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## Role-Play for “Human Rights and Advocacy”

### Role-Play 1: Physical Abuse

(Characters) Ms. A: a worker using a wheelchair; Mr. B: a worker; and Supervisor  
(Properties) Newspapers, newspaper fliers, and a table  
(Scene) In a small workshop, together with the other workers, Ms. A is folding newspaper fliers and Mr. B is inserting them into newspapers. Ms. A has disabilities in her hands and she tends to fall behind in her work. Other workers are giving her a hard time about being slow. Then the supervisor appears...

Mr. B: Ms. A, you are so slow. Hurry up!

Get moving! Don't be lazy, Ms. A, or I can never finish my job.

Ms. A: I'm not lazy. It just takes me more time than others. (She puts her head down.)

Mr. B: It's just taking you a longer time? That's what lazy means! Don't you understand? (B makes a face at Ms. A.)

--- They continue working ---

Mr. B: How many times do I have to tell you, Ms. A? Hurry up! Because of you, everybody's wages are going to get cut. (He looks around to make sure that nobody is looking, and then he reaches over and pinches the back of Ms. A's hand.)

Ms. A: Ouch! Why did you do that, Mr. B? It hurts!

Mr. B: Huh? What? I don't know what you are talking about. I haven't done anything to you.

Ms. A: You pinched my hand!

Mr. B: Oh, oh, what are you talking about? You are lazy AND a liar!

--- They continue working---

(Ms. A is lagging behind the others again.)

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Mr. B: Hey, you! Don't do this to me again! (This time, Mr. B rolls up some fliers and hits Ms. A with them.)

Ms. A: Ouch!

Mr. B: So, you can feel pain. (As Mr. B says this, he hits her again.)

--- Supervisor comes ---

Supervisor: Is everything all right?

Mr. B: Yes, sir. We've all been working hard. Everyone, that is except for Ms. A. She is just lazy.

Ms. A: I am not. (She looks down.)

Supervisor: Ms. A, you shouldn't be so lazy.

Ms. A: (In a small voice) I'm not lazy. I just can't fold the papers quickly because of the disabilities in my hands.

Mr. B: I envy disabled people like you. You can do whatever you like and blame it on your disability.

Ms. A: I'm sorry. (She continues to work. But, trying to fold her newspaper fliers faster, she drops some fliers on the floor.)

Supervisor: Ms. A, what are you doing? You got them dirty. Oh no, we can't use them now.

Ms. A: I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. (She leaves the room.)

### Roll-Play 2: Verbal Abuse (Continuous Role-Play "Marriage" 1)

(Characters)	A woman in a wheelchair, and her father
(Properties)	Chairs, Table, Tea wear
(Plot)	A woman in a wheelchair has fallen in love and wants to get married. She tells her father about it, seeking his approval.

Daughter: Dad, I have something to tell you today.

Father: What is it? You look so serious.

Daughter: I fell in love with someone.

Father: What? YOU? How old are you now?

Daughter: Twenty-four.

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Father: Twenty-four already! And you've fallen in love?

Daughter: Yes. He accepts my disability and says he wants to get married.

Father: With YOU?

Daughter: Yes. I've thought it over and I want to marry him.

Father: Is he seriously that he wants to marry you? Isn't he deceiving you?

Daughter: No, Dad. He even introduced me to his parents the other day and got their approval.

Father: You met his father? You already have such a relationship?

Daughter: Yes, I already met them. They encouraged us to do our best.

Father: They encouraged you? But what can you do?  
Can you prepare a meal? Your mother always does it for you, right?  
Who washes your underwear? Can you take care of daily chores?

Daughter: I am going to learn from mom.  
I'll practice because I want to get married.

Father: You haven't done anything for 24 years. What do you think you can do from now? If you get married, you'll have a baby. Do you know that? Who will feed the baby? Who will change the diapers?

Daughter: I think I can do those things with some help. My boyfriend will help me, and we'll do our best. He has a disability too, but he said he will help me.

