

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW ON
THE FULFILLMENT OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN
OBTAINING LEGAL SERVICES AT THE RELIGIOUS COURT OF SURAKARTA
CITY**

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the implementation of the principle of equality before the law in terms of the rights of persons with disabilities to obtain legal services at the Surakarta City Religious Court. This study used interviews with judges, lawyers, court officers, and people with disabilities, as well as direct observation of existing facilities and accessibility in the court. This research method is based on an empirical juridical method. In addition, this study analyzes whether the principle of equality before the law is applied effectively, by looking at the example of Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities. The results of the study show that, although there have been efforts to fulfill the rights of persons with disabilities in the judiciary, there are still some challenges to applying the principle of equality before the law. Among them are the lack of disability-friendly court facilities and the lack of adequate communication assistance. and the inability of court officers to understand the rights of persons with disabilities. People with disabilities often have difficulty accessing courtrooms, getting proper information about the law, and getting proper legal assistance. Therefore, while there are regulations that support the rights of persons with disabilities in the justice system, practice on the ground still needs to make further efforts to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to access legal services and access. The study suggests improving physical court facilities, improving legal support services, and specialized training for law enforcement to increase understanding and awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities in the judicial process.

Keywords: Principles of Equality Before the Law, Persons with Disabilities, Legal Services, Surakarta City Court, Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

INTRODUCTION

The state of Indonesia is a state of law where the law is made the commander-in-chief to realize justice and truth in Indonesia. Law is a set or series of rules of life, the rules of a society that should be obeyed by the members of the society concerned.(1)

As mentioned in Article 28B of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, all human beings have human rights, one of which is the right to form a family and continue offspring through legal marriage. According to Scholten, as quoted by Soetojo Prawirohamidjojo, marriage is a legal bond between a man and a woman that is allowed by the state to live together.(2)

Disability comes from English "*disability*". The word comes from the word "*Dis*" and "*Ability*" which is interpreted as inability. In more detail, disability means physical and/or mental and/or intellectual incapacity so that they are unable to carry out activities as people are able.(3)

The Law on Persons with Disabilities provides protection to persons with disabilities.(4) Just like everyone else, persons with disabilities are guaranteed the right to life, privacy, education, employment, entrepreneurship, and cooperatives, health, politics, religion, sports, culture, and tourism, social welfare, accessibility, public services, rehabilitation and habilitation, concessions, data collection, expression, and communication.

Children with disabilities have the right to "receive special protection from discrimination, neglect, harassment, exploitation, and violence and sexual crimes" according to Article 5 Paragraph 3 of the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 8 of 2016.(5) Article 26 states that persons with disabilities have the right to be free from discrimination, neglect, torture, and exploitation. These rights include: a. living without fear in the family, society, and state; and b. obtain protection from physical, mental, economic, and sexual violence.(5)

The existing regulations are inadequate to deal with the circumstances that occur in the field. This includes Government Regulation Number 42 of 2020 concerning Accessibility to Settlements, Public Services, and Disaster Self-Protection for Persons with Disabilities, which has just been made. As indicated above, people with disabilities also

have rights that must be protected by the state. These rights, both mental and physical, must be respected with integrity. As a result, the government should treat people with disabilities in the same way, both through law enforcement officials and other relevant agencies. All problems of people with disabilities will be thoroughly resolved in the future.

In the research conducted by the author, it will focus on the following problems, namely: 1) What are the rights for people with disabilities according to the Principle of *Equality Before the Law*?. 2) How is the implementation of the *Principle of Equality Before The Law* for people with disabilities in the Religious Court of Surakarta City?. The research aims to find out how to implement the fulfillment of rights for persons with disabilities according to the Principle of Equality Before the Law and how to implement the Principle of Equality Before The Law for persons with disabilities in the Courts in the City of Surakarta

METHODS/IDEAS

This article uses an empirical juridical methodology that leverages data derived from human behavior, which includes verbal interactions collected through interviews and direct observation of actual activities.(6)

The data used in this study consists of two types of data, namely Primary Data Data obtained directly from the field through interviews and observations of parties related to legal services for persons with disabilities, such as judges, lawyers, court officers, and persons with disabilities involved in the judicial process Secondary Data Data derived from literature, legal documents, laws and regulations, articles, journals, and other scientific works relevant to the topic of this research.

