

Rehabilitation International

M O N T H L Y N E W S L E T T E R
June 2011



**Advancing the Rights
and Inclusion of
Persons with
Disability Worldwide**



Picture by norebbo.com



For RI EC, RIF AND RI Members

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Dates & venues for the upcoming RI meetings

Dates	Meeting	Place
November 6 – 9, 2011	RI Executive Meeting	Sao Paulo, Brazil
November 6th	1 st day of EC meeting Welcome reception in the evening	
November 7th in the morning	Opening of the Regional Congress	
in the afternoon	Continuation of the EC meeting	
November 8th in the morning	EC meeting	
in the afternoon	Commission Meetings	
November 9th in the morning	RI Annual Assembly	
in the afternoon	Closing of the Regional Congress	
04/16/2012 – 04/20/2012 (proposed dates)	RI EC meeting	South Africa
10/26/2012 – 11/03/2012 (proposed dates)	RI EC, Assembly + RI World Congress	Incheon, South Korea

For more information please see our website www.riglobal.org

Upcoming Meetings and Events



July 18 – 24 XVI WFD World Congress in Durban, South Africa.
The **World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)** presents, amongst others, day long topics like Deaf Education, Sign Language and Deaf Studies, Developing Countries, Deaf Ethnic Groups, Deaf Mental Health, and Human Rights. The World Congress features also exhibitions, tours and an Official Deaf Pub. For further information please visit <http://www.wfd2011.com/>



July 21 – 23 5th International Convention on Rehabilitative Engineering



and Assistive Technology in Bangkok, Thailand. i-CREATe, organized by the Singapore Therapeutic, Assistive & Rehabilitative Technologies Centre, Thailand's National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University, will be focusing on using Assistive Technology for children with disabilities. For further information please visit <http://www.icreateasia.org>



July 25 – 26 General Assembly High Level Meeting on Youth, New York, USA. The high-level meeting will have as its overarching theme **"Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding"**. The round tables will address the following themes: **Strengthening international cooperation** regarding youth and enhancing dialogue, mutual understanding and active youth participation as indispensable elements towards achieving social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty; and **Challenges to youth development** and opportunities for poverty eradication, employment and sustainable development. DESA in collaboration with other partners will organize a side-event on youth with disabilities at the meeting. For further information please visit <http://social.un.org/youthyear/high-level-meeting.html>



August 1 – 5 Second Working Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing in New York, USA. The working group will consider the existing **international framework of the human rights** of older persons and **identify possible gaps** and **how best to address them**, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures. For further information on the Session and registration for NGOs please visit <http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/ngosecondsession.shtml>



September 8 -9 2nd Conference of the Coalition for Global Hearing Loss in Los Angeles, California. The conference features workshops and plenary sessions with experts and open discussions on the following topics: **advocacy for better hearing healthcare, technical challenges and opportunities, increasing the workforce through quality training, empowering families and affected individuals, and establishing best practices and standards of care.** The deadline for the **call for papers** for Ear and Hearing Stakeholders Working in Underserved Regions is **July 10th**. Registration for this conference is open. For further information please visit <http://cfggh.squarespace.com/conference-overview>



September 28 International Abilympics Seoul 2011 International Symposium in Seoul, Korea. The symposium is part of the International Abilympics 2011 in Seoul from September 25th to 30th and will be held under the theme: **'Disability, Work and Social Integration'**. The morning session will be conducted in the form of a lecture on the theme **'Sharing good examples of employment for**



persons with severe disabilities'. In the afternoon session scholars in the field of disabilities from Japan and Australia will give two special lectures titled **'The significance of employment and social participation of persons with disabilities'** and **'Successful strategies in order to promote the transition of young people with disabilities from school to work'**. For further information and registration (open until July 31st) please visit

http://www.ia2011.org/english/enContent.do?menu_grp_key=2&menu_key=76



November 7 – 9 4th International Congress of AVAPES on Rehabilitation and Inclusion in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The congress titled

“Social Technologies: Sharing Global Trends” will introduce recognized social trends and technologies through exhibitions, panels, roundtables and workshops involving topics such as: Education and Training,



Employability, Strategic Management for Social Organizations, Social Business, Public Policies, Projects, Initiatives and Innovations, Quality of Life: Assistive Technologies and Accessibility. The congress is organized by FENAVAPES, the National Federation of Avapes. For further information please visit http://www.riglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/AVAPE_RI_CONFERENCE.pdf



November 8 International Research Symposium in London, Great Britain. The Symposium titled **“Equitable Health Services for People with Disabilities with a Focus on Low and Middle Income Countries”** is being co-organized by the **London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)** and the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.

This one day international symposium seeks to bring together researchers, policy makers, disability advocates, NGOs and health and rehabilitation professionals to share current research on equity in health care for persons with disabilities and to promote interdisciplinary action in policy relevant research. **The deadline for abstracts is July 29th. Registration is open until October 1st.** For further details and to register please visit <http://www.equityhealthdisability.com>.