Father: What are you talking about? You will just end up making troubles to people around you. How about your child? When your child grows up, what would he (or she) feel, looking at you two being different from other parents? The kids born to you will be miserable. Can you be responsible for your kids? A person with a serious disability like you cannot get married – there's no way!

**Roll-Play 3: Sexual Abuse**

(Characters)	Ms. E: a disabled female (A male can play the female role, if needed); and Mr. H: a physiotherapist
(Properties)	A chair and a sofa (used as a bed)
(Scene)	Ms. E is staying at a rehabilitation center in the capital city in order to undergo training for becoming independence. She is now taking the functional training. Mr. H, her physiotherapist, touches her body in an inappropriate manner. Although this bothers Ms. E greatly, she feels that she is unable to complain.

Ms. E: Hello, Mr. H.

Mr. H: Hello, Ms. E. Let's start today's training.  
You can raise your arms higher now. It looks like you are working a lot on your own.

Ms. E: Yes, I am. I'm trying hard because I really want to go home as soon as I can.

Mr. H: Hmm. You know, I'm really gonna miss you when you leave. It's going to be lonely for me here without you. Maybe I should come and see you when you go home. You'd like that, wouldn't you?

--- Continue rehabilitation training ---

(Mr. H makes her raise her arms more than necessarily, and stars at her breasts or touches her thighs.)

Mr. H: You look more beautiful than when you first arrived here. You're really a grown-up woman now. When you finish all your training here and start working, you'll have a long line of boys waiting to take you out. You know, I think I'll be jealous!

Ms. E: Mr. H, I think I'd like to finish training for today.

Mr. H: What? We just started. For being pretty, you can not skip training. (He touches her hair and tries to sit closer to her.)

Ms. E: Mr. H, please, I really, really want to go now.

**Roll-Play 4: Neglect**

(Characters) A boy with a physical disorders; his parents; and his siblings  
(Properties) A table and tableware  
(Situation) A family is having dinner at home. Compared to his siblings, the boy who has disability needs a much longer time to come to the table due to his disability. The other family members are eating together happily. When the boy finally gets to the table, there is little food left for him.

Mother: Dinner is ready! Come quickly! Let's eat before it gets cold.

Siblings: Yes! Great! Let's eat! (They start eating.)

--- The boy with disability is crawling on his hands and knees, trying to come to the table from the far side of the room. He doesn't have a wheelchair.

He finally reaches a dining chair, which is too high for him to get up on.

After a while, he manages to get seated. Most food was already finished. He only finds his plate on the table. His siblings are just about to finish with their dinner. ---

Boy: (In a small voice) Mom, where's my dinner?

(Family members are chatting with one another and cannot hear him.)

Boy: Mom, where's my dinner?

Mother: It's all gone because you didn't get here in time! Why don't you come quicker? I called you, didn't I?

Boy: This chair...it's so high. It's hard for me to get up on it. Mom, I'm hungry.

Mother: You always eat with us, don't you? It's the same. Everybody is hungry. Ok, we all have things to do. Let's finish with eating! I'm gonna clear off the table and wash the dishes.

(Today the boy could not have meal again.)

**Roll-Play 5: Monetary Exploitation**

(Characters) Ms. A: a woman with visual impairment ; and Mr. B: a store clerk or delivery clerk

(Properties) Sheet of papers written \$100, \$50, \$10, and \$5 on them (as bills), and a large bag (for 10 kilos of rice)

(Scene) Ms. A orders rice by phone from X Store. She asks Mr. B, the store clerk, to deliver it to her house. Since she doesn't have anything smaller than a \$100 bill, she asks him to bring the change. He knows that she asks to deliver rice because she has visual impairment and lives alone.

(On the telephone)

Ms. A: Hello. This is Ms. A. I'd like to buy 10 kilos of rice. And can you deliver it to my house? Oh, and I'm sorry, but I don't have anything smaller than a 100 dollar bill. Could you bring the change for it, too? Thank you.

Mr. B: Thank you for buying from us always, Ms. A. You live on Y street, right? 10 kilograms of rice? No problem at all. Thank you for the order, Ms. A. And I'll be sure to have change for a 100 dollar bill. I'll bring that right over to you.

