

UNIVERSAL DESIGN & ACCESS

In the South African context Universal Design and Access (UDA) are not that familiar to professionals and the public. We have excellent legislation, but sadly it is not enforced. New buildings are still being designed and build without UDA in consideration. There are also other reasons, such as older buildings and persons not being correctly informed. Some of the legislation that we refer to are:

- The White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2015
- Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act 4 2000 (PEPUDA)
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2007
- The Constitution of South Africa, 1996
- SABS SANS 10400 Part S

The Universal Design approach is an important step forward as it represents a more inclusive or holistic approach. It ensures that a high level of accessibility within the built environment is a priority for the community as whole, giving freedom of choice and freedom of movements to all individuals throughout their lifetimes.

WHO WE ARE

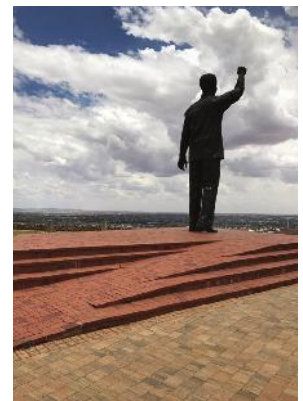
The National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) is a leading disability organisation with 79 years' experience of enabling, supporting and enhancing the quality of life for Persons with Disabilities.



Man at ATM: Example of accessible ATM for persons using wheelchairs and that is short of stature



The Amphitheatre at UNISA Pretoria main campus (Muckleneuk) was made accessible to persons with mobility impairments by providing step free access and persons with hearing loss by installing an induction loop system.



The Nelson Mandela statue on Naval Hill, Bloemfontein, was made accessible to persons with mobility impairments, and moms with prams with a ramp leading up to the statue.

The NCPD strives to make South Africa a country where persons with disabilities have access to equal opportunities and rights. Our goal is to ensure that Persons with Disabilities attain their full rights as citizens through:

- Access Audits
- Advocating and facilitating inclusion, access and economic empowerment
- Building Inspector Training
- Advice with design of buildings
- Contributing to and influencing Government policies
- Changing attitudes through sensitization and awareness programs

The NCPD follows a rights based approach within the framework of the social and human rights models of disability in its services to and in respect of Persons with Disabilities.

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU

- Workshops for architects, building inspectors, developers and other building professionals to develop an understanding of universal design and access
- Access audits for new or existing buildings; echo access for the natural environment Audits are followed by a report indicating non-compliance and recommendations
- Marketing of facilities which are accessible to Persons with Disabilities
- Advising guidance to include universal design principles in emergency evacuation procedures

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM AN ACCESS AUDIT

- An expert will visit your facility and assess the suitability for use by persons with various disabilities.
- The Access Officer will do this while keeping in mind the use of facilities by staff, visitors and customers with disabilities.
- The audits will include photos, engagement with staff and measurements of the built environment.
- A report with recommendations will be provided once the audit is complete. The report will also include proposed changes.
- We offer advisory services during the implementation stages of the recommended changes.



Example of a person with a mobility impairment using a beach wheelchair (Amphibious Wheelchair) to access and enjoy the ocean.



Example of good colour contrast on steps for persons with vision impairments

REFERENCES

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The NCPD offers various workplace services, including:

Recruitment & Placement, Reasonable Accommodation, Workplace Policies, Disclosure Support, Assistive Devices, Womens Programmes, and Enterprise Development.

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