Qualitative data analysis in this study is used to understand the phenomena that occur related to the implementation of the principle *equality before the law* to the fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities in legal services at the Surakarta City Court. This process aims to present findings that are not only descriptive, but also analytical, so that they can provide meaningful recommendations for improving accessibility and fair legal services.(7)

This method aims to identify barriers and supporting factors that affect the accessibility of legal services for persons with disabilities, and provide recommendations for improving a more inclusive and equitable legal service system for them.(8)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Rights for Persons with Disabilities According to the Principle of *Equality Before the Law*

Accessibility is one of the key aspects in fulfilling this right. Persons with disabilities must be provided with adequate access to legal facilities, including courts. This includes the provision of disability-friendly infrastructure, such as dedicated access points, *elevator*, and appropriate seating in the courtroom.(9) The Surakarta City Religious Court has implemented various measures to ensure adequate facilities for people with disabilities, including close access to courtrooms and prioritized queues. This is important to ensure that people with disabilities can be fully involved in the legal process without hindrance.(10)

In addition, in the legal process, people with disabilities must be prioritized.(11) For example, they can be given priority in the queue despite having a higher queue number.(12) This demonstrates a commitment to ensuring that people with disabilities do not experience additional difficulties in accessing justice.(13) Courts are also required to have clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to serve people with disabilities. This SOP should include training for court officers on how to interact and provide appropriate services to persons with disabilities, so that they feel valued and treated with respect during legal proceedings.

Finally, existing laws, such as the Judicial Powers Act, guarantee that everyone, including persons with disabilities, is entitled to fair and equal legal protection.(14) This includes the right to legal assistance, access to information, and protection from unfair treatment. With this legal guarantee, people with disabilities can feel safer and more confident in demanding their rights before the law.(15)

The realization of the rights of persons with disabilities, in accordance with the principle of "Equality before the Law", creates an inclusive and supportive legal framework.

This not only ensures fair treatment for persons with disabilities, but also strengthens the principles of justice and human rights in society. By implementing the right measures, we can build a more equitable legal system that is aligned with the interests of all individuals, including people with disabilities.(16)

Fulfillment of rights for persons with disabilities according to the principle "*Equality Before the Law*" covers several important aspects that must be considered by the court.(17) First, accessibility is a priority, where people with disabilities must have equal access to legal facilities, including courthouses, information, and legal services. This includes the provision of disability-friendly facilities and infrastructure, such as ramps, wheelchairs, and other assistive devices. In addition, people with disabilities should receive priority services in legal proceedings, so they do not have to wait long and can feel comfortable when seeking justice. Courts should establish clear standard operating procedures (SOPs) for handling cases involving persons with disabilities, including assistance from security personnel and qualified workers to provide the necessary support. Knowledge and training of staff is essential, as court personnel must be educated about the rights of persons with disabilities and how to provide appropriate services, including good communication with them. Further, the court should provide easily accessible information regarding the rights of persons with disabilities and relevant legal procedures, through disability-friendly media such as websites *Web* optimized. Finally, collaboration with organizations with disabilities can improve accessibility and understanding of their specific needs. By fulfilling these rights, the courts can ensure that the principle of equality before the law is applied effectively to all individuals, including persons with disabilities.

Article 27 of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia guarantees that everyone has equality before the law, or the principle of equality before the law. In reality, in order to administer justice, the courts are responsible for maintaining the principle of equality before the law. The principle of equality can be considered the most basic foundation for judicial power. The same goes for the way people see people with disabilities, be it sensory, physical, intellectual, or mental. Article 9 of Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities guarantees the right to justice and legal protection for

persons with disabilities, including the right to equal treatment before the law and status as a subject of law.(18)

An independent judiciary has two purposes. First, they want to carry out judicial duties and responsibilities fairly and honestly. The second goal is for them to have the ability to be accountable and supervise all actions taken by the government. One of the main duties of judges is to uphold truth, justice, and legal certainty. If there is legal uncertainty, namely differences in the applicable legislation, the enforcement of truth and justice must be the top priority. Since judges do not only function as representatives of the law, and they are not allowed to distinguish between justice and truth, their duties do not conform to the formulation of the law. In this case, the role of the judge is necessary.(19)

In law enforcement practice, judges must consider the principle of *Similia similibus*, which means similar cases will be treated in the same way.(20) However, in practice, judges find cases that seem similar but do not actually represent similar interests. This is because basically no case is exactly the same, as each case has a specific reason. As a result, judges must have the ability to handle cases individually. It makes no sense to simply follow a decision that has been made without considering the specific circumstances that exist in the case. This is because each case has its own characteristics, which ultimately require special treatment. As stated in the saying "absolute law is the greatest injustice", generalization of treatment will hurt a sense of justice.

