

# The Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Strategic Litigation

## Side Event

17th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD  
10th June 2024, 1.15 pm-2.30 pm  
Conference Room 4

Presented by  
OHCHR / Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities /  
Disability Rights International / Validity Foundation /  
Inclusion Handicap Switzerland / Faculty of Law, University of Basel

Strategic litigation is a crucial tool to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (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.

This side event to the 17th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD 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 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).

With the side event, we bring together broad experience in strategic litigation on the rights of persons with disabilities. It includes a wide variety of organizations from different legal systems on different continents. Their experience covers various domestic legal systems, several regional human rights systems, and on the global level the U.N. treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

### **Moderator**

- Markus Schefer: CRPD, Faculty of Law University of Basel

### **Speakers**

- Rosemary Kayess: CRPD, Disability Discrimination Commissioner of Australia
- Priscila Rodríguez: Disability Rights International
- Steven Allen: Validity Foundation
- Olga Manfredi: Swiss Paraplegic Association
- Caroline Hess-Klein: Inclusion Handicap Switzerland