--- Delivery at Ms. A's house ---

Mr. B: Hello, Ms. A. I have the 10 kilos of rice you ordered. May I put it here? It's 35 dollars.

Ms. A: I'm sorry but I only have a hundred at the moment. Do you have the change?

Mr. B: Certainly. 65 dollars change. Here you are. Thank you very much.

Ms. A: (She notices one of the bills feels different.)

Wait, just a moment. Is this 50 dollar bill? This doesn't feel like a 50 dollar bill.

Mr. B: Yes, Ma'am. That's a genuine 50 dollar bill, alright. I can see and I say so. So there's no doubt about it. Thank you for your patronage and good bye now.

Ms. A: (Feeling the bill, she mumbles)

Ummm...how strange, this doesn't feel like a 50 dollar bill at all...

**Roll-Play 6: Comprehensive case**

(Characters)	Ms. A: a woman with visual impairment who comes from a wealthy family; her husband; her parents-in-law, and her-brothers-in-law (if possible)
(Properties)	A table and tableware
(Scene)	Ms. A is from a wealthy family. She is an intelligent girl, having graduated from a university. Because she has visual impairment, however, she has had no offers of marriage. One day, her uncle comes to play matchmaker for her. The uncle has found a young man that he thinks is just the right match for her. However, this marriage proposal came with a lot of conditions.

--- Conversation between her uncle and her future parents-in-law ---

Uncle: My niece, she graduated from university with good results. The family has enough money, so she doesn't need to worry about her life. But after her parents pass away? I don't want her to be alone in the future. If possible, I'd like to find her a husband. You have grown-up sons, don't you? Are any of them planning on getting married anytime soon?

Future-father-in-law: We do have 3 grown-up sons, and we'd like to see all of them get married soon. Is your niece beautiful? (with nasty smile)

Future-mother-in-law: But what can a blind girl do around the house? Can she cook? Can she draw water from the well? A smart girl is no good to us. What we need is someone who can work. How about a dowry? What kind of money can she bring to the marriage?

Uncle: If this match goes well, her parents will be very pleased and give you many things you need besides a dowry, such as an ox you can use for the farm and a bicycle. After all, she is their dear daughter.

Future-father-in-law: Well, if she can't work, it has to be several oxen. A bicycle sounds fine, but how about a car? Can they give us a car? Her family is wealthy enough, right?

Uncle: That's a fair request. Nowadays, everyone needs to have a car.

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Future-parents-in-law: OK, then. Give us 3 oxen, a bicycle, and a car. Don't worry about our son. We'll tell him about this later.

Uncle: Ha, ha... maybe I can also make my fortune.

(He plans to make a profit on the matchmaking.)

--- (One month after the wedding) after lunch, at the kitchen & dining room ---

Husband and his siblings: Well, I should go. I'll have to go, too.

Mother-in-law: (To Ms. A) Clear the table and then wash the dishes! Quickly! You are so slow with everything. What a useless girl! Get out of my way!  
(Hitting and pushing her, she abuses Ms. A physically and verbally.)

Ms. A: (Hesitantly) Well...Mother...I haven't had lunch yet.

Mother-in-law: What? You demand to eat when you don't work at all? How dare! We are not rich, we have no food to give to a lazy woman like you. Why don't you work if you want to eat?

Mother-in-law: I am going to shopping. Clean the house while I am out. (She goes out. Father-in-law comes close to Ms. A.)

Father-in-law: Finish your work quickly and come here!

Ms. A: What can I do for you?

Father-in-law: Come here! Come into this room. (Seizing her hand, he forces her into the room.)

Ms. A: Father, what are you doing?

Father-in-law: You are so pretty. I've always liked you since you came to this house. I'm on your side. I will help you. So, do whatever I tell you to do. (He grabs her by the shoulder.)

Ms. A: Father! Stop! Stop!

Father-in-law: What? You tell me to stop? I've generously accepted a blind girl like you as my daughter-in-law. Don't you appreciate my kindness? And you disobey me?