Featured event

2011 General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Aids in New York, USA, from June 8th to 10th

Three decades into the AIDS pandemic, ten years after the adoption of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and five years after the adoption of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Heads of States and Governments and

their representatives assembled for the **UN High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS** from June 8th – 10th, 2011 in New York in order to review progress and chart the future course of the global AIDS response.

The **AIDS & Disability-Partners Forum** was held on June 9th during the High-Level Meeting on AIDS at the UN Headquarters. The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) organized the event in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Health Canada, USAID, the US State Department, Global Partnership for Disability and Development (GPDD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO). The side-event worked to **enhance the integration of an inclusive and accessible approach in AIDS programming for persons with disabilities**. For further information please visit <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1572>.

At the end of the meeting, Heads of States and Governments and representatives of State and Government issued a **Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS** in which they acknowledge that prevention, treatment, care and support programs have been inadequately targeted or made accessible to persons with disabilities and that the rights of persons with disabilities have to be taken in account in the formulation of the global response to HIV and AIDS. For the declaration please visit http://www.riglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Political_Declaration_on_HIV_and_AIDSFINAL.pdf

For further information on the High Level Meeting on AIDS and HIV please visit <http://www.unaids.org/en/aboutunaids/unitednationsdeclarationsandgoals/2011highlevelmeetingonaids>

RI Press Release

Disaster Preparedness and Recovery - Mainstreaming Disability

May 25, 2011: Rehabilitation International and Daisy Consortium (which developed, maintain and promote international **DAISY** (Digital Accessible Information System) Standards held a combined meeting on the 21st May 2011 in Korea to discuss the issue of disaster preparedness and recovery as part of mainstream development and delivery for people with disabilities.

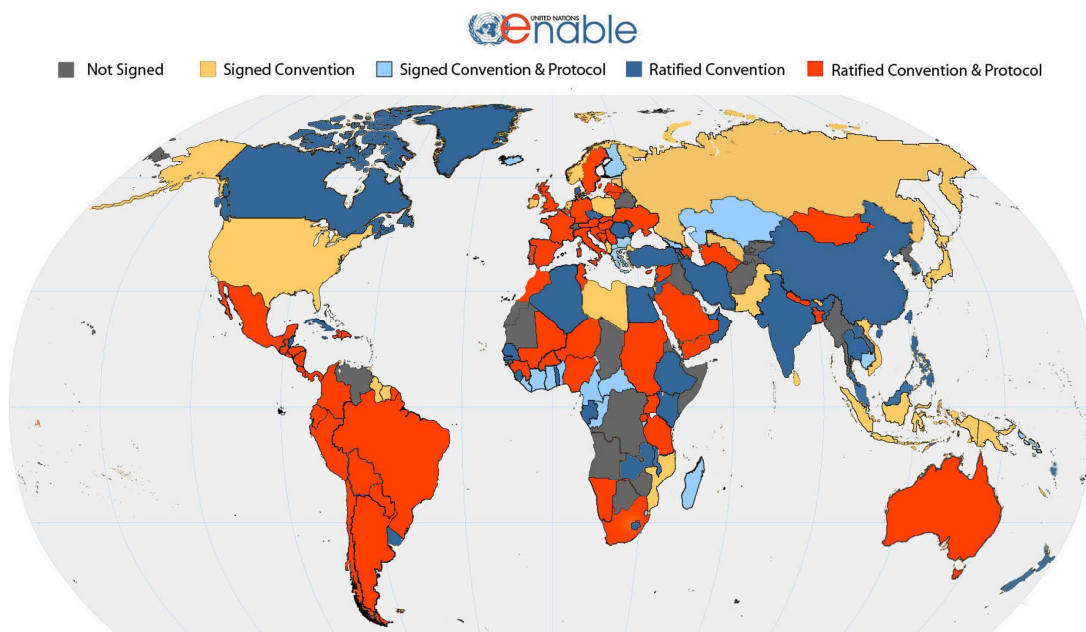
The meeting identified that if people with disabilities receive adequate preparation for a disaster, they can become an important resource and role model in effectively evacuating a disaster area. Japan's experience of earthquake and tsunami on 11th March 2011 was testament to the importance of this activity. Some people with disabilities who had in the past created challenges for emergency services, through adequate training, were able to calmly evacuate and assist many people without disabilities to do the same.

Rehabilitation International and the DAISY Consortium call on States Parties and UN Agencies to support the development of a series of pilot projects in vulnerable areas throughout the world.

Rehabilitation International and the DAISY Consortium call on State Parties to provide the necessary supports to people with disabilities to enable them to re-establish their lives. This is important for effective reconstruction especially in areas recently affected by natural disasters.

Lastly, RI and the DAISY Consortium call on State Parties to ensure people who are injured as a result of natural and man made conflicts are provided with adequate rehabilitation to enable their full recovery and participation as contributing members of society.

