

**Question for written answer E-001387/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Elena Kountoura (The Left)

Subject: Inadequate inclusion of women with disabilities in the Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030

26.2 % of women in the EU live with some form of disability¹ and experience intersectional discrimination. They are more exposed to poverty and unemployment, as only 20 % work full-time and only 16 % report good health, compared to 50 % and 83 %, respectively, of women without disabilities.² At the same time, forced sterilisation of women with disabilities is prohibited in only nine Member States.³

However, the new Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030 does not effectively address these multiple discriminations, as it does not include binding actions and largely ignores the situation of women and girls with disabilities.

Having regard to:

- the recent statement of the European Disability Forum (EDF), which condemned the fact that the new strategy is limited to a few general references to disability, without substantive measures to address the needs of people with disabilities⁴,
- the provisions of the UNCRPD⁵,
- Article 39 of the Istanbul Convention, which explicitly prohibits forced sterilisation,

can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it intend to put in place additional initiatives and measures for women and girls with disabilities, with the aim of ensuring reasonable adjustments, enhancing access to health, employment and inclusive education and prohibiting the practice of forced sterilisation within the Union?
2. Does it intend to develop gender-disaggregated indicators of progress on the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the UNCRPD, as requested by the European Parliament in its resolution?

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¹ Eurostat, hlth_silc_12.

² Gender Equality Index 2025, EIGE, employment and health sectors.

³ EDF, Forced sterilisation of persons with disabilities in the EU, 09/2022. According to EDF, the new strategy does not address the forced sterilization of women and girls with disabilities, a serious violation of human rights and the CFTEU, which continues to exist in many European countries.

⁴ Women with disabilities are mentioned only in the Strategy, mainly in general terms. A brief reference is made in the introduction, while in Principle 2 the obstacles to health are recognized, in Principle 5 the increased employment gap and in Principle 6 the difficulties in education, but without any specific measures, actions or political initiatives are foreseen.

⁵ See UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in particular Article 6 'Women with Disabilities'.