

## **Working Group on Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Priority Theme: Ensuring inclusion of persons with disabilities in a changing world through the implementation of the CRPD**

**Cross-cutting theme: Awareness-raising**

**Abstract: Violence and Abuse Against Disabled People**

The world is changing but it is not changing fast enough in relation to disabled people living lives free of violence and abuse.

The recent #MeToo Movement has successfully raised awareness of violence against women, demonstrating that this is widespread and endemic and highlighting the need to act. However, there are voices that are unheard within this global campaign.

Research indicates that people with disabilities are at much higher risk of violence. Globally statistics suggest that disabled people are 1.5-4 times more likely than non-disabled people to be subject to violence, with disabled women potentially up to 10 times more likely to experience sexual violence than non-disabled women.

There is a need to maintain awareness about this significant issue. There are still research limitations and gaps in disaggregated data as both the World Health Organisation 2012 systemic review, and the more recent 2018 youth and gender focussed United Nations Fund Population Activities global study on this topic attest. We need to keep building the evidence base to more fully understand the scale of the problem and address the social norms and conditions within which violence towards people with disabilities occurs. People with disabilities people must be at the heart of the research agenda.

This session seeks to ensure that the voices, concerns, and perspectives of people with disabilities are heard regarding violence and abuse. In particular, the multifaceted and intersectional nature of discrimination experienced by women and girls with disabilities will be a focus.

Presenters will share recent research regarding violence toward disabled people around the world. Presentations will include initiatives being undertaken to address this global problem, including those co-designed or led by people with disabilities.

## Objectives

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions Working Group on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has convened a panel of speakers from around the world to share new evidence about disabled people's experiences of violence.

Building the evidence base and fostering collaboration is vital to solving this complex problem and the presenters will share insights, challenges and recommendations for change.

The panellists from New Zealand, Finland, Australia, Canada, and South Africa will share results from recent research including:

- the intersection between violence disability and gender the experiences of Canadian women and girls with disabilities
- experiences of students in Special Schools in South Africa
- Disabled people's led research on violence experienced by Finnish women with disabilities
- Initiatives to ensure family and sexual violence services respond to the needs of disabled people, and
- Addressing violence against people with disability in Australia

**Format:** 60-minute panel presentations and 30 minutes questions and discussion. Chaired by Paula Tesoriero NZ Disability Rights Commissioner and chair of GANHRI Working Group on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Date and Time:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 6.30-8pm

**Venue Location:** CR. 6 United Nations Conference Building

### Speakers:

- Hon. Carmel Sepuloni New Zealand Minister for Disability Issues
- Ms. Sari Kokko Director of organizational affairs of the Finnish Federation of the Visually Impaired (FFVI and Chairperson of the Finnish Disability Forum. Umbrella organization for DPOs (ENNHRI)
- Bonnie Brayton of the DisAbled Women's Network of Canada (DAWN).
- Dr Ben Gauntlet Disability Discrimination Commissioner Australian Human Rights Commission
- Commissioner Bokankatla Malatji The South African Human Rights Commission

Organisers Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions - Working Group Rights of Persons with Disabilities GANHRI.

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