Ms. A: Oh, no, I don't mean to be disobedient at all. But I am your son's wife. I am doing my best to be a good wife. My parents are also supporting me as much as possible. Please forgive me, Father. If there's anything you don't like about me, I'll try even harder to improve myself. So,

please...

Father-in-law: Shut up! Because your parents and relatives begged us, we didn't want to but we have you here. Do you really think such a small dowry was enough for us? You should stay in this room. Don't come out! (He locks her in the room.)

Ms. A: (Knocking on the door) Please! Let me out of here! Let me out! (She starts crying.)

### Role-Play 7: Marriage – External Suppression

(Characters)	Ms. ( ): a woman in a wheelchair; Mr. ( ): her boyfriend with a disability; Staff at the airport
(Plot)	The couple plans a trip. They travel to Okinawa, but some troubles happen. Wheelchair users receive various restrictions, which make them depressed.

- The couple is about to go on a trip. They planned the trip long ago and have been looking forward to it. However, she does not seem too excited, as her parents are strongly opposed to her getting married. -

Boyfriend: Hi. We want to go to Okinawa.

Staff: Have you made reservations?

Boyfriend: Yes. For Ms. ( ) and Mr. ( )

Staff: Mr. ( ) and Ms. ( ), right? (very politely). I am very sorry, Sir, but we ask wheelchair users to sit at seats we designate. Also, before you get onboard, I would like to ask a few questions about your disability and your condition. Could you tell us the name of your disability, Sir?

Boyfriend: Wait a minute. Can't we be seated together? Why not?

Staff: I am sorry, but wheelchair users' seats are already fixed.

Woman: Why? I've been looking forward to this trip... Please make an arrangement for us to be seated together.

Staff: I am sorry, but it is our regulation. Excuse me again, but what is the name of your disability?

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- Woman: I don't want to tell you. Even if I tell you, you won't understand my disability, will you?
- Staff: We ask this to all passengers with disabilities. It is for your safety on the plane.
- Woman: The only help I need is when I transfer from my wheelchair to my seat.
- Staff: I understand. Then please switch to this wheelchair and please wait. When it is time for you to get on board, a staff will come to take you.
- Woman: I don't want to change wheelchairs. We still have time until departure. I cannot move around unless I am in my own wheelchair.
- Staff: Is that so? However, it takes time for us to load wheelchairs onto a plane, and space inside the plane is very limited, so we need you to change to our wheelchair.
- Boyfriend: Please let her stay in her wheelchair until the departure time.
- Staff: Then please come back here by one hour before departure.
- Couple: What!?! One hour before departure time? (Surprised, but she gives up). OK.

- Even though the couple has been looking forward to this trip, they had to be seated separately. The woman also had to switch to another wheelchair in which she could not move around freely. -

### **Role-Play 8: Marriage - Internal Suppression**

(Characters)	Ms. ( ): a woman in a wheelchair; and Mr. ( ): her boyfriend with a disability
(Plot)	The woman lost her confidence in getting married because of her parents' opposition. On the other hand, her boyfriend's parents spent his pension without his permission and they say his brothers will take care of him.

- During this intended pleasant trip, the couple is having a serious discussion. What will happen to them after this trip? -

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Woman: I told my parents about our marriage. But they were totally against it. My father got so angry and I couldn't even talk to him.

Boyfriend: It was that bad?

Woman: My father shouted at me so loudly. I've never seen my father like that. I was so scared and I couldn't say anything.

Boyfriend: Why are they so against our marriage?

Woman: I was told that I cannot do anything by myself, and if my partner also has disability, we will be in trouble. So I said we will help each other and we can clean and cook together, but... Also, they talked about our income. They asked me if you have a job and how we will make a living... I said both of us receive disability pension and do we will be able to live with that. But they said marriage is not that easy.

Boyfriend: Well...speaking of pension, my parents have been in charge of my pension. As I wanted to become independent someday, I was planning to use the pension for that. But... last year, my older brother got engaged and they decided to expand the house. And it seems they used MY pension for that. They said to me I could use my brother's room and they used my money in exchange. They think I will be taken care of by his wife, so it is natural that I make such a contribution. I was so furious.

