



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

Release Date: November 2009

Programme No. 1211

Length: 4'46"

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

HONG KONG: CHANGING PERCEPTIONS ON DISABILITIES

VIDEO

HONG KONG HIGHWAY /ANDREW
DRIVES

GIRLS WALK TOWARDS THE CAR

ANDREW ON CAMERA

GIRLS IN THE CAR

ANDREW IN WHEELCHAIR

AT RESTAURANT WITH FAMILY

AUDIO

NARRATION

This is one of Andrew Kwok's happiest days.
(2.5")

ANDREW: (English) **M**

"When I was asked to be the driver of the beautiful girlfriends of my daughter's, and my daughter, of course, that was the proudest moment of my life." (10")

NARRATION

He is taking them to their high school graduation prom in Hong Kong. (3.5")

Born with cerebral palsy and unable to walk, Andrew Kwok and his wife, Sandra, have two children. A successful legal consultant, he defies a common misconception that people with disabilities cannot marry and have children.
(14")

ANDREW ON CAMERA

ANDREW: (English) **M**

"A lot of people would think that people with physical disabilities would also have no sexual function. It is wrong." (7")

DISABLED PEOPLE

NARRATION

A United Nations report estimates that there are some 650 million people with disabilities in the world. Over the last several decades, many countries have adopted policies to protect them from discrimination. (14")

MAN IN WHEELCHAIR BOARDS
TRAIN

DISABLED AT WORK AND SCHOOL

In Hong Kong, they are increasingly seen in public places. Job opportunities have opened up. Going to school is a right. But despite these improvements, they are often seen as asexual, unfit and incapable of caring for their family and children. (16.5")

KITTY AT SUPERMARKET

Kitty Hui, one of the nearly 400,000 people with disabilities, is paralyzed from the waist down.

KITTY WITH DAUGHTERS

She and her husband have two daughters. (9.5")

KITTY ON CAMERA

KITTY: (Chinese) **F**

"I don't get a strong feeling in my lower part. When I am touched, I know. But I don't feel any pain. And I don't know if it's hot or cold. For me when we are intimate, the most important thing is that sense of emotional connection, the sense of comfort and harmony." (16.5")

KITTY AND ANDREW

NARRATION

But Andrew and Kitty are among the few lucky ones who enjoy a full family life. (4.5")

DISABLED PEOPLE IN PUBLIC

Many, especially those who acquire disabilities in their adult life, often believe that they must give up their romantic relationships. Sex is a sensitive subject rarely discussed openly in the society, and health professionals are often dismissive about the emotional needs of people with disabilities. (17")

FERNANDO ON CAMERA

Fernando Cheung, a lecturer on social work at Polytechnic University. (4")

FERNANDO: (English) **M**

"When they have sexual needs, basically they are asked to suppress them." (7")

ANDREW AND DR. NG IN RADIO
STUDIO

NARRATION

Working part time as a co-host for a radio show on disability issues, Andrew explores this sensitive subject with his guest, Dr. Ng Man Lun, Associate Director of Hong Kong University Family Institute. (12.5")

DR. NG ON CAMERA

DR. NG: (Chinese) **M**

"The common belief is that it's enough to take care of the basic daily needs of people with disabilities. Health professionals who provide sexual and reproductive health counselling are often mocked as perverts." (17.5")

NARRATION

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY / SIGNING
OF TREATY

In 2006, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – the first international treaty dedicated entirely to disability rights. (9.5”)

AKIKO ON CAMERA

AKIKO: (English) **F**

“What’s so significant about this treaty is that it includes the right to sexual and reproductive health, which has been neglected for the longest time.” (7.5”)

NARRATION

AKIKO WALKS OUTSIDE OFFICE
BUILDING

Akiko is the Chief of the UN Secretariat of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (5.5”)

AKIKO: (English) **F**

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

“It provides a road map for governments to take action, and it is also an important tool for advocates to make concrete changes in the lives of persons with disabilities.” (10”)

NARRATION

REHABILITATION CENTRE

Recognizing their right to sexual and reproductive health is a vital first step to encourage people to speak openly about their emotional concerns. In 2009, a non-profit group started a pilot rehabilitation centre – the first one in the city to offer regular sexual and reproductive health counselling to people with severe disabilities. (19”)

DR. NG: (Chinese) **M**

DR. NG ON CAMERA

“People with disabilities are an asset to society. They can be productive members and make contributions to society. If we want their participation, we must meet their daily practical and emotional needs.” (14.5”)

NARRATION

ANDREW DROPS OFF GIRLS

A happy father, Andrew is a living example that people with disabilities can live fully and independently, including having and supporting a family. (9”)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Patricia Chan and Yuan Yuan for the United Nations. (4)