 **MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

**UZBEKISTAN STATE WORLD LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY**

**Guidelines**

**for inclusive education**

**Introduction**

UzSWLU is dedicated to creating an inclusive learning environment where all students can succeed, especially those who are blind or visually impaired, women who are struggling with poverty and power, and people with limited mobility. In keeping with the 2022 Towards the Inclusive University – Widening Access in Uzbekistan Conference, this guideline places a strong emphasis on inclusive curricula, student support, and institutional atmosphere. UzSWLU has already created accessible resources for students who are blind, made accessible roads and hallways, and hired psychiatrists and specialised tutors to assist women. This guideline provides simple, affordable recommendations to enhance these efforts, ensuring equitable access and opportunities.

**Purpose**

* Provide cost-effective recommendations to create an inclusive environment.
* Enhance USWLU’s existing accessibility and support initiatives.
* Align with Uzbekistan’s inclusivity goals in higher education.

**1. Accessible Infrastructure**

**Recommendations**

* **Maintain Pathways**: Regularly repair existing ramps and corridors using affordable materials like concrete to ensure safe access for students with limited mobility and blind students.
* **Add Tactile Signage**: Use low-cost vinyl or plastic tactile markers and Braille signs in key areas (e.g., entrances, classrooms) to guide blind and visually impaired students.
* **Improve Digital Access**: Add text descriptions to images on websites and ensure basic keyboard navigation using free tools, making digital platforms accessible.

**2. Accessible Educational Materials**

**Recommendations**

* **Offer Multiple Formats**: Build on existing materials by providing audio recordings of lectures (using free smartphone apps) and large-print handouts (using standard printers) for blind and visually impaired students.
* **Use Free Tools**: Adopt free screen readers like NVDA and locally developed text-to-speech software to support blind students, avoiding costly proprietary systems.
* **Simplify Content Delivery**: Encourage faculty to use verbal explanations and printed notes to accommodate diverse learners, requiring no additional resources.

**3. Support for Women Facing Power and Poverty Challenges**

**Recommendations**

* **Continue Tutor Support**: Use existing tutors to provide one-on-one academic guidance for women, focusing on study skills and empowerment, with no additional staffing costs.
* **Expand Counseling**: Leverage current psychologists to offer group counseling sessions for gender-based challenges, maximizing reach without hiring.
* **Create Safe Spaces**: Designate existing classrooms as women-only study areas during off-hours to foster a supportive environment.

**4. Inclusive Teaching Practices**

**Recommendations**

* **Adopt Simple UDL**: Encourage faculty to offer verbal exams or group discussions to accommodate diverse learners, using existing classroom resources.
* **Promote Gender Equity**: Include discussions on gender equality in language courses using current textbooks, requiring no new materials.
* **Conduct In-House Training**: Use existing staff to train faculty on disability and gender awareness, minimizing costs.

**5. Stakeholder Engagement**

**Recommendations**

* **Partner Locally**: Work with the Society of the Blind of Uzbekistan for free resources, such as volunteer-led training or shared materials.
* **Engage Students**: Hold free campus forums to gather student input on inclusivity needs, ensuring solutions are relevant.
* **Seek Government Support**: Collaborate with the Ministry of Higher Education for guidance and small-scale funding from existing programs.

**6. Feedback and Improvement**

**Recommendations**

* **Gather Feedback**: Use free online forms (e.g., Google Forms) or suggestion boxes in common areas to collect input on inclusivity barriers.
* **Check Accessibility**: Conduct staff-led walkthroughs to assess roads, corridors, and materials, avoiding external consultant costs.
* **Track Progress**: Monitor improvements through student and staff feedback, using simple qualitative reports.

**Conclusion**

This Recommendation Guideline on Inclusivity provides affordable, practical strategies to enhance UzSWLU’s inclusive environment for blind and visually impaired students, women facing power and poverty challenges, and individuals with limited mobility. By building on existing efforts—accessible materials, improved infrastructure, and specialized support—USWLU ensures equitable access with minimal resources. The guideline aligns with Uzbekistan’s inclusivity goals and will be reviewed annually by the UzSWLU Inclusivity Task Force to remain responsive.