Woman: What? I can't believe it! That's terrible. How much did you have?

Boyfriend: I think about 3000 dollar. I've saved it for a long time. Because I was thinking of using it when we marry...

Woman: So, it's all gone?

Boyfriend: All gone. And I didn't know about it at all. I got really mad and said to them that they shouldn't use it without asking me. Also, I'm gonna be taken care of by my brother and his wife? Who decides? They can't decide, it's my life, I said. Because I got so angry, my parents were surprised and they apologized... Actually, my father lost his job because of this economic depression. But, I think they wanted to be looked good when my

brother got married... and they used my pension.

Woman: Do you think they will return the money to you?

Boyfriend: Probably not... We can't even rent a house without that money. What shall we do?

Woman: I don't think we are asking much. We met each other and we just want to live together... I wonder if people think marriage is a luxury for people with disabilities. I kind of lost my confidence.

### Role-Play 9: Marriage – Consultation Center A

(Character)	Ms. ( ): a woman in a wheelchair; and Mr. ( ): her boyfriend with a disability; Consultant A
(Properties)	Desk
(Plot)	Ms. ( ) and Mr. ( ) want to get married but they are opposed by their parents. They visit Consultation Center but the consultant listens to their story not from their perspectives but from that of parents.

- The couple totally lost their confidence but still they somehow want to get married. So they decided to visit a Consultation Center. -

Woman and boyfriend: Hello. Is this Consultation Center?

Consultant: Yes, hello, please come in. Come this way. (She welcomes them politely). So you have some problems?

Boyfriend: Yes, we want to get married but our parents are opposing it.

Consultant: Marriage? (She looked puzzled.) Why do you want to marry?

Boyfriend: Why? It's because we like each other. (They look at each other.) So we want to be together and live together helping each other.

Consultant: Why your parents don't agree with your marriage?

Women: They said to me, I cannot take care of myself and how could I do housework and cleaning. Also they even told me having our child is out of question...

Consultant: I think your parents are worried about you. So...

Boyfriend: They used all my money that I saved for our marriage, so I don't have any money now.

Consultant: Are you working now?

Boyfriend: I used to work in a company but I was fired. Now I am going to a

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workshop in a community.

Consultant: They pay you wage?

Boyfriend: No, just some allowance.

Consultant: So, how do you think you can make your living? (The consultant is taking the parents' side.)

Woman: Both of us receive disability pension. So we hope putting our pension together we can make our living. But we don't have a lot of money, so we need to find a house we can rent cheap. We also need some resources we can use when we are in trouble. We came here today to find out such information.

Consultant: Umm...well... I think you should take more time and make efforts to have your parents understand you. I think your parents are very concerned about you two (talking politely and with great concern).

Woman: (Slightly frustrated) How long should we discuss about this to obtain their understanding? We've been talking about this so many times already.

Consultant: Oh, I see. How about practicing cooking and laundry? Or looking for a job? Then your parents might understand.

Woman: Of course, we will make our efforts, but there are things we just can't do by any means. So we want to live together and help each other (feeling slightly upset). With this economic depression, nobody wants to employ people with disabilities like us. That's why we have trouble and that's why we are here to consult with you. If you say we can't get married if we cannot do everything by ourselves, we will never be able to get married! (She starts to cry).

Consultant: Oh, dear! Don't cry. Calm down.

Anyway, try to discuss things more calmly and take more time to have your parents' understanding, ok? How about continuing your relationship as friends?

Boyfriend: (looking offended) We said that we want to get married. What do you mean by continuing our relationship as friends? Let's leave. I am getting upset. (The couple leaves).

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**Role-Play 10: Marriage - Consultation center B**

(Characters)	Ms. ( ): a woman in a wheelchair; Mr. ( ): her boyfriend with a disability; and a consultant B
(Properties)	Desk
(Plot)	The couple visited Consultation Center but got upset and left the center. Still, they somehow want to get married. Following their friend's advice, they decided to visit the consultation office at the Center for Independent Living where persons with disabilities work.

