

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001140/26
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(18 March 2026)**

Subject: Discrimination and exclusion of women and girls with disabilities

Organisations representing people with disabilities have expressed concern about the persistent discrimination and exclusion of women and girls with disabilities in the EU. According to stakeholders, this group, which represents a significant proportion of both the female population and people with disabilities, continues to face persistent stereotypes, barriers to participation in public and political life and limited access to decision-making positions, due in part to insufficient accessibility measures.

At the same time, serious concerns exist about the vulnerability of women with disabilities to gender-based violence, including forced sterilisation and institutionalisation. Civil society organisations have also emphasised the importance of effectively implementing existing EU legislation aimed at reducing violence against women and protecting vulnerable populations.

What avenues is the Commission exploring to improve the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities, notably by enhancing their participation in public life, strengthening accessibility measures and ensuring consistent enforcement of EU legislation on violence against women?

Submitted: 18.3.2026

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(14 July 2026)**

The Commission, through the strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ⁽¹⁾ is committed to upholding the rights of persons with disabilities, including women and girls ⁽²⁾.

Among its flagship initiatives and actions, the Guidance on independent living ⁽³⁾ provides recommendations on the use of EU funds for inclusion in the community, encouraging Member States to take appropriate measures to tackle unequal access and barriers faced by women in accessing social services, and to include a gender perspective in policies to support deinstitutionalisation.

The communication on Enhancing the strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities up to 2030 ⁽⁴⁾ further reinforces an intersectional dimension, whereby, for instance, the Commission commits to launch a study on violence against women with disabilities in the EU.

Promoting accessibility, as an enabler of rights for persons with disabilities — including women — to fully participate in society, remains a key priority. The European Accessibility Act ⁽⁵⁾ will ensure that key products and services are accessible to persons with disabilities ⁽⁶⁾.

The Violence Against Women Directive ⁽⁷⁾ acknowledges that women with disabilities disproportionately experience violence. When an offence has been committed against a person with a disability, that fact alone can be regarded as an aggravating circumstance.

The directive requires Member States to provide targeted support for victims with intersectional needs, and to ensure that such support (including specialist support, helplines for victims, shelters) can accommodate victims with disabilities.

Member States are also required to issue guidelines for law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities, including on how to treat victims in a disability-sensitive manner.

⁽¹⁾ Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0101>.

⁽²⁾ The strategy promotes an intersectional perspective to address the specific needs of persons with disabilities experiencing multiple and overlapping forms of disadvantage, such as women, children, older persons and refugees, as well as those with invisible disabilities.

⁽³⁾ Guidance on independent living and inclusion in the community of persons with disabilities in the context of EU funding, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/7188/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/disability/enhancing-strategy-rights-persons-disabilities-2030_en.

⁽⁵⁾ Directive (EU) 2019/882 on the accessibility requirements for products and services, with transposition deadline on 28 June 2025, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019L0882>.

⁽⁶⁾ Such as phones, computers, banking and payment services.

⁽⁷⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1385, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj/eng>.