CRPD Ratification Update



Latest Developments

- Cyprus ratified the Convention on 6-27-2011
- Cyprus ratified the Optional Protocol on 6-27-2011
- Belize ratified the Convention on 6-2-2011
- Papua New Guinea signed the Convention on 6-2-2011

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- 149 signatories
- 102 ratifications

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- 90 signatories

- 62 ratifications

For more Information please visit following website:
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/>



Mexican President Felipe Calderon announced on May 27th, during the promulgation of the new General Law for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, **his intention of withdrawing the interpretative declaration** –which he acknowledge was a reservation- that Mexico introduced to article 12 (legal capacity), when the country ratified the CRPD. For the Spanish article please visit <http://www.dis-capacidad.com/nota.php?id=1494>



Belize became the **148th signatory** to the United Nations CRPD. Belize joined the global commitment to further promote, protect and ensure the equal enjoyment of all human rights by one of the most vulnerable groups in society - persons with disabilities. Mrs. Kim Simplis Barrow, Special Envoy for Women and Children and Global Ambassador for Special Olympics, signed the convention on behalf of the government and people of Belize. For an interview with Mrs. Barrow on the meaning of the signature of CRPD for Belize please visit

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/detail/121781.html>



The 13th session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council is expected to take place in June 2012, and the countries to be reviewed include: Africa - **Algeria, Morocco, South Africa, Tunisia**; Asia - **India, Indonesia, Philippines**; Latin America - **Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador**; Middle East – Bahrain; Europe - **Czech Republic, Finland, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom**. Guidelines for submission of NGO reports are available at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/TechnicalGuideEN.pdf>.

Submissions should be sent to uprsubmissions@ohchr.org using the guidelines mentioned above, by January or February 2012. The exact dates of the session and the submission deadlines will be announced later.



Enthinderungsselbsthilfe (ESH) released its **shadow report** under the **CRPD** on the deplorable situation of people with autism in the German speaking area. ESH is a group of autistic self-advocates trying to improve the situation of people with autism. ESH states that as people with autism are excluded from most of the substantial decision-making processes, they had no possibility to contribute to an official state report.




The **UN CRPD** was distributed in a **child-friendly version in Braille, audio and sign language in Montenegro**. It is part of the '**It's About Ability**' campaign in support of the inclusion of children with disabilities, a **UNICEF-supported Government of Montenegro initiative** which began in 2010. "Effective communication is a necessary pre-condition


for including children with disabilities in all activities that other children participate in,” said Mr. Filip Vujanovic, President of Montenegro. “This is essential, because children learn what they live. If they are segregated by ability and skill for most of the day, theoretical lessons on respecting diversity not only won’t have any effect, but are senseless.” For more information please visit

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/montenegro_58880.html

Membership News

 As a result of the recent national postal service disruption throughout Canada, the **International Society for Augmentative and Assistive Communication (ISAAC)** Executive Board has extended the deadline for the filing of Letters of Intent from interested Conference 2014 bid proponents. The deadline date of June 30th, 2011 noted in the request for proposal, has been **extended to July 15th, 2011**. The complete RFP package is available for download from the ISAAC website, which can be navigated to by clicking on [this link](#). Letters of Intent must be received at the ISAAC International offices in Toronto no later than the close of business on July 15th, 2011. If you have questions, please contact ISAAC International at conference@isaac-online.org.



 **Judith Hollenweger, European Region Chair of RI’s Education Commission**, represented RI in the meeting of the “**Flagship for the Right to Education of Persons with Disabilities: Towards Inclusion.**” The meeting was convened to tackle issues resulting from the termination of the support from the Government of Finland which took effect end of May 2011. The meeting discussed future mechanisms for a global coordination for efficient mainstreaming of disability in the “Education For All” (EFA) process and to plan for intensified support to both mainstreaming and focused actions. For Mrs. Hollenweger’s report on the meeting please visit <http://www.riglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Mainstreaming-Disability-in-EFA.doc>.

For further information on the Flagship please refer to <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/education-for-all>


On 6th June, **RI Secretary General Venus Ilagan** was keynote speaker at the **Growing Older With A Disability (GOWD)** conference held at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel in Canada. GOWD is part of the **Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Ageing and Technology (FICCDAT)** organized by the **March of Dimes Canada** and the **Toronto Rehab Institute**, from 5-8 June 2011. The action oriented program of the conference had seven topical themes that affect the lives of

persons growing older with a disability and gives it context, i.e. does the work being presented impact improvements in practice, policy development or research knowledge? The conference focused on the following: (i) age-friendly liveable communities (ii) health promotion and wellness (iii) health equity and the elimination of health disparities (iv) health literacy, health communication and health IT (v) long-term care and community-based services and supports (vi) social engagement and participation (vii) employment, economic security and retirement, and (viii) cross-cutting theoretical and policy issues.


 On May 20th, **Mr. Michael Fox, Chair of RIF**, met with **Mrs. Dang Huynh Mai – President of Vietnam Federation on Disability (VFD)** and other members of VFD's standing Executive committee. VFD was established following a Ministry of Home Affairs decision in October 2010.




