



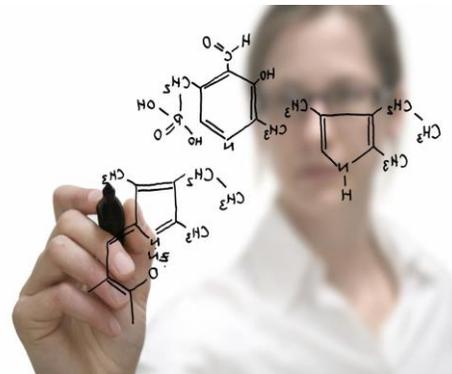
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 10, 2014
Women Enabled at the UN Commission on the Status of Women Discusses
Women with Disabilities and the STEM fields

WHAT: Side Event - Progress? Participation of Women and Girls with Disabilities in Education and Employment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

WHEN: Friday 14 March 2014, 12:30pm

WHERE: The Church Center UN Boss Room,
777 UN Plaza, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10017

WHY: This dynamic panel of experts and practitioners will assess progress in the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in education and employment in the science, technology, engineering and math fields, which is the CSW 58's Review Theme. [The Final Conclusions from CSW 55](#) made specific reference to the urgent need to include women and girls with disabilities in these critical fields. Women with disabilities continue to have the lowest education and employment rates among all women and this panel explores the current situation and successful strategies for progress.



IMPACT: In January, Women Enabled, Inc. worked in India on various projects concerning women and girls with disabilities. When we visited a school that teaches Braille and computer skills to students attending the public schools, I was especially impressed by one young woman who attended a public school and comes to this program to enhance her computer skills. After my presentation concerning my work during our visit to India, we chatted for a few minutes. She realized that I am an international human rights lawyer, but when I told her that I also am blind, she said: "You mean even though I am blind, I could be a lawyer too?" I said you can be anything you want to be. She became so excited and I think (and passionately hope) that she will feel more empowered to follow her dreams, no matter what they are.



References: UN Women, Commission on the Status of Women, 55th Session, Priority Theme, <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sess.htm#priority>

U.N. Women, CSW 55, "Agreed Conclusions" available at http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw55/agreed_conclusions/AC_CS55_E.pdf

UN Women, Commission on the Status of Women, 58th Session, Review Theme, <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw58-2014>

Stephanie Ortoleva, "Yes! Women and Girls with Disabilities Do Math: We are the Keys to Our Future and Our Rights!" World Justice Project Blog, May 1, 2013, <http://worldjusticeproject.org/blog/yes-women-and-girls-disabilities-do-math-we-are-keys-our-future-and-our-rights>

Stephanie Ortoleva, International Day of the Girl Child: Focus on Education – Missing Stories in the Blogs, World Justice Project Blog, October, 2013, http://womenenabled.org/pdfs/Stephanie_Ortoleva_International_Day_of_the_Girl_2013.pdf