

THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

with disabilities

Half a century of feminist struggle

This timeline traces the advancement of the rights of women with disabilities in France and around the world. It highlights the progress achieved, while also drawing attention to the work that remains to be done to ensure genuine equality and full recognition of women with disabilities in society.

1975

The Framework Law for Persons with Disabilities

Supported by Simone Veil, it enshrines for the first time in French law the national obligation of solidarity and states the right of people with disability to have education, work and social integration. It creates the AAH (Allowance for Disabled Adult) and delegates to the county-level commissions the recognition of a disability. However, it still ignores the specificity of women with disabilities, staying invisible in public policies.

1983

Launch of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (UN, 1983-1992)

This United Nations initiative aims to promote the full participation and equal rights of people with disabilities worldwide. It encourages states to adopt policies on inclusion, accessibility and employment. However, the gender dimension remains absent: women with disabilities are not yet recognised as a specific group.

1995

World Conference on Women (Beijing)

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action recognise that women with disabilities face specific forms of discrimination and must be included in all equality policies.



2003

Founding of FDFFA

Founded by Maudy Piot, a committed activist and psychoanalyst, FDFFA works every day to promote the rights of women with disabilities. Through its workshops, advocacy work and training programmes, the organisation highlights the double discrimination faced by these women and promotes their full participation in society.

2005

The landmark Disability Act

A landmark piece of legislation in the history of disability rights, this Act reaffirms the right to compensation, universal accessibility and education in mainstream schools. It lays the foundations for numerous other reforms, but the issue of gender is still not mentioned in it.

2008

The UN adopts the CRPD

The adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities marks a turning point on the international stage: it incorporates a gender perspective and recognises that women and girls with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination. States are therefore called upon to take specific measures to address this.

2011

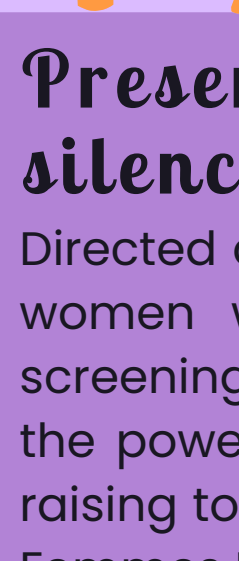
Creation of the “Femmes sourdes et Citoyennes” association

Set up to promote the inclusion and civic participation of deaf women, this organisation campaigns for access to information, the fight against discrimination, and the recognition of specific rights relating to the dual experience of disability and gender.

2013

European Parliament’s resolution

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution calling on Member States to better protect women with disabilities against violence, discrimination in employment and stereotypes. In particular, the resolution urges France to incorporate a gender perspective into its public policies on disability.



2015

Presentation of the short-film “Violences du silence - FDFFA”

Directed and produced by the FDFFA, this short film gives a direct voice to women with disabilities. Screened at public events and discussion screenings, it highlights the violence they have endured and illustrates the power of collective testimony. The film serves as a key awareness-raising tool and coincided with the official launch of the Écoute Violences Femmes Handicapées (EVFH) helpline that same year.

2016

Launch of the Écoute Violences Femmes Handicapées helpline

Set up by the FDFFA, this helpline is the first and only one dedicated to women with disabilities who are victims of violence, as well as their loved ones. It is anonymous and free of charge, offering a safe space for women who are often in distress to speak freely and receive support.

2017

Creation of the “Les Dévalideuses” group

This feminist and anti-ableist collective was founded with the aim of raising awareness of the struggles faced by women with disabilities. Through their actions, publications and performances, the Dévalideuses highlight the intersecting forms of discrimination linked to gender and disability, and promote inclusive representation in society and the media.

2018

National plans to combat violence against women

The government’s action plans to tackle violence against women (2017–2019) include women with disabilities as a priority group for the first time. Specific training programmes are being introduced for professionals in the health, social care and justice sectors.

2019

Creation of Handignéco

Founded by healthcare professionals and campaigners, the Handignéco charity works to improve access to gynaecological care for women with disabilities. It raises awareness amongst healthcare professionals, promotes inclusive practices and combats medical abuse suffered by these women.

This initiative aims to improve education on emotional, intimate and sexual matters for people with disabilities. By training carers and professionals, Intimagir works to promote a better understanding and recognition of the specific needs of women with disabilities in these areas.



2020

Report by the High Council for Gender Equality

The HCE has published a new report entitled “Women with disabilities: doubly penalised, doubly overlooked”, highlighting the need to systematically incorporate the disability perspective into equality policies.

2021

Creation of the Handi-Femmes Épanoui·es association

The mission of this charity is to break the isolation of women with disabilities and to promote their personal and social fulfilment. Through workshops, meetings and awareness-raising activities, it promotes independence, self-confidence and solidarity amongst women.

2022

Publication of the book « Femmes handicapées, la vie devant elles » by Maudy Piot

Published posthumously, this book brings together the testimonies and reflections of Maudy Piot, founder of FDFFA. The book highlights the journeys of women with disabilities who are committed to their rights and dignity, and pays tribute to the collective struggle for a fairer and more inclusive society.



Prior to this reform, the calculation of the Adult Disability Allowance was based on the spouse’s income, thereby exacerbating the financial dependence of women with disabilities and economic abuse. The decoupling of this allowance from the spouse’s income represents a historic step forward for the independence and freedom of women with disabilities.

2023

Twentieth anniversary of FDFFA (2003-2023)

Twenty years of commitment to promoting the rights, voices and visibility of women with disabilities.

A timeline conceived by Soraya Almansa, Director-General of FDFFA, and created by Asanya Rey, an intern at FDFFA and a student at Sciences Po Paris.

Ecoute Violences Femmes Handicapées
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