For further information please visit http://www.dphanoi.org.vn/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2474&Itemid=814

 Mr. **Jan Monsbakken**, RI President Elect, represented RI at a seminar on how to **mainstream persons with disabilities in development cooperation** organized by the **Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)** in cooperation with the **UN Special Rapporteur on disability**. The seminar took place in Oslo from March 27 to 29th, 2011. The

seminar gathered more than 60 representatives from UN agencies, multilateral organizations, Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs), development agencies and regional bodies. Both Northern and Southern representatives were present. The aim was **to identify obstacles as to why people with disabilities are excluded in development cooperation** and to gather possible solutions. Although the seminar did not pass a resolution, some **important solutions** were identified as important and summarized in a **report**. For the report please visit <http://www.riglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Oslo-Seminar-on-Mainstreaming-Disability-in-Development.doc>

 **Samarthyam** spearheaded the development of **universal design principles for India** with other experts from the field of design and accessibility. **Universal Design India** embodies the democratic values of equal opportunity for all and seeks to address social and cultural diversity due to differences in languages, cultures, economics and regions. The five principles of Universal Design India add to the seven universal design principles developed by the Center for Universal design at North Carolina State University in 1997. Developed at the National Institute of Design and co-authored by 9 Indian experts, these principles are different from the seven principles and employ usability, culture, economics and aesthetics to provide choices and further the social and equitable agenda of universal design. Furthermore the principles are also translated in Hindi, National language of India so that an understanding on the UDIP can be generated all over the nation. For further information on the Universal Design India please visit <http://www.riglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Taking-India-towards-Inclusion.pdf>. For more information on Samarthyam please visit <http://www.samarthyam.org>



 **The Pakistan Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled** published the **Spring 2011 issue of its newsletter**. The newsletter features, among others, articles on the celebration of the Pakistan Day with colorful tableaux by school children and on courses and seminars hold in recent months. For further information on The PSRD please visit www.psr.org.pk



The Pakistan Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled

 **JASMAR released its May e-newsletter**. The e-newsletter includes reports on several mine risk education and demining programs. Furthermore, JASMAR reports on meetings with project partners and invites to take a look at their photo gallery on their website: <http://www.jasmar.net/english/index.html>

 The **Organizing Committee of the International Abilympics Seoul 2011** published the latest issue of their **Newsletter**. The **monthly newsletter is** circulated from May to August leading to



the holding of the Abilympics in September. The May issue features articles on the Barista competition during the International Abilympics, the Seoul Declaration for Vocational Competency Development of Persons with Disabilities, the skill categories and on Korea. The newsletter is available at iaseoul2011@gmail.com



Monroe Berkowitz Memorial Awards were recently given to two outstanding students of the Department of Economics at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. The late **Monroe Berkowitz** is a **long-time friend of Rehabilitation International**. He passed away last year. He edited among others, the book titled “**New Technologies and the Employment of Disabled People**”, published by the International Labour Office (ILO) in cooperation with RI. **The undergraduate** award was given to **Joseph Kammerman** who has a double major in economics and political science, with an economics gpa of 4.0. **The graduate** award was presented to **Costanza Biavachi**. Her dissertation deals with return migration and labor force participation, partially focusing on Puerto Rico. The awards were given in honor of Monroe Berkowitz whose plaque now hangs in the Economics Department Library at Rutgers.



RI Global has been invited to provide its inputs and suggestions for the **Interdependence 2012 Conference** which will be held 15-18 May 2012 in Vancouver, Canada organized by the **Rick Hansen Foundation and the Rick Hansen Institute**. **Nancy Thomson**, director of the RHF has met with **RI SG Venus Ilagan** at the RI Office in New York, to discuss proposed activities during the conference and seek RI’s suggestions on this. The RHF is a registered charitable organization that provides leadership to create more accessible and inclusive communities and find cure for spinal cord injury. Under Rick Hansen’s leadership, the Foundation has functioned as a social innovator – finding collaborative solutions to challenges in the community and locating resources necessary to implement those solutions. RHF has seen tremendous success having leveraged the original \$26 million raised during his **Man in Motion World Tour** 25 years ago to more than \$245 million to date. Meanwhile, the Rick Hansen Institute (RHI) is a Canada-based non-profit committed to accelerating the translation of discoveries and best practices into improved treatments for people with spinal cord injuries (SCI). It does this by leading the collaboration of researchers, health care professionals and service providers across Canada and internationally.

