

DISABILITY RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

Training-of-Trainers Program in Amman, Jordan

Landmine Survivors Network (LSN)/ MENA in cooperation with the Tunisian-based Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) designed and hosted a disability and human rights training-of-the-trainers workshop from September 3-16, 2005 in Amman, Jordan.

Twenty participants representing disability and human rights organizations from eight Arab countries attended the two-week training workshop, designed to develop professional training skills on disability rights. Course participants represented diverse disability groups from across different Arab countries in the MENA region.

The program was aimed at enhancing the skills of people with disabilities, and is the first of its kind in the region. Participants were exposed to training tools and techniques, advocacy methods, and media outreach. In addition, they were empowered with the information, strategic tools, and confidence needed to assume leadership roles within their respective communities.

During the program, participants were provided with a comprehensive overview of existing international human rights and disability laws, including the negotiation process for the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

LSN and AIHR have developed two training manuals based on the workshop, which help promote LSN's efforts to establish clear guidelines on advocacy methods, consensus-building and action.



Trainees discuss campaigning methods.

Having such a diverse range of nationalities and backgrounds served to ensure that there was a rich exchange of ideas and experiences on how to participate in national, regional, and global-level advocacy, as well as a forum for networking.

During the program, the trainees formed an Arab Network on Disability Rights to support international efforts on the rights of persons with disabilities. A founding committee was formed and is currently in the process of drafting its Charter on Disability Rights. Based on the feedback from the trainees, LSN will continue to implement this program annually to ensure a sustainable approach to spreading a culture of disability rights in the MENA region.