By reducing current barriers, access to this justice must be improved. Article 13 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that States parties, including Indonesia, must ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities on the basis of equality with others. This includes ensuring age-appropriate accommodations and allowing persons with disabilities to actively participate in a variety of activities, including as witnesses in trials and as direct or indirect participants in legal proceedings.

Regarding the process of assistance for people with disabilities when dealing with the law, there are several obstacles and problems encountered including:(21)

1. There is no regulation per law that regulates law and justice that has a gender and disability perspective.

2. There is no SOP/mechanism for handling women or girls with disabilities who are victims of violence.
3. There is no policy that provides expert witnesses, translators, psychiatric examinations, disability-related examinations, ear, nose, and throat samples for women or girls with hearing or speech disabilities who are victims of violence.
4. The state does not provide the necessary referral and referral system for expert witnesses. These witnesses include experts in the field of disability, psychologists, or educators who can understand and communicate with people with disabilities.
5. Due to the fact that the victim's mental age differs from the calendar age, judges and prosecutors have recognized the importance of the Child Protection Act for the Mentally Retarded. However, there is no legal policy that regulates the difference between the calendar age and the intellectual mental age, so the trial process and the application of the law must use the adult justice mechanism and the Criminal Code.
6. The perspective of disability in law enforcement officials does not yet exist.
7. There is no physical and non-physical accessibility in the Police, Prosecutor's Office and District Court.

There are various ways to fulfill the rights of people with disabilities. One of them is advocacy, which is an effort to influence individuals or groups who are treated unfairly to influence the behavior and decisions made by the community that has the authority to stop the injustice. There are many definitions for the term advocacy. It is a collection of actions that aim to change the policies, attitudes, or programs of various institutions, both government and private. They put problems on the agenda, offer solutions, and encourage action to solve problems. To bring about change, work with other individuals and organizations.

Implementation of *the Principle of Equality Before the Law* for Persons with Disabilities in the Surakarta City Religious Court

The application of the principle of "Equality before the Law" for persons with disabilities in the Surakarta City Religious Court is a systematic and comprehensive initiative to ensure that all people, regardless of physical or mental condition, are given

equal treatment within the legal framework. The Surakarta City Religious Court has implemented several strategic steps to foster an inclusive and accommodating environment for people with disabilities, which include accessibility, services, and legal understanding.

The religious court of Surakarta City must identify the special needs of persons with disabilities in the legal process as conveyed by Nurul Hikmah, S.H. (Junior Registrar):

Actually, for the identification of the disability court here, there is a name for the assessment form. So the assessment form is like an identification later who the name is, what the needs are, what the disability is. There are speech-impaired disabilities, deaf people, and then there are mental disabilities. Well it was identified. Then the need is what is the need for example to divide this disability. The last time there was a physical disability, a physical disability. So he uses a wheelchair or uses a krek (walking aid), that's the name of it. Then later, if there is a disability, the security guard or service ambassador will come down to help. Now when there is a disability, the service ambassador and the security guard will identify it directly, because his father needs a wheelchair. As lifted, assisted by lifting to go up and down. Now there is a personal disability assessment form. There is a personal assessment form for the disability that I told you earlier. So like the shape of the table, there is identified whose name it is, for the matter of how many numbers, then the need is it necessary to have a crib, do you need a wheelchair, like that. The number one one already exists, it's just that for now I don't know if it's used or not. The problem is that there are no disabilities anymore. Finally, it seems that in 2023.”(22)