Other News



Russia: Strategic litigation leads to law reform. Five years and five months after the **Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC)** filed a case to test the **Russian Federation’s guardianship system**, the Russian government has plugged the gaps revealed by strategic litigation. The recent **law reform provides procedural safeguards to people with disabilities**

who find themselves trapped in Russia's still-archaic guardianship system. For further information please visit <http://www.mdac.info>



Disability Rights Promotion International (DRPI) welcomes **Radoš Keravica**, as its new **Eastern Europe Regional Officer**. Radoš Keravica is based in the **DRPI Eastern Europe Regional Centre** in Belgrade, Serbia. The Regional Centre is co-hosted by the Center for Society Orientation (Centar za orijentaciju društva) (COD) and Autism Society of Serbia (Republičko Udruženje za Pomoć Osobama sa Autizmom). For further information on DRPI please visit <http://www.yorku.ca/drpi>



Spain: disabled woman secretly filmed her husband's abusive behavior. The **Guardian** reports that a friend of the unnamed woman called the police after she had learnt about the abuse in an online chat which was suddenly cut off when the husband entered the room. When the policemen came to her, the woman suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis showed them the recorded files. A judge started the process of putting a restraining order on the husband, who lives elsewhere. For the article please visit <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/jun/02/spanish-disabled-woman-filmed-husband-abusen>



The Council of Europe adopted a **Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence**. This convention opens the path for creating a legal framework at pan-European level to protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence. It also establishes a specific monitoring mechanism in order to ensure effective implementation of its provisions by the Parties. For further information please visit <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=210&CM=8&DF=24/05/2011&CL=ENG>



In the framework of its communications program dedicated to human rights of persons with disabilities, the **United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)** in Moscow partnered with the **organizers of the "Electronic Future" festival**, which took place in Sochi, the future venue of the 2014 Olympic Games to be held from May 19th to 20th, 2014. A session entitled, **"Cyberspace for persons with disabilities"** was opened by UNIC Director, Alexandre Gorelik, who highlighted the importance of the Convention and the work of the **"Group of Friends of the Convention"** that brings together experts in usability and accessibility, as well as civil society. The key-note address was made by Oleg Smolin, a Duma deputy and prominent advocate of social inclusion of persons with disabilities. More information: <http://www.unrussia.ru/en/institutions/unic.html>.



European Disability Forum (EDF) reports a clear violation of the European Union Regulation advancing the release of a report about its functioning. On April 4th, UN Special Rapporteur on Disability and wheelchair user Shuaib Chalklen was refused to board a flight on the grounds of his disability. The airlines motives for refusing this passenger stand in direct violation of EU law governing the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility when traveling by air. On April 10th, 2011, **Vice President of the Commission responsible for transport Siim Kallas released a report on the functioning and effect of this regulation.** This report additionally demonstrates the gravity of such discriminatory behavior. For EDF’s press release please go to http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=27020



European Disability Forum (EDF), led by its President Yannis Vardakastanis, met **President of the European Commission Barroso** in Brussels on May 31st. EDF discussed three important issues with Mr. Barroso: the **state of the European Union on disabilities, the UN CRPD, austerity measures for persons with disabilities.** The outcomes were successful: Mr. Barroso endorses the State of the Union on Disability, and committed to ensuring the right enforcement of the UN CRPD throughout the European Commission. The President also promised to put pressure on national authorities to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities during times of crisis. For further information please visit http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=27461



Report by Cardiac project, a **European** initiative to identify research and development gaps in the fields of accessible and assistive ICT, **highlights major research gaps for assistive technology** like the widespread lack of awareness of accessibility issues among product and service design teams and the small needed quantity of assistive devices. For further information and the report please visit <http://www.headstar.com/eablive/?p=569>

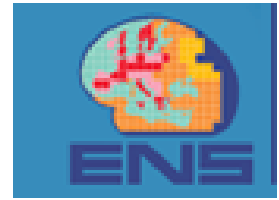


The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights held an **expert symposium on fundamental rights indicators** on May 12th to 13th. The event, entitled **“Using indicators to measure fundamental rights in the EU: Challenges and solutions”**, comprised of five working groups, one of which focused on indicators to measure the rights of persons with disabilities, with a particular focus on independent living. The proceedings of the 2011 Symposium, as well as the FRA follow up activities, will be made publicly available on the FRA website. For further information please visit <http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/symposium2011>





The **European Neurological Society (ENS)** held its **2011 meeting** in Lisbon, Portugal, from May 28th - 31st. The new members of the **ENS Executive Committee** are **Dr. Ana Isabel Figueira Verdelho**, University of Lisbon and **Prof. Marianne Dieterich**, University of Munich. The meeting included a well-received interactive **workshop titled "Pimp up your residency"** organized by Johann Sellner (Salzburg, Austria/Munich, Germany) and Laszlo Sztriha (London, UK), on behalf of the **European Association of Young Neurologists and Trainees (EAYNT)**. The workshop addressed the importance of becoming specialized by performing a period of training abroad and how to fund a training period abroad. For further information on the ENS 2011 meeting please visit http://www.ensinfo.com/newsletter/index_201106.html



On May 30th the **BBC Panorama program** revealed a **series of abuse in residential care for people with intellectual disabilities and autism** near Bristol, **United Kingdom**. Police in Bristol have arrested four people after the filming. Care Services Minister Paul Burstow said government regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), had been asked to conduct an urgent investigation. The BBC article is available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-13548222>.

