

***We, Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with article 31 of the Constitution, and in view of what the Upper House and the Lower House of Parliament have resolved, hereby ratify the following Law and decree its promulgation and attachment to other laws of the State:***

Law Number 31 for the Year 2007

## **Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

### **Article (1):**

This Law shall be called the "Law on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities" for the year 2007 and shall be put into effect as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

### **Article (2):**

The following words and clauses wherever mentioned in this Law shall have the specific meanings given hereunder unless proven otherwise:

#### **The Council:**

The Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities.

#### **The President:**

President of the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities.

#### **Secretary General:**

Secretary General of the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities.

**The Fund:**

The National Fund for Supporting Persons with Disabilities.

**The Person with Disabilities:**

Any person suffering from a permanent, partial or total impairment affecting any of his/her senses, or his/her physical, psychological or mental capabilities, to an extent that undermines his/her ability to learn, work, or be rehabilitated, and in a way which renders him/her unable to meet her/his normal day-to-day requirements under circumstances similar to those of non disabled persons.

**Discrimination on the Basis of the Disability:**

Any limitation, restriction, exclusion or denial, based on disability, affecting any of the rights and freedoms in this Law or any other law.

**Reasonable Accommodation:**

The necessary fixtures to adapt the environmental conditions related to the place, time, and the provision of equipment, tools and assistive devices wherever necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities exercise their rights on equal basis with others provided that this shall not inflict serious damage on the party concerned.

**Habilitation:**

A multi-element services system aimed at empowering persons with disabilities to restore or achieve his/her physical, mental, professional, social or economic capabilities up to the level of his/her endurance.

**Rehabilitation:**

Arrangements, programs and plans aimed at restoring, enhancing, maintaining abilities and skills, and developing them within the health, occupational, educational or social domains or any other field, in a way that guarantees equal opportunities and full integration of persons with disabilities in the community and ensures that he/she shall exercise all of his/her basic rights and freedoms on equal basis with others.

### **Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR):**

A set of programs within the framework of community development to realize rehabilitation, equal opportunities and social integration of persons with disabilities.

### **Integration:**

Arrangements, plans, programs and policies aimed at achieving full participation of persons with disabilities in all walks of life without any form of discrimination and on equal basis with others.

### ***Article (3):***

The philosophy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan towards citizens with disabilities emanates from Arab-Islamic values, the Jordanian Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and doctrines and provisions provided for in the international agreements on the rights of persons with disabilities thus stressing the following pivots:

**A:** Respecting the rights of persons with disabilities, their dignity, and freedom of choice as well as respect of their personal life.

**B:** The right of persons with disabilities to participate in laying down plans and programs, and taking decisions related to their affairs.

**C:** The right to equal opportunities; and non-discrimination among persons on the basis of disability.

**D:** The right to equality between men and women with regard to rights and duties.

**E:** Ensure the right of children with disabilities to build up their abilities, develop their skills and enhance their integration within the community.

**F:** Provision of reasonable accommodation to empower persons with disabilities to enjoy a certain right or freedom, or to empower him/her to benefit from a certain service.

**G:** The right of persons with disabilities to be accepted by others, as being part of the nature of human diversity.

**H:** The right to be integrated in all walks of life and in fields at various levels, and to include persons with disabilities and their issues in comprehensive development plans.

**I:** Encouraging and enhancing scientific research and exchanging information in the field of disabilities as well as gathering data, information and statistics related to whatever crops up in this field.

**J:** Disseminating awareness and enlightenment on issues of persons with disabilities and their rights.

**Article (4):**

Without prejudice to any other legislation in effect, the parties concerned shall, each according to his/her competencies, provide citizens with disabilities with services and rights of the disabled citizens in accordance with the provisions of this Law and in the following fields:

**A) Health:**

**1:** Preventive programs and health education including necessary surveys for early detection of disabilities.

**2:** Diagnosis, scientific classification and issuing medical reports for persons with disabilities.

**3:** Medical, psychological rehabilitation and therapeutic services at different levels making them easily accessible.

**4:** Primary health care for women with disabilities during pregnancy, delivery and post-delivery periods.

**5:** Providing persons with disabilities with free medical insurance in accordance with a regulation to be issued to this effect.

**B) Education and Higher Education:**

**1:** Providing persons with disabilities with general, vocational and higher education opportunities in accordance with their disability category through integration.

**2:** Adopting inclusive education programs between students with disabilities and non-disabled counterparts and implementing these programs within the framework of educational institutions.

**3:** Making available reasonable accommodation that assist persons with disabilities to learn, communicate, receive training and enjoy mobility. Such tools should include Braille methods, sign language for the deaf and other necessary equipment and tools.

