

[1] Rajae Fatihi, 25, dreamed of becoming a doctor. She passed the Baccalaureate exam with honours, and was confidently preparing to start her medical studies at one of the country's universities. But she didn't know that life had other plans for <u>her</u>. Seven years ago, she lost the use of her legs in a horrific car accident.

[2] "I got over the difficulties of my disability," she says, "but my broken dreams still worry me," Rajae continues. "I was prepared to catch the bus with my wheelchair. However, public transport does not provide access for people like me, just the same as public buildings. My future was destroyed not because of the accident, but rather because disabled people are marginalised by the government."



[3] These days, Rajae spends her time reading and surfing the web, the only pleasures left to her in life. She can go out when her grandfather is available to carry her up and down the steps. She thinks that the government should be responsible for integrating disabled people into society. "I've lost the use of my feet, not the use of my brain," Rajae says with tears in her eyes.



- [4] Both disabled people and their families are forced to face difficulties on a daily basis. The government is working to change the situation. The Minister for Social Development has often publicly stressed the need to reinforce and expand the rights of disabled people. "We don't need a charity approach; we need a law which respects international conventions and universal principles of human rights," the minister said.
- [5] One official at the ministry agrees that current laws "are incomplete and do not deal with the problem of disabled people as a whole". He admits that

Morocco still has no policies in place to allow **these citizens** to enjoy full rights to housing, education, work and accessibility.