



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

## Speakers Biographies

### **2019 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)**

#### **Spotlight Event: Sport for all for Development and Peace**

**United Nations Secretariat, New York**

**3 December 2019, GA Building, Conference Room 4, 3:00pm – 5:00pm**



International  
Day of  
**Persons with  
Disabilities**  
3 DECEMBER



### **Ms. Daniela Bas**

Ms. Daniela Bas was appointed Director of DESA's Division for Inclusive Social Development on 9 May 2011. A politologist specialized in international politics, human rights and social development, Ms. Bas has most recently served as Senior Consultant designated by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as expert on human rights to Institutes that operate internationally. She has also provided her expertise on anti-discrimination issues at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Ms. Bas has worked for close to 10 years for the United Nations as a Professional Officer in social development and human rights, traveling around the world on behalf of the UN and also as a speaker at international conventions.

She has also held a number of other significant assignments including as Special Adviser on "Fundamental Rights" for the former Vice President of the European Commission; as the Italian representative designated by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on the topic "Tourism for All" to the European Commission; and as journalist and broadcaster for Italian Radio and TV. Ms. Bas is a Board Member of the Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and of the Committee to Promote non-Armed and non-Violent Civil Defense of the Presidency of the Council of European Ministers.



## Mr. Victor Calise

As Commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Victor Calise tirelessly advocates for the disability community in all City decision-making. Commissioner Calise chairs the Accessibility Committee of the City Building Code and leads efforts to integrate people with disabilities into the workforce through the NYC: ATWORK employment initiative. He also ensures that disability is at the forefront of technological developments including smart cities, autonomous vehicles, and digital accessibility.

Recognized as an expert on disability, the Commissioner frequently participates in national and international conferences. A dedicated public servant, Calise previously led efforts within the Department of Parks and Recreation to make the city's park system—one of the most complex in the world—universally accessible. Calise—an avid athlete—competed in the 1998 Paralympic Games as a member of the U.S. national sled hockey team. A native New Yorker, he is married with two daughters.



## Mr. Adam Fraser

Adam Fraser is the Chief Executive of Laureus Sport for Good, which uses the power of sport to end violence, discrimination and disadvantage. Founded under the Patronage of Nelson Mandela, Laureus Sport for Good supports more than 160 programmes in 40 countries around the world and has offices in nine countries. Its six Social Focus Areas were developed in response to and in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, and its MEL framework collates the impact of the programmes it funds around the world against the indicators set in the SDGs. Laureus is supported by more than 200 of the world's leading sportspeople.

Before taking on the Chief Executive role, Adam led the organisation's global fundraising and business development for five years, driving a significant expansion in its work. Prior to joining Laureus, he was Executive Director of the Sport Industry group and Communications Director of Benchmark Sport, which owns a range of businesses ranging from talent management, to mass participation events, to the CSR-focused events and consultancy company Beyond Sport. He started his career as a journalist, working in both the UK and France, and in his career has extensive experience working in markets including the USA, South Africa, China, Mexico and more.



## Mr. Francesco Magisano

Francesco Magisano is an elite para-triathlete and para-cyclist racing on the national and international levels representing his home team, TriAchilles, and the USA. He is totally blind and races with a pilot or guide. Francesco has qualified for and raced at national championships for both triathlon and cycling and has represented the USA in ITU international triathlon.

Outside of competition, Francesco graduated with a degree in political science from Fordham University in New York City. He currently works as the director of Achilles Triathlon, the multi-sport division of Achilles International, an international organization with the mission to introduce people with a variety of disabilities to mainstream running and multi-sport events at all levels. Francesco works to leverage his various platforms to more effectively introduce mainstream sports and competition to people with disabilities.





## Dr. Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

Dr. Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff is a historian, journalist, and consultant working at the intersection of global sport and diplomacy. Author of *The Making of Les Bleus: Sport in France* (2013) and *Basketball Empire: A Hidden Story of the NBA's Globalization* (in process), she has written for *The Athletic*, *CNN International*, *VICE Sports*, *ESPN*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, and others. Krasnoff is a Research Associate with the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS University of London.

Krasnoff is a veteran of the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Historian and has taught at SOAS, the Foreign Service Institute (U.S. Department of State), The George Washington University, Queens College, Baruch College, and Riverdale Country School. An Executive Committee member of Sport & Démocratie (France), Krasnoff serves as a US Steering Committee member for Football for Peace, and an advisory member for the Leadership, Ethics, and Practice Initiative at The Elliott School, The George Washington University and the U.S. National Archives' forthcoming sports history exhibit (October 2020). She holds a PhD in History from The Graduate Center (City University of New York), MA in Journalism and French Studies (NYU), and BA in International Affairs (The George Washington University).



