advance  
the process of ratifying the CRPD  
and its Optional Protocol.

**29 MARCH, 2022**

**Law to authorize the  
government to proceed  
with the ratification of the  
CRPD and its Optional  
Protocol**

adopted by the Lebanese  
Parliament, allowing the  
government to revise its laws to be  
in line with the Convention.

**OCTOBER, 2022 TILL  
PRESENT**

**Lebanon's presidential  
vacuum started**  
which has hindered the country's  
ability to officially notify the United  
Nations of its ratification of the  
convention.

**06 APRIL, 2023**

**Ratification of the CRPD  
and its Optional Protocol  
by the Lebanese Council of  
Ministers**