The identification of the needs of persons with disabilities at the Surakarta City Religious Court through a personal assessment form has reflected efforts to fulfill the rights of persons with disabilities in accordance with norms and laws and regulations in Indonesia. This step is in line with Article 28H paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution, which guarantees the right to convenience and special treatment to achieve equality and justice. In addition, the use of this form is also in accordance with Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities, especially related to decent accommodation and disability-friendly services as stipulated in Article 5 and Article 9. This is also strengthened by Government Regulation Number 39 of 2020, which stipulates that judicial institutions are obliged to

identify the needs of persons with disabilities to ensure that the accommodation provided is in accordance with the type and level of disability. With this form, specific needs, such as wheelchair aids, crutches, or other assistance, can be clearly identified, providing better accessibility for people with disabilities in the judicial process. However, although normatively this step is appropriate, its implementation needs to be further evaluated. It is important to ensure that the identification process is carried out in a participatory manner by directly involving people with disabilities, in accordance with the principle of inclusivity. In addition, the data obtained from the forms needs to be optimized in the provision of accommodations, and court officers must be trained to understand as well as meet the identified needs. With these measures, the identification of the needs of persons with disabilities can be a best practice in realizing inclusive and equitable access to justice.

The court has provided facilities such as wheelchairs, canes, and guidance from security officers or service ambassadors. However, the contours of buildings that are not fully disability-friendly are a challenge that is being sought, for example through direct assistance from officers.

The provision of disability-friendly facilities at the Surakarta City Religious Court, such as wheelchairs, canes, and assistance from security officers or service ambassadors, shows a good first step in realizing accessibility for people with disabilities. This step is in line with Article 28H paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution, which guarantees the right of persons with disabilities to receive special treatment to achieve equality and justice. In addition, the provision of these facilities is also in line with the provisions of Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities, especially Article 5 and Article 9, which regulate the rights of persons with disabilities to get access to public facilities that suit their needs. Government Regulation Number 39 of 2020 also requires the provision of facilities that support accessibility in the judicial environment.

However, even though efforts have been made to provide facilities, the existence of obstacles in the form of building contours that are not fully disability-friendly show that the implementation of accessibility still needs to be improved. Buildings that are not completely disability-friendly may be contrary to the Minister of Public Works and Public Works

Regulation Number 14/PRT/M/2017 concerning Building Facility Requirements, which regulates the obligation of every public building to have accessibility facilities, such as ramps with appropriate slope angles, special elevators, and guide lanes. This inconsistency can hinder the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities as mandated by law.

To address these challenges, further evaluation of the court's infrastructure is needed, followed by improvements or adjustments to the building to meet accessibility standards. Direct assistance from officers is indeed a temporary solution, but the existence of permanent and disability-friendly facilities will be much more effective in ensuring accessibility. The implementation of training for officers to provide more responsive and humane assistance can also improve the quality of disability-friendly services. Thus, the provision of these facilities is not only in accordance with legal norms, but also reflects a commitment to inclusivity and equality.

The results of the interview with the Head of Subdivision have fulfilled the obligation to meet the special needs of the needs of disabilities, namely:

“If it meets the needs, maybe because at the beginning of us, many people with disabilities may be able to access it from the first website. So that's our website that is disability-friendly, you can check how it is. Then the next thing is that we best prepare facilities for the disabled. For example, wheelchairs, canes, that's all. That's what we have prepared in terms of infrastructure. So the most preparation from us as a community service is if there are people with disabilities who follow the legal process, for example, it is from the front there is our security section that will help. Yesterday there were several location divisions, for example, if the one for the public is the bottom, yes, then for the disabled yesterday we skipped the top. It's just that for disabled tracks, gating blocks, for example, in us it is because this contour is not yet available. It's just that we have a guide from security, for example for people with disabilities who can't walk, for example, so it starts from the front stairs, so it's assisted by our security. To the top, then use a wheelchair on top, then be taken into the courtroom.”(23)

In addition, the court gives priority in the queue for people with disabilities. Although they may have a higher queue number, they are prioritized to get service faster. This demonstrates the court's commitment to ensuring that people with disabilities do not experience additional difficulties in accessing justice. By giving this priority, the court seeks to reduce the burden that people with disabilities may face in an already stressful situation such as a trial.

