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# How to make political parties more inclusive?

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# Importance of inclusion for political parties

- **Inclusion isn't a trend but a necessity in modern society**

Today, people face multiple vulnerabilities in Ukraine. It is vital for PPs to ensure all voices are heard and build party platforms based on a complex vision of communities' needs. Equality and inclusion are not only the declared values of democratic world, these are values of modern Ukrainian society, and our surveys confirm this statement.

- **Diverse parties connect with more voters and strengthen social cohesion**

Inclusivity encourages broader electoral appeal, as diverse parties connect with more voters. Exclusion of certain groups from political processes often leads to dissatisfaction, unrest, or even radicalization. Inclusive parties help reduce social divisions, respond effectively to global challenges, and promote social equality.

- **More effective problem-solving**

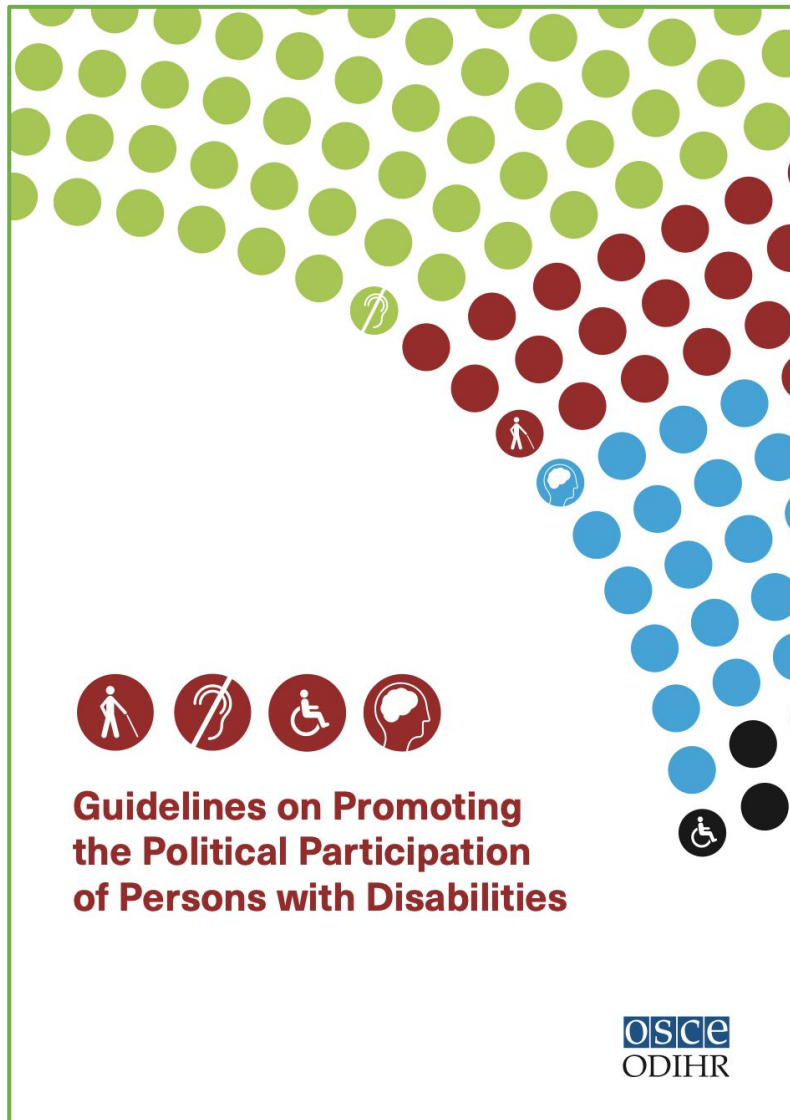
Diverse teams, including political parties, typically make better decisions because they bring multiple perspectives to the table. Also, the inclusion of certain groups ensures the solutions are reasonable and effective, e.g., persons with disabilities can advise and test assistive technology, etc.

- **EU integration**

Inclusive PPs will foster the EU accession process. Also, inclusive PPs will have more opportunities for international support, educational and networking opportunities.



# What political parties can do to support persons with disabilities?



- Political parties are well-positioned **to support greater inclusion of persons** with disabilities in the political sphere.
- An ideal first step is **conducting an accessibility assessment**, which will help identify areas in which parties could become more inclusive.
- Parties should have an **accessibility policy** and a **non-discrimination policy** to support intersectional inclusion of persons with disabilities who are members of other underrepresented communities (e.g., women).
- Parties should **explore opportunities to support inclusive recruitment** of members and candidates.
- **Staff trainings** for party leaders and campaign staff will help facilitate the inclusion of underrepresented groups.
- **Accessibility audits.**

# United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

## Article 29 - Participation in political and public life

*b. Promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:*

*i. Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and **administration of political parties**;*

*ii. Forming and joining organizations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels.*



# What NDI is planning to do in the future?

- **Help political parties become more inclusive**
  - Develop a toolkit for political parties' self-assessment on inclusion
  - Expert targeted support based on the parties priorities: enhancing internal policies and structures, and political platforms
- **Supporting a new draft law on political parties**
  - In line with OSCE/ODIHR and Venice Commission Recommendations
  - Based on public consultations and stakeholder discussions
- **Mainstream inclusion of underrepresented groups in all programming**
  - Qualitative and quantitative research on gender, inclusion and political participation of veterans
  - Policy dialogues between policymakers and civil society (the one on draft law #5488 on hate crimes will happen in November)
  - National Inclusion Forum in December (in cooperation with IFES, FFR & The League of Strong): a platform to discuss ensuring the rights of people with disabilities

