

MARRAKESH TREATY

From The Beneficiaries Perspective

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St. Nicholas' Home, Penang

- St. Nicholas' Home established in 1926 – The first organisation to serve the Blind and Visually Impaired of Malaysia
- Education & Rehabilitation of BVI in Malaysia
 - Kindergarten -1941 (Taska OKU – 2014)
 - Primary school – 1952
 - Initiated integrated programme in secondary school – 1960
 - Accorded Special Residential School by Ministry of Education - 1961
 - Integrated programme adopted by Ministry of Education – 1963
 - BVI girls at Convent Light Street – 1964
 - BVI boys at St. Xavier's School - 1965

St. Nicholas' Home, Penang

- Initiated first Braille Library in Malaysia in 1950s
- National Braille Library 1980s
- Received braille books from RNIB & Library of Congress
- Launching of the first talking books library in Malaysia
 - Clark & Smith Cartridge - 1974
 - Cassette Tapes - 1985
 - MP3 (DAISY: Digital Access Information System) – 2010
- Digitalisation of Braille production – 1987
- First Malay Braille Translation software – 1988
- Computer training for BVI - 1993

National Council for the Blind Malaysia

Formed in 1986 as a national coordinating body to bring together five organisations serving the blind as partners in providing more efficient and quality service to help blind people to be useful citizen.

The five member organisations are:

- St. Nicholas' Home, Penang
- Malaysian Association of the Blind
- Sarawak Society of the Blind
- Sabah Society of the Blind
- Society of the Blind Malaysia

National Council for the Blind Malaysia

NCBM together with its five member organisation provides more than 90% of services rendered to BVI in Malaysia

The Marrakech Treaty

The Marrakech Treaty is the second international treaty specifically dealing with disabled people's rights; the first being the UNCRPD. The Marrakech Treaty will help to implement several articles of the UNCRPD, by removing the copyright law barriers to accessible information and culture. Articles 9, 21 and 30 of the UNCRPD are particularly relevant in this context.

Malaysia Copyright Act, Act 332

Though Malaysia, in their copyright act, part iii, para 13 (2) (gggg) has given special exemption to the copyright of materials specially formatted for the use of the vision and hearing impaired.

Objectives of the Marrakesh Treaty

The main objective of this Treaty is to help end the “book famine”: the global situation whereby only a very few per cent of books published are available in accessible formats which blind and other print disabled people can read.

Key Elements of Marrakesh Treaty

- Copyright law acts as a barrier to print
- Shortage of availability of published works in accessible formats
- importance of appropriate limitations and exceptions to copyright law in order to ensure published works in accessible formats
- the need to strike a balance between the protection of the rights of the author and larger public interest
- The Treaty allows for the exchange of accessible published works across borders from one authorised entity to another, and also from an authorised entity to an individual;

Significance of Marrakesh Treaty to BVIs

Significance of this Treaty to persons with visual disabilities: help to end the “book famine” print disabled people are still face.

Sharing of Resources

While English speaking countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Canada are already producing English books in Braille, it just **makes good common sense** to share their hard labour.

Effect on the BVI Community of Malaysia:

Sharing of resources by all the blind in Malaysia – From students to those who are working.

The Need for Books In Education

At primary, secondary to tertiary education level

- Lack of appropriate accessible educational resources and misplacement of available resource stifled academic development and performance of BVI students
- All our blind undergraduates spend much time in preparing books needed with the help of volunteer readers

The Need to have Books in Other Languages

For those among us who prefer to read books of other languages not available in our libraries, the Marrakech treaty will now give them opportunities of reading such books

Variety of Books are Needed

The Accessible Book Consortium, proposes to build a database of 385,000 books that would cover 55 different languages.

- Books for children
- Books to enhance one's career
- Books for self development
- Book on wellness and health
- Books for leisure reading

Perspective on Implementation

Requirements that hinders freedom to access published works:

- Commercial Availability Requirements
- Remuneration Requirements

Both requirement are in conflict with the overarching objectives of the Marrakesh Treaty

- Technological Protection Measures (TPMs)

Going forward

- Digital Braille Revolution – Access to information and knowledge online
- Online Learning Resource Platform – RESOS@ST.NICHOLAS' HOME



Going forward

- Digital Braille Revolution – Access to information and knowledge online
- Online Learning Resource Platform – RESOS@ST.NICHOLAS' HOME
- Provision of accessible formats at source – EPUB3 Accessible Publishing Best Practice Guidelines for Publishers
- Audio-visual and cinematographic works
