



Electing Women with Disabilities to the CRPD Committee: Tips for Potential Candidates

Nominations for the CRPD Committee open on February 12, 2018 and close on April 12, 2018.

To find out more about the 2018 CRPD Committee election, please visit:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/Elections.aspx>

Preparing your CV

Before you approach your state to become a candidate for the CRPD Committee, make sure you have a strong resume that reflects your experience working to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities and your expertise in human rights.

Your CV should contain:

- Your place and date of birth.
- Your working languages.
- Your current position and activities, including your duties in that position.
- Any other professional experience you have had, with some detail about your duties and the timeframe in which you held the positions. These professional activities may include employment, fellowships, consultancies, board memberships, and other types of advisory positions.
- Your educational background, including any university degrees you hold, as well as any training courses you have undertaken.
- Any other relevant activities. This can include authorship of publications relevant to disability rights, speaking engagements, conference attendance, memberships in professional organizations and awards you have received for your work.

To see examples of CVs from current members of the CRPD Committee, please visit:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/Membership.aspx>.

Getting your state's nomination

In order to become a candidate for the CRPD Committee, your state must first nominate you.¹

Steps you should take to get your state's nomination:

- Meet with relevant governmental officials and contacts within the government to share your experience (including your CV) and express your interest in running.
- Get non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and particularly organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs), to support your nomination and push for your potential candidacy with government officials.

Your state's campaign

Once you have your state's nomination, your state must then prioritize your campaign.

- Your state must be willing to **swap votes** with other states for other UN positions.
 - A **vote swap** means that your state will agree to vote for another state's candidate for a UN position if that other state agrees to vote for you during the CRPD Committee elections. Clarify whether your state is willing to swap votes to support your candidacy before you run, as vote swapping is essential for ensuring you are elected.
- Your permanent mission to the UN in New York should circulate your CV in the UN format with an official letter to other states announcing your candidacy, a document called a **note verbale**.ⁱⁱ
 - For no extra cost, your mission can also create a page for your campaign on its website.
- Your mission should organize bilateral meetings for you in New York to meet as many election officers from other missions as possible. Try and do at least two weeks' worth of these meetings.
 - In these meetings, emphasize the importance of geographic and gender balance on the Committee, as stated in the CRPD and also recommended by OHCHR.ⁱⁱⁱ
 - Your mission could also organize a lunch briefing with officials from other missions so that you can explain to a larger group why you are the best candidate and answer questions.
- You can ask your state to fund campaign materials including a brochure, a translation of your CV into the UN official languages, dedicated business cards, and translations of your CV into accessible formats, such as Braille, easy-to-read format, or an international sign language video.

Your individual campaign

In addition to your state's campaign, you should be willing to campaign on your own behalf.

- Use social media to distribute your credentials and ask supporters to do the same.
 - Create a specific hashtag for your candidacy. For instance, if Jane Smith is running for the CRPD Committee, an appropriate hashtag might be **#votesmithforCRPD**.
 - Follow New York human rights officers and permanent missions on twitter and Facebook, and target them as the election date draws closer.
- If you are developing a brochure, include quotes from supporters such as government officials and civil society leaders.
- Create your own website. WordPress.com is a blogging website where you can post information for free. Include links to your CV in different UN languages, your brochure, and other materials created for your campaign.
 - Example: <https://votekingston.wordpress.com/vote-kingston-on-14th-june-2016/>
 - Include quotes from the GQUAL campaign and draw attention to the issue of gender balance.^{iv}
- Directly lobby the Bureau of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (President: Bulgaria, VPs: Tunisia, Sri Lanka, Ecuador, and Germany).
- Ask New York-based NGOs and DPOs, such as Women Enabled International and the International Disability Alliance, to meet with New York missions and advocate for you.
- Lobby female ambassadors and deputies in New York missions to support you.

ⁱ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/Elections2016.aspx>

ⁱⁱ For more information on the UN format for CVs, please visit:

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRPD/Elections2012/CVElections2010.doc>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRPD/Statements/FINAL0504.docx>

^{iv} <http://www.gqualcampaign.org/home/>