**4:** Carrying out educational diagnosis within the overall comprehensive diagnosis team to determine the nature of disability, its degree and requirements.

**5:** Creating qualified technical cadres for dealing with students with disabilities.

**6:** Carrying out guidance, awareness and orientation programs for students with disabilities and their families.

**7:** Providing modern techniques for educating students with disabilities in the public and private sectors, including teaching mathematics and computer skills.

**8:** Admitting students with disabilities who pass the General Secondary Studies Examination to public universities, in accordance with conditions to be agreed upon between the Council and the Council of Higher Education.

**9:** Making available methods of communication for persons with hearing disabilities, including sign translators.

### **C) Vocational Training and Labour:**

**1:** Providing persons with disabilities with appropriate vocational training as well as developing their capabilities according to the requirements of the labour market, including training trainers working in this field and rehabilitating them.

**2:** Enabling persons with disabilities to obtain equal opportunities in the field of work and employment in accordance with their educational qualifications.

**3:** Obligating public and private sector institutions and companies employing not less than 25 workers and not more than 50 to employ one person with disability. If the number of workers in any of these establishments exceeds 50, disabled workers should account for not less than 4 per cent of the work force provided that the nature of the work allows this provision.

**4:** The employer shall provide reasonable accommodation necessary.

### **D) Social Protection and Institutional Care:**

**1:** Training the families of persons with disabilities on sound behavior when dealing with persons with disabilities in a way that shall not hurt his/her dignity or humanity.

**2:** Integrating children with disabilities and providing them with rehabilitative care within their families. In cases where this is not attainable, children with disabilities shall be provided with alternative rehabilitation.

**3:** Providing persons with disabilities with vocational and social habilitation, rehabilitation and auxiliary services of all kinds to achieve effective integration and active participation of persons with disabilities and their families.

**4:** Providing day-time institutional or lodging care for persons with disabilities who require such care.

**5:** Providing persons with disabilities, who are incapable of working, with monthly aid in accordance with the National Aid Fund Law currently in effect.

**6:** Implementing community based habilitation programs according to the policies determined by the Council.

#### **E) Environmental Access:**

**1:** Implementing the requirements of the national building code for persons with disabilities issued by the parties concerned on all buildings of the public and private sectors and applying this code on existing buildings wherever possible.

**2:** Withholding building licenses to any party until verification of the commitments specified in the provisions of Article (1) of this Law.

**3:** Obligating all public transportation companies, tourism agencies and car rental companies to make available at least one vehicle with specifications that enable easy use by persons with disabilities.

**4:** Enabling persons with disabilities to have free access to information and communications technologies and systems including the internet, visual, printed and audio media outlets as well as emergency services including the availability of sign language translators.

#### **F) Customs and Tax Exemptions:**

**1:** Exemption of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities, including educational, medical and sports materials, assistive devices, tools and machines as well as their spare parts, from custom duties, public sales taxes, revenue stamps and any other fees or taxes in accordance with regulations to be issued to this effect.

**2:** Exempting one vehicle allocated for the use of the person with disabilities only once from custom duties, public sales tax, revenue stamps and any other fees or

taxes. The bases and conditions for granting these exemptions and changing the vehicle including the degree of disability shall be fixed in accordance with a regulation to be issued to this effect.

**3:** Exempting persons with severe disability from paying work permit fees for one non-Jordanian worker to provide him/her with domestic support in accordance with a regulation to be issued to this effect.

**4:** Schools for persons with disabilities, their centers and philanthropic societies shall be exempted from all revenue stamps, customs duties and sales tax, as well as building, roofs and education taxes, real estates registration tax and any other tax in a accordance with a regulation to be issued to this effect.

**5:** Schools of persons with disabilities, their centers and institutions shall be exempted from fees and taxes stipulated in paragraph four of this article if they offer free services to persons with disabilities referred to them by the Council or from the Ministry of Social Development provided that the bases and the conditions for exemption are determined by a regulation to be issued to this effect.

#### **G) Public and Political Life:**

**1:** The right of persons with disabilities to run for elections and cast ballots in various domains and avail them to accessible and suitable facilities that shall enable them to vote by secret ballot.

**2:** The right of persons with disabilities to have a suitable environment to participate effectively in all public affairs without discrimination, including the right to participate in non-government organizations and bodies related to public and political life.

#### **H) Sport, Culture and Recreation:**

**1:** Creating sport and cultural institutions and supporting them with the aim of enabling persons with disabilities to exercise a wide range of activities that satisfy their needs and develop their capabilities.

**2:** Supporting outstanding persons with disabilities in sports and culture and enable them to participate in national and international activities and conferences.

