
THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN STRATEGIC LITIGATION

**Side event to the 17th session of the Conference of States
Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with
Disabilities**

Hosted by

OHCHR; Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); Disability Rights International; Validity Foundation; Inclusion Handicap (umbrella organization of organizations of persons with disabilities in Switzerland); Faculty of Law, University of Basel (Switzerland).

Date

June 10, 2024

Time

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Venue

Conference Room 4

Background

Strategic litigation on the rights of persons with disabilities is a crucial tool to implement the CRPD. Organizations of persons with disabilities have developed strong political advocacy work. However, they often lack expertise and face barriers to use the court system to enforce the rights guaranteed in the Convention.

Objective

The side event aims at raising awareness among organizations of persons with disabilities about employing litigation of the rights of persons with disabilities as a strategic tool to promote, develop and entrench these rights. In addition, it demonstrates to State parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) how ratification of the Optional Protocol can improve the implementation of the

CRPD, contributing to the ratification campaign by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Topics to be addressed

In this side event, we will discuss topics such as the expertise necessary to file court cases, the selection of cases for strategic litigation, media coverage, financial resources, the development of strategies, the relationship to political advocacy, etc.

Moderation and Speakers

Moderation:

- **Markus Schefer:** Member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); Professor of Constitutional and Administrative Law at the University of Basel, Switzerland.

Speakers:

- **Rosemary Kayess:** Vice Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); Disability Discrimination Commissioner of Australia.
- **Priscila Rodríguez:** Associate Director for Advocacy of Disability Rights International.
- **Steven Allen:** Executive Director of Validity Foundation.
- **Olga Manfredi:** Chair of the Swiss Paraplegic Association; Board Member of Inclusion Handicap.
- **Caroline Hess-Klein:** Co-Managing Director of Inclusion Handicap.

Format

- The event will be held in person.
- The session will be held in English only.
- International Sign Language will be available.
- Closed Caption will be available.
- Live Webcast on UN WebTV.
- Catering available.