

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women- 58th Session
Progress? - Inclusion of Women and Girls with Disabilities
In
Education and Employment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
Friday, 14 March 2014 – 1:15 to 2:30 p.m.
United Nations Church Center-

Moderator and Introductory Presenter:

Ms. Stephanie Ortoleva, Esq., Founder and President, Women Enabled, Inc.

Stephanie Ortoleva is a highly recognized international human rights lawyer, policy and development consultant, author and researcher on issues of women's rights, disability rights and the rights of women and girls with disabilities. She is the Founder and President of [Women enabled, Inc., a not-for-profit organization](http://www.womenenabled.org) which educates and advocates for the human rights of all women and girls, with a special focus on women and girls with disabilities, in collaboration with organizations of women and girls with disabilities worldwide. She has numerous scholarly publications regarding women's rights, disability rights, sexual and reproductive rights, access to justice, violence against women, conflict and post-conflict situations, electoral and political reform, and rule of law, and her [papers are on the Social Science Research Network at http://ssrn.com/author=1875099](http://ssrn.com/author=1875099) and on the [Women enabled, Inc. website at http://www.womenenabled.org/publications.html](http://www.womenenabled.org/publications.html). Stephanie also will have a chapter on women with disabilities and STEM in the forthcoming book, edited by Asha Hans, *Disability and Feminist Experiences*, Sage Publications, 2014. Her work with [Women enabled, Inc.](http://www.womenenabled.org) also focuses on human rights programming and training in developing, transition, and post-conflict countries, as well as consulting for governments, non-governmental organizations and international organizations. As a woman with a disability herself she brings the development, academic and legal perspectives to her work as well as her personal experience as a woman with a disability. Previously Stephanie served as an attorney and human rights officer at the U.S. Department of State, where she served on U.S. Government Delegations at international multilateral venues regarding disability rights and women's rights and she received several honors for her work. Additionally, Stephanie has extensive experience enforcing civil rights laws in the United States through her work with not-for-profit organizations and government agencies. Through her volunteer work and service on the Boards of Directors of several disability rights and women's rights organizations, she also has contributed to her community. Stephanie received her J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law with outstanding academic honors and served on the Hofstra law Review as an Associate Editor.

Speakers:

Professor Donna M. Mertens, PhD

Professor Mertens is a Professor in the Department of Education at Gallaudet University, Washington, DC, United States, where she teaches advanced research methods and program evaluation to deaf and hearing students in international development. She also serves as editor for the *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*. The primary focus of her work is transformative mixed-methods inquiry in diverse communities that prioritizes ethical implications of research in pursuit of social justice. Her recent books include *Indigenous Pathways into Social Research* (2013), *Program Evaluation Theory and Practice: A Comprehensive Guide* (Guilford, 2012), *Transformative Research and Evaluation* (Guilford, 2009), *The Handbook of Social Research Ethics* (Sage, 2010); and *Research and Evaluation in Education and Psychology: Integrating Diversity with Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Methods* (3rd ed., Sage, 2010). She is widely published in the *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, *American Journal of Evaluation*, *American Annals of the Deaf*, and *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*.

Professor Asha Hans

Professor Hans is the Founder of the Women with Disabilities India Network, through which she prepared the disability part of the Alternative Report to the Committee on the

Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and also led the effort to provide UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Rashida Manjoo, with documentation of violence against women and girls with disabilities during her country visit to India in April 2013. She has also been involved in efforts for the inclusion of women in the India Disability rights Draft legislation. She is the co-founder of Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre in India and is a former Professor of Political Science and Director of Women's Studies at Utkal University in India. She also has extensive experience in the inclusion of women in peace and security strategies and is leading the People's Action Plan pursuant to UHNSCR 1325. She has authored and edited numerous articles and books, including: India's first book on women and disability, *Gender Disability and Identity* (Sage Publications, 2003); with Betty Reardon, *The Gender Imperative: Human Security Vs State Security*, Routledge, 2010; and the forthcoming book, *Disability and Feminist Experiences*, Sage Publications, 2014.