The **European Disability Forum (EDF)** published a **press release** on June 9th stating that the **maltreatment of persons with disabilities** in closed institutions or residential care **is unacceptable**. The European disability movement **continues to lobby key decision makers** in the field **to end institutionalisation and promote community-based living**. For the EDF press release please visit http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=27505

The **European Network for Independent Living (ENIL)** announced in its press release of June 16th that the government of the United Kingdom orders **immediate inquiry following the abuse, harassment and violence against people with challenging behavior** in Bristol, UK. For the ENIL press release please visit

http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=sfc4vedab&v=001vuCdHl1qDg60HExmmNOD2DRBnOAKcKVpUVCKnoldO-m_TDDDU7pxXIIiITea5mmjVTk6vyBbt2pioLIYD7gJuWb8e7n5XMGZb5001bJp_pCnyyUpopGCSgse4U93hnyYXySG3JANPR-WU5X108IXPjkItwnDmwiEDmxXiBtle6eEsVkSoUH-8JNrQtM0Z1q0VEQsM3JfPxKOrbxtCB6CJMg%3D%3D



The **Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD)** has been granted intervener status in a case where the Supreme Court of **Canada** was asked to consider whether **people with intellectual disabilities** should be **allowed to testify in court**. "Courts do not test non-disabled persons' ability to tell the truth, it is only biases and myths that suggest persons with disabilities have any less capacity to determine the truth than others." said

Yvonne Peters, legal advisor to CCD. CCD seeks, through this case, the Supreme Court's understanding of Canada's obligations having ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This is the first case in Canada where **relevant sections of the CRPD** are being presented **as an interpretive tool**. For further information please visit <http://www.ccdonline.ca/en/humanrights/promoting/dai-case-press-release-17feb2011>



Paraplegic Man Stands, Steps with Assistance and Moves His Legs Voluntarily.

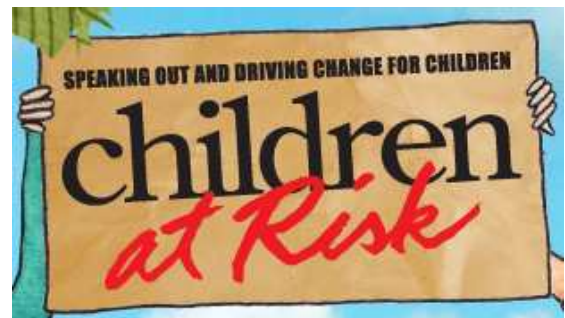
A team of scientists at the University of Louisville, UCLA and the California Institute of Technology has achieved a significant breakthrough in its initial work with a paralyzed male volunteer at Louisville's Frazier Rehab Institute, **USA**. It is the result of 30 years of research to find potential clinical therapies for paralysis. "This is a breakthrough. It opens up a huge opportunity to improve the daily functioning of these individuals," concludes Dr. Harkema, lead author of the *Lancet* article from May 25th. "But we have a long road ahead." For further information please visit <https://louisville.edu/medschool/news-archive/paraplegic-man-stands-steps-with-assistance-and-moves-his-legs-voluntarily-1>



A federal judge denied the **Louisiana Department of Education's (LDE), USA** motion to dismiss the case brought on behalf of thousands of New Orleans **students with special needs**. These students are denied access to New Orleans public schools and often pushed into schools unable to provide them with the educational services they needed. "Today was a great day for the thousands of New Orleans students and families who **continue to struggle to access even the most basic public education services,**" said Eden Heilman, lead attorney on the case for the **Southern Poverty Law Center**, a nonprofit civil rights organization. For further information please visit <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/news/judge-denies-motion-to-dismiss-splc-suit-seeking-equal-education-for-special-needs-students>



CHILDREN AT RISK is pleased to announce the unanimous passage of **Senate Bill 24** (Van de Putte) in Texas, **USA**. **This omnibus bill is a major achievement in the anti-trafficking movement and strengthens efforts to punish traffickers, end demand, and protect child victims of this horrible crime.** The final step is to have Governor Perry sign the bill. CHILDREN AT RISK asks supporters to contact the Governor at (800) 252-9600 or [send an email](mailto:send_an_email) to request his signature on Senate Bill 24! For further information please visit <http://childrenatrisk.org/2011/04/sb24/>





Alliance for Human Research Protection, a national network of non-professionals and professionals dedicated to advancing responsible and ethical medical research practices, draws attention to a case in Detroit, **USA**. A mother of a disabled child reached out for help after her child had shown sudden uncharacteristic behavior following a series of vaccinations. A Children's Center prescribed a controversial antipsychotic which worsened the child's condition. Therefore the mother weaned her child off the drug after consulting with another doctor. The **Children's Center insisted on continuing their treatment plan** and called Child Protective Services. When the mother **refused, she was put in jail and lost custody of her child**. For further information please visit <http://www.ahrp.org/cms/content/view/790/9/>



