



U.S. Embassy Libya
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World-renowned American disability rights advocate Joyce Bender, joined by Ambassador Norland, virtually met with Libyan civil society organization leaders and advocates on February 9th to discuss matters concerning people with disabilities in Libya. Ambassador Norland congratulated Libyan participants on progress toward forming a unified transitional government and plans for national elections on December 24, noting that the election campaign will be an opportunity for candidates to outline their platforms, including on issues of importance to people with disabilities. Libyan representatives emphasized the need for people with disabilities, and other underrepresented people, to be able to participate in the political process and gain access to polling stations. They also stressed the need for access to educational and employment opportunities, the need for national reconciliation, and the value of integration of people with disabilities to achieve Libya's full political and economic potential. With support from #USAID, these representatives continue advocating for the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in Libya. All Libyans deserve a say in determining their country's future. Pictured below from left to right are U.S. Embassy Libya – Ann, Joyce Bender, Ambassador Norland, Ali Shawi, Charlie Kellett, Allison Colburn, Washington DC, Alhadi Mrega – Zawia, Lalla Badaa – Zawia, Hanan Kadoshi – Tripoli, Abdusalam, Joseph Scheibel - USAID.