- Ms. ( ) completely lost confidence in marriage. But while encouraging Ms. ( ), the couple decided to visit the Center for Independent Living, which their friend introduced. -

Boyfriend: Hey, my friend told me to consult the Center for Independent Living near here. Let's try!

Woman: I am sick of consulting with people. No one understands our feelings. The other day was terrible. I felt like I was talking to my parents and they were preaching me. Maybe it's impossible for us to get married.

Boyfriend: I know, it was really upsetting. But, don't give up and let's try one more place. I heard that people who have disability will listen to us there.

- The couple visits a local Center for Independent Living -

Couple: Hello.

Consultant: Yes. Please come in. Do you want to consult with us?

Boyfriend: Yes. We want to get married, but our parents are against it.

Woman: (Thinking they will not understand either, she explodes with emotion.)  
If I cannot do everything by myself, does it mean that I cannot get married? Unless I can do all of the cleaning, cooking, and laundry perfectly, does it mean that I cannot get married? If that's the case, we'll never be able to get married (she bursts into tears).

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- Consultant: Are you OK? You must have had a tough time. Don't worry, you can cry.
- Boyfriend: We don't have money either. We have been dating for 3 years. We've discussed about our marriage with our parents so many times, but they only say "no way, it's not possible." Our parents are against our marriage and we don't have money. In such a situation, she has lost confidence.
- Woman: Is it really impossible for people like us to get married? How about others? How they get married?
- Consultant: It is not true that you can't get married unless you have a job or you're capable of doing household work perfectly. We, the Center for Independent Living, think "Independence" means "to decide by yourself" and "you are the hero of your life."  
For example, look at this photo (the consultant shows photos). They got married in last October. They look so happy, don't they? This woman has a severe disability and cannot do cooking or laundry on her own. Her husband also has disabilities in his hands and legs. He can take care of himself, but it's difficult for him to help her. The couple came to our center for consultation and now lives together by using personal assistant service. She decides the menu and a personal assistant prepares meals in her taste.  
He used to work for a printing company, but he got sick and he now goes to a workshop in a local community.
- Boyfriend: I am the same! I was fired. Now I go to a workshop but there I don't receive wages, only a very small allowance. At the Consultation Center we visited before, I was told that I should find a job if we want to be understood. But, nobody will employ me in this economic recession. But in reality, we can't live without money. We just don't know what to do.
- Woman: Also I'm practicing the cleaning and laundry, but I'm not physically capable of doing that kind of work every day. But if I say so, my parents will be even more against our marriage, so I can't tell them.

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Well...do you know some volunteers who can help us?

Consultant: Well, volunteers may be ok, but you need help on a daily basis, so why don't you use a helper system? Please look at this.

The couple I showed you earlier realized their marriage life using these systems. This woman has speech impediment, and only a few personal assistants understand her. So a person introduced by the Center for Independent Living is registered as her helper, and the same person is sent for personal assistance every day. This is the self-selection-style registered helper system. As for living expenses, you can go on welfare if you don't have income. However, you may receive various restrictions by going on this, so I will explain the details if you are interested in using this system. In Tokyo, if both of you receive Disability Basic Pension, there are systems available that you can use to receive assistance without going on welfare.

Boyfriend: I'm beginning to see some hope.

Woman: Yes. We thought we can't get married. I'm glad that we didn't give up. But I wonder if our parents will understand.

Consultant: We also have a program for independent living, if you need it. How about making a program to persuade your parents?

Couple: Really? We can even do something like that? Oh, please.

Woman: We can get married, can't we? (looking happy)

Consultant: If you need other information, please consult us. If there is anything you don't understand we will go over it together. If necessary, you can see how the couple actually lives and ask them questions.

Woman: We can do that too? We are concerned about many detailed things. If we can meet them, I want to ask them many questions. Please introduce us to them.

Consultant: Sure. I will ask the couple when it is convenient for them.

Boyfriend: I'm so glad that we came here instead of giving up. I am so happy. I feel like my life has suddenly brightened up.

Couple: Thank you so much.