The Columbian Constitutional Court requires an interdependent approach to health and education rights for persons with intellectual disabilities. In the reported case, the Constitutional Court resorted to international human rights law instruments to highlight the interrelationship between the rights to health and to education in order to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and to guarantee their effective enforcement across different scopes of protection. The Court acknowledged that in the case of cognitive disabilities effective measures should be implemented both in the health and education areas so as to adequately meet the needs of persons with disabilities. For the English summary please go to http://www.escrib-net.org/caselaw/caselaw_show.htm?doc_id=1600445&country=13508, for the Spanish summary and case documents please refer to http://www.escrib-net.org/caselaw/caselaw_show.htm?doc_id=1600469&country=13508&attrib_Lang_id=13441. Inclusão & Diversidade offers a Portuguese summary at <http://www.inclusaoediversidade.com>



MTV satire using autism causes indignation and revulsion in disability organizations and general society in **Brazil** and all over the world. The video, also shown on youtube, is a parody of a famous Brazilian reality show called The House of Artists. MTV renamed it **The House of Autists**. Inclusao & Diversidade is preparing some actions, like: request of formal apology and representation on the federal prosecutors for stigmatizing and discriminatory conduct. Many other individual protests and actions are also being made. For further information please visit <http://www.inclusaoediversidade.com>



Mines and explosives devices disable some 2,000 Afghans every year. The war-torn **Afghanistan** is one of the most mine contaminated country in the globe as an estimated 2,000 Afghans become disabled each year due to mine blasts and related incidents in the country. **International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)** as the main agency supporting mine victims in Afghanistan has been providing prosthetic legs and hands to the disabled people. To help the mines' victims, Najmuddin

Helal, head of Orthopedic and Rehabilitation department of ICRC, Kabul office, said ICRC has set up seven orthopedic centers across the country. For further information please visit

<http://www.rawa.org/temp/runews/2011/06/13/mines-explosive-devices-disable-some-2-000-afghans-annually.html#ixzz1PqosYezJ>



A **high-level UN meeting on women and child health** opened on May 1 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with the commission's Vice Co-Chair, Margaret Chan expressing concern over the **failure by some development partners to support developing nations fight against maternal and child mortality**. According to the UN commission's draft report, while much is known about where and why women and children die and how to prevent the deaths **too little is being done** to address the causes and implement solutions designed for reducing the "huge burden of unnecessary morbidity and mortality". For further information please visit

<http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=28683>



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon attending the 2nd International Forum on Sport, Peace and Development on May 10th – 11th in Geneva, pointed out, "Sport has become a world language, a common denominator that breaks down all the walls, all the barriers." He said "mega" sporting events, such as the **Olympics, the cricket and soccer World Cup or the football Super Bowl in the United States**, can help spread information about major issues of global concern and also **put into consideration the needs of people with disabilities**. "Let us make Sochi accessible to all people with disabilities, as the Russian Federation intends to do," said Mr. Ban, referring to the 2014 Winter Olympics. For the article please visit

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38342&Cr=sport&Cr1#>



At the opening session of the **Annual Conference of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights** in Geneva on May 17th, **Ms. Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**, said "**National human rights institutions play a key role in maintaining the rule of law, preventing abuses and assisting victims of violations**". Ms. Pillay stated their functions were particularly crucial in post-conflict situations where restoring normalcy required comprehensive strategies, including options for transitional justice, as well as providing redress and remedy to victims of rights violations. She also urged them **to lobby their governments to ratify the Convention on Enforced Disappearances and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**. For the article please visit

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38415&Cr=pillay&Cr1>



On May 20th, **new members of the Human Rights Council** were elected following the retirement in June of some members of the Council.

Result of the election of the 15 members of the Human Rights Council are as follows: **Austria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kuwait, Peru, Philippines, Romania.** For further information please visit <http://www.un.org/en/ga/65/meetings/elections/hrc.shtml>



The **UN Commission on the Status of Women** held its 55th session in New York from February 22nd to March 4th and on March 14th. The commission released its **report** on this session which includes the agreed conclusions on **access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology**, including the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work, the report of the Working Group on Communications concerning the Status of Women and the resolutions adopted by the Commission. But the report fell short in addressing the issue of women and girls with disabilities. The report and additional information is available in several languages at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sess.htm>.

Resource Update



Handicap International (HI) is seeking applicants with professional or higher education in one of their key areas of work to serve as **Director of the Technical Resources Division** in Lyon, France. The candidate should have a solid track record as practitioner in the field to pilot HI's **technical resources, knowledge management and quality assurance mechanisms** in their programmes. The Director will have **significant management responsibilities** and should be fluent in English or French with a working knowledge of the other languages. **Closing date for applications is July 10th.** For more information please visit <http://www.riglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/DRTDir0611.pdf>



Academy of European Law organizes a **Summer Course on European Labor Law in Trier, Germany, from July 4th to 8th, 2011.** The course is aimed at legal practitioners seeking an introduction to European labor law in following key issues: free movement of workers, **equality and non-discrimination**, transfer of undertakings, information and consultation rights, posting of workers, part-time, fixed-term and temporary agency work, working time, applicable law to employment contracts. For further information please visit <http://www.era.int/cgi-bin/cms?SID=d7336e7394025363765b74a936b71da303fecdc1400128851792204&sprache=en&bereich=artikel&aktion=detail&idartikel=122020>





