Movement and Cohesion in the Disability, Peace, and Security Agenda

Side Event at the 16th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD
June 15, 2023 / 11:30am-12:45pm US Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) / Zoom webinar

Article 11 (Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) provides an explicit obligation to accord protection to persons with disabilities consistent with international law obligations through a transversal reading of human rights protections in situations of risk across the domains of international law. The explicit inclusion of Article 11 establishes the co-applicability and complementarity of the CRPD with other fields of international law, thereby requiring a reading of disability-based human rights and protections into all international law obligations including, but not limited to, those found in international criminal law (ICL), international humanitarian law (IHL), and international refugee law (IRL).

This event will focus on how ICL, IHL, and IRL frameworks are impacted and informed by the obligation to provide protection and accountability for persons with disabilities in situations of risk as established by CRPD Article 11, acknowledged by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (UN SR), and reiterated by UN Security Council resolution 2475 and Sustainable Development Goal 16. Panelists will set out the vision of resolution 2475 and the role States have taken in supporting that agenda, as well as considering the implications of the evidence-based research of HPOD in advancing the work of States and the UN SR, and the CRPD Committee on the wider peace and security agenda. The goal of this event is to present concrete recommendations on integration of a disability perspective into the fields of ICL, IHL, and IRL to address the impunity and accountability gap for disability-based crimes and persecution, as well as gaps in ensuring that climate action and disaster risk reduction are disability-inclusive.

Since 2017, the Harvard Law School Project on Disability (HPOD) has been conducting ground-breaking legal research and analysis on the complementarity of CRPD Article 11 and its co-applicability and thereby developing innovative approaches to utilizing IHL, ICL, and IRL frameworks to provide protection and accountability for persons with disabilities prior to, during, and after armed conflict and humanitarian crisis. This research has led to the publication of seminal articles on the prosecution of crimes against persons with disabilities as crimes against humanity and war crimes, respectively, in the American Journal of International Law and International Review of the Red Cross, as well as how the existing refugee regime might accommodate claims grounded in disability-related persecution, in the Virginia Journal of International Law.

Live CART captioning will be provided. A captioned video recording will be uploaded to HPOD's website following the event.

Register at https://harvard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jToQ8VsZS_atwXmPgFAUhQ.
Organizer and Sponsors
Harvard Law School Project on Disability
Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations in New York

Co-Sponsors
Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations
New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations
U.S. Mission to the United Nations
U.S. International Council on Disabilities
U.S. Institute of Peace
Human Rights Watch
International Disability Alliance
UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Agenda

- Opening remarks
  - Pekka Puustinen, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
  - Joanna Skoczek, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations
  - Sara Minkara, Special Advisor on International Disability Rights, U.S. Department of State
  - Gerard Quinn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Panel discussion moderated by Michael Ashley Stein, Executive Director, HPOD; Visiting Professor, Harvard Law School
  - Janet Lord, Senior Legal Adviser to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Senior Associate, HPOD; and Adjunct Professor, University of Maryland School of Law
  - Sadiq Mohibi, Victim Assistance / Disability Advisor to UN Mine Action Services, and former Disability Rights Protection Officer at the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
  - Rosemary Kayess, Vice Chair, CRPD Committee; Senior Research Fellow, University of New South Wales Social Policy Research Centre
  - William Pons, Senior Legal Adviser to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Fellow, HPOD; Academic Fellow, University of Geneva; and Adjunct Professor, University of Maryland School of Law
- Concluding remarks by Emina Ćerimović, Senior Researcher, Human Rights Watch's Disability Rights Division