



Montenegro is a country of enchanting nature that inspires peace, reflection and inspiration. It is also a country that aspires to grow the prosperity and quality of life of its citizens.

Unfortunately, in this relatively positive state of evolution, many appear to have forgotten about a silent but nevertheless important part of the community that have been largely left to drag behind.

The disabled generally and specifically kids that are too young or too physically and/or mentally affected to be heard are simply not afforded the level of support, dignity, care and respect that should reasonably be expected by a civilized and compassionate community. The disabled are equal citizens and need understanding, compassion and support and where reasonably possible, to also become viable and vibrant contributors to their respective local communities. Exclusion may stem from invisibility in many cases.

In Montenegro, of the total number of inhabitants, 11% (68,064) persons cannot conduct simple daily activities due to long-term illness, disability or age (according to data from the now outdated 2011 Census). There is still no consolidated data on the number of people with disabilities at the state level. Centralised data and information pertaining to the exact number of disabled persons, type of disabilities and types of Government, NGO's and/or community support provided are largely not maintained or available in Montenegro.

Almost 60% of persons with disabilities live on or below the poverty line, which indicates that this portion of the population falls into the poorest and most marginalized social groups. In addition to this, there are other numerous factors that negatively discriminate against and affect the overall position of persons with disabilities in Montenegro. Some of the key ones are related to traditional prejudices, stereotypes, conservatism and intolerance, lack of education and the historic low priority given to the disabled by Government and institutions alike.