## Ms. Young Eun Lee

Julianna Lee is a disability rights advocate and a senior at Northern Valley Regional High School in Demarest, NJ. After being denied entrance with her guide dog at numerous facilities, Lee co-founded VITA (Visually Impaired Total Access) to spread awareness about the Americans with Disabilities Act. Lee also initiated and ran a campaign to build a sidewalk in an area with fast-moving traffic to improve safety for people with disabilities. In addition to her advocacy work, Lee serves as a tutor and a mentor to a younger visually impaired student in her school district and has also founded a networking group for visually impaired teens in North Jersey, which

provides a much-needed forum for members and their parents to discuss common issues. Over her summer breaks, Lee has worked as a TA at the Seoul National School for the Blind in South Korea and worked one-on-one with a special education student at a shelter in Guatemala.

Outside of her disability work, Lee is a member of the Northern Valley Demarest track team, competing in 800-meter races with a sighted guide. Lee is an active member of the School Senate, Mock Trial team, and Academic Team and an officer of the National Honor Society. Lee hopes to study political science in college and serve in government.



### **Ms. Caroline Gibson**

Caroline Gibson is a Modern Workplace Specialist with Microsoft serving the public sector agencies in the City of New York and the State of New Jersey. She's a member of Microsoft's accessibility empowerment team focused on educating employees and the public on how Microsoft designs its technology to be accessible and beneficial to all. Caroline has spent her career helping government agencies modernize to create a secure, productive, and accessible environment for all employees. She has a passion for meeting people and understanding the unique value everyone brings to the table. Throughout her life, she's dedicated time to empowering others through organizations like Children's Miracle Network, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Achilles International.



### **Ms. Annika Bryson Emmert**

My name is Annika Emmert and I am an upper right amputee. But that does not define who I am, that is just a discription used by those who don't know me. I am 14 years old and have played soccer since I was 4 years old. I am an Honor student, I am Confident, I am Strong, I am a Fighter.

My goal in life is to advocate for those like me. People that feel they don't have a voice, and speak for them, until they have enough strength to speak for themselves. I will share my story, my struggles, my pain and my success so others know it is possible to overcome anything that life can throw at you.



### **Ms. Mrudula Peddinti**

Ms. Mrudula Peddinti is the branding director at Limbitless Solutions. Limbitless Solutions is an engineering innovation company that helps children in need through the design and delivery of 3-D printed bionic limbs. She dual majored in Emerging Media: Graphic Design and Digital Media: Web Design at the University of Central Florida.

Mrudula heads the creation of visual arts, branding, and digital media projects. Her mixed media approach allows her to seamlessly integrate art and design into the interdisciplinary laboratory, and you will often find her in the lab working with computer programmers, engineers, marketers, artists, and designers. Mrudula has several years of experience developing brands and telling the stories of other non-profit and for-profit organizations, using her skills in the arts, design, media, public relations, and leadership to foster powerful identities.



### **Mr. Carlo Riva**

Carlo Riva is the Director of the non-profit association L'abilità ([www.labilita.org](http://www.labilita.org)) based in Milan (Italy). He's a teaching assistant and subject expert at Università Bicocca in Milan for Inclusion Pedagogy. By means of the association's actions and programmes, since the very beginning he's been promoting the Right to Education and Care of children



with disabilities and their caregivers, aiming at improving their life quality on the whole.

He's been joining both technical and research, analysis and planning panels in social/health and pedagogical areas. He's formator on wellness, play and inclusion themes, specifically for children with disabilities. Besides, he's responsible for innovative and experimental projects tailored on persons with disabilities' health; he also runs accessibility programs for persons with developmental and learning disabilities on an Italian national basis.



### Mr. Michael Haddad

Mr. Michael Haddad, a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Goodwill Ambassador for the Arab States, has been paralyzed from the chest down since the age of six, and will cross the North Pole using a high-tech exoskeleton to stabilize his chest and legs so that he can walk. He will wear a special suit to mitigate the impacts of the harsh arctic weather tailored through textile computing – a pioneering technology that connects functions of the human body with the outside world. Michael Haddad will work closely with UNDP to advocate and support such initiatives across the Arab States region and beyond.

For further information, please visit: <https://youtu.be/L7UfU67QHLU>