The Surakarta City Religious Court has a special mechanism or procedure in the Surakarta City Religious Court to handle cases involving people with disabilities in an interview with Nurul Hikmah, namely:

“So people with disabilities get off at the entrance of the office, then the service ambassador will identify the needs of people with disabilities. What does he need? Do You Need Crutches? Do you need help with a wheelchair? Then the service ambassador directs to his destination to fill out the electronic guest book, fill it in the queue machine, what will he need? Do you want to have a trial or want to find information? Now this will be made a priority queue. Priority to counter 5. Then the disability ambassador, to counter 5 there is a disability ambassador. So after the service ambassador was escorted to his disability. Well, later the disability ambassador will receive his services, what services are needed. Continue as usual to apply the 5S, smile, greet, greet, be polite, and polite. Then deliver to the priority counter. Accept service requests, fill in from personal. Then the disability ambassador checks the completeness, meetings or checklist. It depends on the case, yes, what does he want to ask, just ask for information or he wants to register. If he registers, he will be checked for completeness. If he only asks for information, then he will explain the information needed. In the process of disability ambassadors according to the set SOPs. Disability ambassadors submit the results of the service, this is according to the service requested. Or he wants to take a divorce certificate, for example. Upon completion, the service ambassador will escort you back to this exit or pick-up point for the hearing. Persons with disabilities will get a priority queue number for the hearing. Then entered the courtroom assisted by officers.

Disability litigants, the judge seeks to reconcile communication with the parties. So, for example, in the trial he is speechless, then there is no one here who can, for example, no one can sign language. Well, later, we will get used to the word, later we will call the word. For translation. For our trial, there is an SOP, anyway, if there is a disability, it gets the number one priority of the trial. Now this is done”(22)

Employees of the Surakarta City Religious Guard were given training and awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities in the Nuruk Hikmah interview:

“In the past, there was training from Sabda, Now from that Word, there was an MOU between us and Sabda. In the past, we still had training, the Advocacy Center for Women with Disabilities and Children. There used to be training for the Speechless, the Speechless, there used to be but now there is no longer for the training. The Disability Ambassador, the awareness when there are indeed people with disabilities, God willing, we are quick to help whether it is going up like that, or helping to get down. Then here too, if he is a person with a disability, the court can get priority. So the queue can also get a priority queue. There is a disability counter, eh it's called a priority counter, yes, at counter number 5.”(22)

The Surakarta City Religious Court has also developed a clear Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to serve people with disabilities. This SOP includes training for court personnel on how to handle and provide appropriate services for persons with disabilities. This training is essential for court personnel to understand the specific needs of persons with disabilities and provide professional and compassionate services. This SOP aims to improve the organization and provision of services to people with disabilities.

The results of the interview with the Head of Subdivision regarding collaboration with organizations with persons with disabilities:

“If that's possible for us, yesterday we tried to run a relationship with SLB to do things like training for punarumut, punarwicara. It's just that with short training, it's impossible for us to be total. So we also have a guidebook, the guidebook was sent yesterday from the Virgin Body Lab.”(23)

Cooperation with various organizations is also an integral part of the implementation of this principle. Through this collaboration, the court can conduct socialization and training for officers on how to communicate and serve people with disabilities well. These organizations often have in-depth experience and knowledge of the needs of people with disabilities, so this collaboration can improve the quality of services provided by the courts.

In the trial process, people with disabilities are allowed to be accompanied by a lawyer or companion who can help them understand the legal process. This is crucial to ensure that they can express their opinions and get justice effectively. This mentoring not only provides emotional support, but also assists people with disabilities in navigating legal procedures that may be complex and confusing.

The provision of priority queues and access to services for people with disabilities at the Surakarta City Religious Court is carried out by providing privileges in the queue and directing them to a special counter (Counter 5). This effort aims to ensure that people with disabilities get fast, easy, and barrier-free services, as well as minimize the risk of difficulties in accessing judicial services.

The priority of this service is in line with the principles of non-discrimination and equality guaranteed by Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities, especially in Articles 5 and 9, which emphasize the importance of service accessibility for persons with disabilities regardless of their conditions.

The SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) that governs steps from the identification of needs to the completion of services also demonstrates the court's commitment to facilitating persons with disabilities with systematic and inclusive procedures. This SOP includes various stages, ranging from ascertaining individual needs, directing people with disabilities to appropriate services, to completing applications, such as taking a divorce certificate or registering a case. This step supports the principle of fast and effective service, which should be in accordance with the provisions in Article 28H paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution, which guarantees the right of persons with disabilities to access public facilities and public services equally.