**3:** Introducing sport, cultural and recreational programs and activities to the curricula of institutions, centers and schools working in the disability domain, and making available specialized cadres and equipment for this purpose.

**4:** Facilitating the use of libraries, public parks and sport facilities by persons with disabilities, and providing reasonable accommodation for this purpose.

**I) Litigation:**

**1:** The health condition of persons with disabilities as regards venues of detention shall be taken into consideration if the person with disability is to be detained due to the nature and circumstances of the case.

**2:** Assistive devices shall be provided for persons with disabilities, including sign language translation.

**Article (5):**

Without prejudice to pertaining legislations in effect, any concerned party shall ask for the Council's opinion before granting a license to any society, social body, club, school, centre or institution working in the field of disabilities.

**Article (6):**

**A:** A public, financially and administratively independent council named the (Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities) shall be established in the Kingdom, and shall accordingly enjoy the right to carry out all legal procedures towards realizing its goals, including the conclusion of contracts, acquisition of mobile and immobile assets, borrowing, selling, mortgaging and accepting donations, grants, aids and endowments. The Council shall have the right to file lawsuits and shall for this purpose be represented by the attorney general or any other lawyer.

**B:** The Council's headquarters shall be seated in Amman and shall have the authority to establish branches, offices and centers within the Kingdom's governorates.

**C:** The President of the Council shall be appointed by a Royal Decree.

**D:** The Council's Secretary General shall be appointed by a Cabinet resolution based on a recommendation by the Council.

**E:** The Council shall be headed by the President and shall consist of the following members:

- 1: Secretary General of the Council.
- 2: Secretary General of the Ministry of Social Development.
- 3: Secretary General of the Ministry of Labour.
- 4: Secretary General of the Ministry of Health, to be named by the Minister of Health.

- 5: Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance.
- 6: Secretary General of the Ministry of Education, to be named by the Minister of Education.
- 7: Deputy Mayor of Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), to be named by the Mayor of GAM.
- 8: Secretary General of the Higher Council for Youth.
- 9: Director of the Fund.
- 10: Secretary General of the Jordanian Paralympics Committee.
- 11: Six representatives of persons with disabilities, including two persons with visual disabilities, two persons with physical disabilities, and two persons with hearing disabilities, to be appointed by a Cabinet resolution based on a recommendation by the Council provided that one of each disability shall represent the societies dealing with that disability.
- 12: One representative of the families of persons with mental disabilities to be selected by the President.
- 13: Three distinguished persons in the field of disabilities who extended services to persons with disabilities to be appointed by a Cabinet resolution based on a recommendation by the Council.

**F:** The Council, during its first meeting, shall select a Vice President to assume the tasks of the President in his/her absence.

**G:** The term of members in subparagraphs (11), (12) and (13) in paragraph (E) of this article shall be three years renewable for only once.

***Article (7):***

**The Council shall assume the following tasks and responsibilities:**

**A:** Laying down policies pertaining to persons with disabilities, revising them and following up their implementation in coordination with the parties concerned with the aim of consolidating all efforts made to elevate the living conditions of persons with disabilities and facilitate their integration in the society.

**B:** Taking part, along with concerned bodies, in formulating a comprehensive national awareness and prevention plan aimed at curbing the occurrence of disabilities, reducing them and preventing their acuity.

**C:** Following up, supporting and executing of the National Strategy on Persons with Disabilities and plans, programs and activities emanating there from.

**D:** Proposing the amendment of the legislations pertaining to persons with disabilities as well as regulations and instructions necessary for the execution of the provisions of this Law.

**E:** Setting quality standards for programs and services offered to persons with disabilities in coordination with concerned parties.

**F:** Joining efforts seeking to realize the objectives of international agreements and conventions on persons with disabilities ratified by the Kingdom.

**G:** Laying down plans and policies for investing the Council's funds.

**H:** Cooperating with national, regional and international institutions and bodies related to the Council's objectives.

**I:** Creating pioneering national centers for training, research and studies and creating a database on persons with disabilities.

**J:** Taking part in representing the Kingdom at Arab, regional and international institutions and bodies concerned with persons with disabilities.

**K:** Forming standing and ad hoc committees to help the Council in performing its duties, defining responsibilities and fixing remunerations for members of these committees.

**L:** Approving the Council's estimate annual budget and passing it to the Cabinet for endorsement.

**M:** Endorsing the audited closing accounts report.

**N:** Issuing executive instructions related to the Council's financial, administrative and technical affairs.

**O:** Drawing up the organizational structure of the Council and defining its functions, duties and responsibilities.

**P:** Any other issues referred to it by the Council President.

***Article (8):***

**A:** The council shall convene at least once every three months and whenever warranted at the invitation of the Council's President or Vice President in the absence of the President. The quorum for the meeting shall be the presence of an absolute majority of the members provided that the President or Vice President is present. The Council shall adopt its resolutions by a majority vote of members attending the meeting.

