

SRHR MYTHS

ABOUT PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Every human being has a right to enjoy their sexual and reproductive rights and exercise their right to equitable, accessible, affordable and quality healthcare. Persons living with disabilities are often denied these basic rights due to stigma that stems from misinformation and myths regarding the sexual and reproductive health and rights of persons with disabilities.

- » Persons with disabilities are physically incapable of having sex
- » Persons with disabilities are asexual
- » Persons with disabilities cannot experience sexual pleasure
- » Persons with disabilities only have sex amongst themselves
- » Persons with disabilities don't get sexually assaulted
- » Having unprotected sex with persons with disabilities will cure AIDS
- » Persons with disabilities are free from HIV and STIs
- » Women with disabilities never say no to sex
- » Persons with disabilities cannot have children
- » Persons with disabilities will have disabled children
- » Persons with disabilities cannot raise a family
- » Persons with disabilities cannot get married
- » Persons with disabilities should never be economically independent
- » Persons with disabilities are cursed
- » Persons with disabilities don't need SRH services

All these myths are **NOT TRUE**. Persons with disabilities have a right to live full and enjoyable lives where they can make their own choices. Persons with disabilities have the same health needs as every other human being and deserve equitable access to quality SRH services, free of stigma. Persons with disabilities experience compounded vulnerabilities in society and are five times more likely to experience sexual violence than their non-disabled peers. Stigma perpetuated by myths like these makes them even more vulnerable.

Take a stand against stigma and counter these myths with the following message whenever you come across them: Persons with disabilities deserve access to SRHR and have a right to fully rounded lives free from violence and stigma just as every other human being.