In terms of legal compliance, the priority policy of queuing and access to services is also consistent with the principles stipulated in Law Number 8 of 2016 and Government Regulation Number 39 of 2020, which regulates the obligation of public service providers to provide special treatment and accessibility to people with disabilities. Furthermore, this also reflects the commitment of the judiciary in complying with inclusion standards based on applicable legal provisions and justice norms that should be upheld. In other words, this policy can be said to be in accordance with applicable legal norms and laws, but periodic evaluations are needed to ensure that SOPs and service practices continue to run effectively and responsive to the various needs of people with disabilities.

Training for court employees is carried out in collaboration with organizations such as SABDA (Women, Disability and Children Advocacy Center). This training covers how to interact with people with disabilities, including the speech and visually impaired, to ensure professional service and empathy for their needs.

“We have received training from the Word, including to deal with people with speech impairments. Although the training has not been updated at this time, employee awareness and readiness remain a priority.”(22)

Training for court employees is carried out as an effort to improve understanding and skills in serving people with disabilities. In this case, the Surakarta City Religious Court collaborates with organizations such as SABDA (Center for Advocacy for Women with Disabilities and Children) to provide training that focuses on how to interact with people with disabilities, including groups of the speech and the visually impaired. This training aims to ensure that employees have professional, inclusive services, and show empathy for the various needs of people with disabilities.

Nurul Hikmah stated that they had received training from SABDA, especially in dealing with the speech-impaired, and although the training has not been updated, employee awareness and readiness remain a top priority. This statement reflects a positive effort to ensure employees have insight and ability to adapt to the needs of people with disabilities, which is part of the obligation of public institutions to provide inclusive and disability-friendly services.

From a legal perspective, this training can be studied based on Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities, which regulates the obligation of public service providers to provide equal and inclusive access to services to persons with disabilities. Articles 5 and 9 of this law emphasize the importance of awareness and training as part of fulfilling these obligations. In addition, this conformity can also be studied by maintaining the principle of non-discrimination and the fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities as guaranteed by Article 28D paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution.

Through this training, employees are required to understand the needs and rights of people with disabilities in accessing public services, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. However, considering that the last training carried out still requires updates, periodic evaluation and updating will ensure that employees' readiness and understanding are always in accordance with the development of service needs for people with disabilities. Thus, these efforts already support existing legal norms but need continuous improvement to achieve more optimal compliance.

The court collaborates with SLB and other organizations to expand employees' knowledge of disability-friendly services. For example, the creation of a handbook in *Braille* to facilitate access to legal information.

The Surakarta City Religious Court collaborates with the Extraordinary School (SLB) and various organizations for people with disabilities to expand the insight and understanding of employees related to disability-friendly services. One form of cooperation carried out is the preparation of a guidebook in *Braille*. This guidebook aims to facilitate access to legal information for people with disabilities, especially the blind, so that they can understand legal rights and service procedures in court in a more inclusive and accessible manner.

This collaboration reflects the court's efforts to fulfill its obligations in accordance with Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities, which mandates the provision of inclusive services and information accessibility for persons with disabilities. Article 5 of the Law emphasizes the obligation of the government and public service providers to provide access rights to persons with disabilities, including through the

provision of easily accessible information. This handbook in *Braille* is a form of fulfilling this obligation, because it provides equal access to the blind to understand and undergo legal processes.

From a legal point of view, cooperation with SLB and organizations of persons with disabilities is also in line with the principles of non-discrimination and equal access guaranteed in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), which has been ratified by Indonesia through Law No. 19 of 2011. This shows that the cooperation is in accordance with legal norms and the principle of justice guaranteed by the law.

By collaborating with SLB and organizations for people with disabilities, the Surakarta City Religious Court also increases the awareness and ability of its employees to provide friendly and inclusive services to people with disabilities. Therefore, this cooperation has shown positive efforts in fulfilling the legal obligations and inclusion principles set by applicable regulations, although it needs to be improved through sustainable programs.

People with disabilities can be accompanied by a lawyer or companion to help understand the legal process. This ensures that they can effectively express their opinions and rights in the trial. In certain cases, a Sign Language interpreter of the Word may be called upon if needed.

The Surakarta City Religious Court ensures that persons with disabilities receive adequate assistance during the legal process to help them understand the course of the trial and ensure that the presentation of their rights and opinions runs effectively. This assistance is carried out through a lawyer or companion who has the competence to provide explanations and assist people with disabilities during the legal process. This assistance aims to provide support and ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to resolving cases in court.

