

United Nations 4th Conference on State Parties for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

UN SIDE EVENT **Gender Perspectives: Using International Law to Advance the Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities**

This panel invites participants to apply a gender perspective to disability and will discuss how gender and disability are currently applied in the context of existing international norms and United Nations mechanisms. We will also explore ways to empower women and girls disabilities and to mitigate violence against them.

Program

Introduction by the moderator: Carole J. Petersen, *Professor and Director of the Matsunaga Institute for Peace & Conflict Resolution, University of Hawaii at Manoa*

Speakers:

Akiko Ito, Chief, Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities/UN Focal Point on Disability, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

How is Gender and Disability Being Addressed by DESA and other UN Entities?

Stephanie Ortoleva, Esq, Senior Human Rights Legal Advisor, BlueLaw International Esq,

Missing Links: Integrating Women and Girls with Disabilities into the UN System through Advocacy and Engagement

Dr. Henia Dakkak, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Women with Disabilities, Including in Humanitarian Situations.

Rangita DeSilva, Director of International Human Rights Policy, Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College

Mining the Intersections of the CEDAW and CRPD in Theory and in Practice: Case Studies from Nepal and Bangladesh

Questions & Discussion

Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Time: 11:45 am – 1:00 pm

Place: Venue E, United Nations Secretariat

Sponsored by

The Center on Disability Studies, University of Hawaii (AUCD member)

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

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About the Panelists

Akiko Ito is Chief of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and UN/Focal Point on Disability. She is also a Departmental Focal Point for Women in the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Ms. Ito has extensively lectured and published on issues concerning disability and human rights. She has an LL.B. in International Legal Studies from Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, an M.A. in International Relations from the University of Chicago, and an LL.M. from Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California at Berkeley.

Stephanie Ortoleva is a woman with a disability, a renowned advocate for human rights, and a lawyer at BlueLaw International. She was previously an Attorney and Disability Coordinator at the U.S. Department of State. She focuses on disability rights, women's rights, rule of law, access to justice and human rights education in developing and post-conflict countries. She developed the website www.WomenEnabled.org and has numerous scholarly publications. Ms. Ortoleva is also the founding Co-Chair of the American Society of International Law's International Disability Rights Interest Group.

Dr. Henia Dakkak is a medical doctor, a public health specialist, and a past Fulbright post doctorate research scholar. She has comprehensive knowledge and experience of emergency obstetrics, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, and mental health and psychosocial programs. As senior technical advisor with Humanitarian Response Branch at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in New York, Dr. Dakkak provides technical support and advice to UNFPA country offices dealing with emergency situations in regard to reproductive health, gender, mental health and psychosocial support and data issues during emergency and post crises situations.

Rangita de Silva de Alwis is the Director of International Human Rights Policy at the Wellesley Centers for Women and the Susan McGee Bailey Research Scholar and Faculty at the Madeline Albright Institute for Global Affairs at Wellesley College. She is an Advisor to the U.N. Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and to the U.N. Population Fund's (UNFPA) CEDAW Legislative Compliance in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and a International Gender Specialist for United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Justice Sector Reform in Vietnam. She has a Doctorate in Law (S.J.D.) from Harvard Law School.

Carole J. Petersen is Professor and Director of the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, University of Hawaii at Manoa. She also teaches international law and international human rights at the William S. Richardson School of Law. She is a former Director of the Centre for Comparative and Public Law at the University of Hong Kong and holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and a Postgraduate Diploma in the Law of the People's Republic of China. She co-edited *Human Rights in Asia* (Routledge 2006).