

## PRCS AJK Chapter marks International Day of Persons with Disabilities hosting grand seminar under the theme “Inclusion”:



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Altaf Hamid Rao

MIRPUR (AJK): Dec. 3 (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir state Branch of Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), under the capacity of Risk Awareness and Safer Behaviour Program, Wednesday hosted a grand seminar in the state metropolis to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025 under the global theme “Inclusion” in the region, it was officially said.

“The event brought together government departments, humanitarian organizations, media, civil society and, most importantly, persons with disabilities themselves in a powerful demonstration of collective commitment to building an inclusive society where no one is left behind”, PRCS AJK Chapter’s spokesman Adnan Qureshi told APP AJK Correspondent when contacted late Wednesday.

“Representatives from the Department of Social Welfare & Women Development AJK, Civil Defence AJK, Special Communication Organisation (SCO), Islamic Relief Pakistan, Hamza Foundation, and the Special Education Department actively participated in the event. A large number of journalists, persons with disabilities, PRCS staff members and dedicated volunteers also attended the seminar”, thr spokesman said.

While addressing to the participants, Secretary Pakistan Red Crescent Society AJK State Branch MS Gulzar Fatima emphasized the urgent need for meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres of life.

“Today, on International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we renew our pledge to remove every barrier – physical, attitudinal and systemic – that prevents our brothers and sisters with disabilities from realizing their full potential,” the Secretary further said that, Inclusion is not a favour; it is a fundamental human right. When we include persons with disabilities, we do not just empower individuals, we strengthen our entire society.

The Secretary further said that, I sincerely thank every department, every organization, every journalist and every member of civil society who has joined us today and who continues to raise awareness-raising campaigns throughout the year. Ms Fatima further added, that your active participation and persistent advocacy are creating real change in the lives of persons with disabilities. Together, we are turning the promise of inclusion into reality.

While applauding the humanitarian efforts and services of PRCS AJK, the District Social Welfare Officer, Mr, Mukhtar Awan said that today on this occasion, I would like to appreciate the outstanding humanitarian work of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society AJK State Branch.

“I want to place on record my deepest appreciation for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society AJK State Branch for its tireless humanitarian efforts and its invaluable support to persons with disabilities across Azad Jammu and Kashmir under it’s Risk Awareness and Safer Behaviour Program (RASB) Whether through medical rehabilitation, assistive devices distribution, livelihood support or

awareness campaigns, PRCS has remained a beacon of hope for the most vulnerable. Today's seminar is yet another testament to their unwavering commitment." he added.

During the seminar, participants shared experiences, best practices and actionable recommendations to enhance accessibility, employment opportunities, education and healthcare services for persons with disabilities in AJK.

On this occasion, Program and disaster Management Manager, Naveed Awan, Program Coordinator RASB Yasir Kazmi, and representatives from other departments also addresses the participants of the event.

The event concluded with a renewed collective resolve to accelerate implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Ends / APP / AHR

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