In addition to assistance through a legal representative, in certain cases, sign language interpreters from organizations such as SABDA (Women's and Children's Advocacy Center) may be called if needed. This aims to help people who are deaf or disabled with communication barriers in understanding the course of the trial and

communicating with the panel of judges or related parties. Thus, effective communication can be maintained, so that no rights are neglected during the legal process.

Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities is a law related to this issue. The law emphasizes the importance of ensuring that people with disabilities have equal opportunities to access legal services and engage in litigation without barriers of communication or understanding. In addition, it meets the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRC PD), which has been recognized by Indonesia through Law No. 19 of 2011.

Based on this analysis, the assistance efforts during the legal process carried out by the Surakarta City Religious Court by providing legal assistance and Sign Language interpreters are in accordance with applicable legal norms, including the Persons with Disabilities Law and the principles of non-discrimination and equal access guaranteed within the framework of national and international law. With this support, people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to exercise their rights in the legal process and ensure justice runs smoothly.

The Surakarta City Religious Court is active in socializing the rights of people with disabilities to the community. This step aims to increase public understanding while creating an inclusive environment inside and outside the courts.

The Surakarta City Religious Court is actively conducting socialization related to the rights of persons with disabilities to the community as part of efforts to create awareness and wider understanding of the protection and fulfillment of their rights. This socialization was carried out with the aim of educating the public about the rights of persons with disabilities, such as the right to access public services, the right to equal justice, and legal protection guaranteed by law.

Through this program, the Surakarta City Religious Court strives to build an inclusive environment, both in the court environment and the general public. With this approach, it is hoped that stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities can be reduced, and their rights can be respected and respected by all parties. This socialization also

helps create awareness about the obligation of all parties, both government agencies and the community, to support people with disabilities in living an equal and barrier-free life.

In carrying out the life of the community, nation and state, human beings cannot be separated from the obligation to carry out the law. It is related to the idea of law as a set of biological instructions (*Command* and barriers) that regulate orders in society. This understanding shows that this law aims to create tranquility, security, and tranquility in the community. The role of law is high in regulating people's lives making legal references in the application of legal rules. In the administration of the state government, the law plays an important role in ensuring the State Administration is single. *Justice* is a measure in determining the Agreement on the rights and wrongs that apply in society in a country. The law has full power in regulating the request for justice.(24)

In the legal context, this socialization step is in line with Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities which mandates the protection and fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities through the provision of accessibility, inclusion, and understanding of their rights. In addition, it also complies with the principles of non-discrimination and equality as stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which has been ratified by Indonesia through Law No. 19 of 2011.

The existence of incidents in the basis of modern science increases new concepts based on spiritual, moral, ethical, and cross-border aspects. According to Absori, this is called the transcendental dimension, the transcendental dimension not only understands things based on the thematic/spiritual aspect, but also more than that, the problem of Values can be dialogued with scientific, social, cultural, economic, and legal development problems.(25)

Based on this analysis, the efforts to socialize and increase awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities carried out by the Surakarta City Religious Court are in accordance with applicable legal norms. This step reflects the commitment of legal institutions to promote the principles of inclusion, equality, and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as to support the creation of a fair and inclusive environment in the delivery of public and legal services.

CONCLUSSION

The application of the principle of Equal Rights before the Law related to the rights of persons with disabilities is a tangible manifestation of Indonesia's commitment to upholding justice and equality for all citizens as stated in Article 28D paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution. Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities provides a strong legal basis in an effort to protect and guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities, including the right to justice and accessibility in the legal system. The Surakarta City Religious Court has made concrete efforts to encourage inclusivity by providing accessible physical facilities for people with disabilities, prioritizing services for people with disabilities, and establishing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that are tailored to the needs of people with disabilities.

In addition, cooperation with disability advocacy organizations, the provision of information in an easily accessible format, and the training of law enforcement officials demonstrate systematic efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities receive equal services in the legal process. These efforts not only strengthen respect for human rights but also create a legal system that is more inclusive and responsive to the needs of diverse communities. With a continuous commitment through monitoring and evaluation, the Surakarta City Religious Court has shown that the principle of Equality Before the Law can be applied effectively to provide equal justice for persons with disabilities. This implementation is an important step in realizing a just, inclusive, and just society in Indonesia.

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