**B:** The Council's President shall name one of the Council's employees as secretary to the Council. The secretary shall be assigned the preparation of the

Council meeting agenda, recording minutes and resolutions, as well as maintaining the Council's documents and files.

**C:** The President may summon any experienced or specialized person to attend the Council meetings for counseling on issues presented to the Council without having the right to vote on Council resolutions.

**D:** Remunerations of the Council members in lieu of attending the Council's sessions shall be fixed by a resolution taken by the Prime Minister according to a recommendation made by the Council President.

***Article (9):***

The Council President shall assume the following tasks and responsibilities:

**A:** Follow up the general policy set by the Council and supervise the implementation of the Council's resolutions.

**B:** Follow up the reports on the Council's work.

**C:** Represent the Council before others.

**D:** Any other responsibilities commissioned to the President by the Council provided that such commission is made in writing and is defined and bound by a time limit.

***Article (10):***

The Council's Secretary General shall assume the following tasks and responsibilities:

**A:** Implementing the Council's resolutions.

**B:** Submitting periodical reports on the work of the Council to the President who shall pass them to the Council.

**C:** Supervising the Council's officials and employees and managing all Council apparatuses.

**D:** Preparing the annual draft budget and presenting it to the Council at least two months before the end of each fiscal year.

**E:** Preparing the closing account report and presenting it to the Council within a period not exceeding three months after the end of a fiscal year.

**F:** Any other responsibilities commissioned to him by the President provided that such authorization is made in writing, and is defined and bound by a time limit.

**Article (11):**

The Council shall have an apparatus of officials and employees, and shall have their salaries fixed together with other related issues by a regulation to be issued for this purpose.

**Article (12):**

**A:** Any private sector institution that does not apply Article (4) paragraph (C) subparagraph (3) of this Law, shall pay a fine not less than double the monthly salary of the minimum number of persons with disabilities who should be employed during the year. The fine shall be doubled if the violation is repeated.

**B:** Fines collected in accordance with Article (12) paragraph (A) shall be deposited to the Council's account.

**Article (13):**

**A:** A fund shall be established within the Council and shall be called (The National Fund for the Support of Persons with Disabilities). The Fund shall be attached to the President and shall have an independent financial account.

**B:** The Council shall provide the financial resources necessary to support programs and activities related to disability and shall distribute them among different parties in accordance with the bases, criteria and resolutions issued by the Council to this effect.

**C:** Provisions and procedures related to the method of administering the Fund Committee, its Director and officials, as well as holding its meetings, determining its tasks, responsibilities and other matters related to it shall be fixed by instructions to be issued to this effect by the Council.

**Article (14):**

The Council shall have an independent budget. The council's fiscal year shall begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and shall end on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the same year.

**Article (15):**

**A:** Financial resources of the Council shall consist of the following:

**1:** Allocations in the State budget.

**2:** A total of 10 per cent of the net profits of the Jordan Welfare Lottery issued by the General Union of Voluntary Societies.

**3:** One Jordanian Dinar to be added to the annual licensing fees of vehicles with the exception of agricultural vehicles.

**4:** A total of 5 JDs to be collected from each real estate registration.

**5:** A percentage of 0.005 of the fees of each building license issued by the authorities.

**6:** Donations, grants, gifts and legacies donated to the Council provided that the Cabinet approves grants from non-Jordanian sources.

**7:** Money generated from fees imposed by the Council against the usage of its facilities in accordance with regulations issued to this effect.

**8:** Returns accrued from investing the Council's fund.

**9:** Fines generated in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**10:** Any other resources approved by the Council.

**B:** Bases and conditions for collecting fees stipulated in subparagraphs (3), (4) and (5) of paragraph (A) of this article shall be fixed by regulations to be issued by the Minister of Finance for this purpose.

**Article (16):**

The Council shall enjoy the exemptions and facilities enjoyed by the ministries and Government departments.

**Article (17):**

The Council's funds shall be subject to the control of the Audit Bureau.

**Article (18):**

The Council's fund rights towards others shall be considered as public funds that shall be collected in accordance with the applied rules in effect as regards the collection of state funds.

**Article (19):**

The Council of Ministers shall issue the regulations necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

**Article (20):**

The Law for the Welfare of the Disabled number 12 for the year 1993 and its amendments shall be annulled.

**Article (21):**

The Prime Minister and the Ministers shall be entrusted with the execution of the provisions of this Law.