

ULTIMATUM

To the Chairperson
KPCCI,
Bangalore.

We, the members of Karnataka Angavikalara Rajya Okkoota (KARO), NGO forum and social activists representing **3 million disabled citizens** of Karnataka unanimously resolved to put forward this ultimatum to all political parties of the state at this time of election processes for the Legislative Assembly polls as an act of expressing our disappointment and anger against the apathetic attitudes of political parties towards people with disabilities in the election process from time immemorial.

We would strongly urge upon all the parties to take the cognizance of people with disabilities in the entire election processes right from formulation manifesto to counting of votes. We appeal all the parties concerned from this time on to pay timely, appropriate and adequate attention towards the issues and concerns of people with disabilities and their family members in the state.

We demand you to ensure:

1. The entire processes including manifesto, campaign, polling booths, ballot paper, electronic machines are **completely accessible** to all people with disabilities in all respects so that every disabled person can exercise His/Her right vote with dignity and secrecy.
2. Immediate, timely, effective and fair implementation of PD acts 1995 as per the mandate of **UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities 2006**.
3. Pass a private bill in the legislative assembly house for generating debate and national deliberations on the political reservation for people with disabilities.
4. **Immediate and fair implementation** of reservations provided for people with disabilities in public sector employment, poverty alleviation programmes, higher education, vocational education and other aspects of life.
5. **100% education of people with disabilities** by 2012 through creating and providing appropriate financial, human, infrastructure and other resources with clear mandate to the state implementing authorities.
6. **Effective implementation of Village Rehabilitation scheme** with greater focus and mandate in a long run.
7. **Adequate allocation of resources in the annual state budgets** for people with disabilities both in the nodal and all the ministries and departments.
8. Identification of potential and genuine disabled people and encouraging them to contest elections by **providing party tickets as an act of positive discrimination**.
9. All the buildings, public places, transport, information and other **avenues are fully accessible and barrier free** to people with disabilities.
10. **Raise the issues and concerns** of people with disabilities **on the floor of the assembly during assembly sessions** and insisting on the state to take immediate and appropriate measures to end discrimination and exclusion against people with disabilities in all spheres and levels of life.

We are compelled to warn by word of caution to all the political parties based on our past experience of sheer exclusion and blatant discrimination by you right from the inception. If you ignore us our ultimatum there will be a shortfall of 25% voters (i.e. 5% people with disabilities and 20% of the family members of people with disabilities) by an election boycott.

If you do not want 25% potential and matured voters withdraw themselves from the electoral process, take immediate note of this ultimatum and make a sincere and serious attempt to ensure justice to people with disabilities, **the legitimate citizens of this country and the state.**

Look forward for an immediate response.

With warm regards,

Persons with Disabilities and their families
Karnataka