

The Long and Winding Road to Equality
and Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities

The United Nations Convention on
the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works.

Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.¹

¹ Excerpt from a speech by Eleanor Roosevelt at the presentation of 'In Your Hands: A Guide for Community Action for the Tenth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' (United Nations, New York, March 27, 1958).

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

American with Disabilities Act (ADA)
Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education (CSIE)
Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)
Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)
Education For All (EFA)
Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC)
European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR)
European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)
European Disability Forum (EDF)
Human Rights Committee (HRC)
Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML)
Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)
International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH)
International Disability Alliance (IDA)
International Disability Caucus (IDC)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
International Law Commission (ILC)
International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP)
Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC)
National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI)
Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Optional Protocol to the CRPD (OP-CRPD)
Optional Protocol to the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR)
Organisations of People with Disabilities (DPOs)
Union of the Physically Impaired Against Segregation (UPIAS)
United Nations (UN)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (UNCESCR)
United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee)
United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD Committee)
United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC Committee)

United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
Against Women (CEDAW)
United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT)
World Conference on Education for All (WCEFA)
World Declaration on Education for All (WEA)
World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)
World Health Organisation (WHO)
World Institute on Disability (WID)
World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons (WPA)