The Cambodia Trust, a dynamic international NGO, specializing in human capacity building in the field of physical rehabilitation of people with disability, is recruiting a **Communications and Fundraising Manager**. The successful applicant will work with the Executive and Governance team **to develop and take forward a new communication and fundraising strategy**. Please visit www.cambodiatrust.org.uk for background information on the organization, and contact Carson Harte (Executive Director) carson@cambodiatrust.org.uk. For the job posting please visit <http://www.riglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Communications-and-Fundraising-Manager.doc>

The Cambodia Trust offers also **scholarships for the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (CSPO)**, a training institution in Phnom Penh, Cambodia that provides professional training on artificial limbs and assistive devices for people with disabilities. For the new intake the school is aiming to select a number of Cambodian students. The diploma course is 3 years full time study taught in English. **The closing date for application is 30th August 2011 at 4:30 PM**. For further information please visit <http://www.cambodiatrust.org.uk/The%20Cambodia%20Trust/en/what-we-do/training/results/study-at-cspo/cspo-scholarship>



WHO and the World Bank produced jointly **the first ever World report on disability**. The **World Report on Disability** was launched on June 9th in ceremonies held at the UN in New York. RI is particularly proud of its role as member of the Editorial Committee which produced the world report. RI Secretary General Venus Ilagan has participated as a member of the editorial committee for the past four years and was tasked to introduce the chapter on education during the launch., Meanwhile, RI president Anne Hawker and Dr. Asish Mukerjee, chair of RI's Health and Function Commission, were both involved in the regional consultations for the Report. The World Report provides important information about the **global situation of persons with disabilities** and offers **directions for policy and practice to address exclusion**. It contains chapters on health; rehabilitation; assistance and support; enabling environments; education; and employment. Importantly, the report also includes the first **new disability prevalence estimates** since the 1970s and makes the **case for better data collection**. The report suggests that **more than a billion people in the world today experience disability**. People with disabilities have generally poorer health, lower education achievements, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities. The report provides the **best available evidence** about what works to overcome barriers to health care, rehabilitation, education, employment, and support services, and to create the environments which will enable people with disabilities to flourish. The report demonstrates how removing barriers, investing in rehabilitation and more accessible environments can enable millions of persons with disabilities to participate in education, employment and society. The report ends with a



concrete set of recommended actions for governments and their partners. The report is available in several languages and accessible formats, please visit

http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report/en/index.html.

For further information like personal stories and the statements of Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO, and Mrs. Tamar Manuelyan Atinc, Vice President for Human Development, World Bank, please visit http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/en/index.html.

The World Bank also shares information as published on their webpage, their Twitter and Facebook accounts as well as some media coverage. For further information please visit <http://www.riglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Disability-World-Report-Clips-and-Coverage-6-10-11.docx>.



Handicap International, Belgium (HIB), is seeking a **physiotherapist with knowledge on children with cerebral palsy** as adviser for its project Rehabilitation in Kinshasa, **Democratic Republic of Congo**, for **12 months starting in September 2011**. Responsibilities include building the capacity on cerebral palsy among partners like University hospitals, development and implementation of a home support system for children with cerebral palsy, as well as providing technical expertise in the operational implementation of the project and contribution to the dissemination of knowledge generated by the project. **The deadline for application is August 7th**. For the job offer (in French) please visit <http://www.riglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/110621-Conseiller-technique-IMC-RDC-Kinshasa.doc>



Healing Hands for Haiti is taking applications for **long-term volunteers in rehabilitation medicine**. Currently, they are looking for a **PM&R physician** who can work during the **month of August** while the staff PM&R physician is on vacation. The PM&R physician will work Monday through Friday in its out-patient clinic near downtown Port au Prince. Typical clientele include children with hydrocephalus or cerebral palsy and adults with stroke and spinal cord injury. Also **occupational therapists, speech-language pathologist, physical therapists and rehab nurses** are encouraged to submit applications. For further information on the job offer please visit <http://www.rehabforum.org/helpinghands.doc>, for further information on Healing Hands for Haiti please visit www.healinghandsforhaiti.org



The **Communications Procedure** of the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is a unique tool in order to **raise awareness about injustice and discriminatory practices against women**. Any individual, non-governmental organization, group or network **may submit communications (complaints/appeals/petitions)** to the CSW containing information relating to alleged violations of human rights that affect the

status of women in any country in the world. The CSW considers such communications as part of its annual program of work in order to identify emerging trends and patterns of injustice and discriminatory practices against women for purposes of policy formulation and development of strategies for the promotion of gender equality. **Claims to the CSW for consideration at its next session** (27 February to 9 March 2012) **must be submitted by 1 August 2011**. For further information please visit http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/communications_procedure.html#where



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) launched the Least Development Countries (LDC) Information Portal



during a side event at the LCD-IV Conference in Istanbul, Turkey, from May 9th – 13th. The portal aims to improve the capacity of the 48 LDCs to access and use the special international support measures adopted by the international development community. International support measures exist for various fields, including international trade, official development assistance (ODA), as well as other forms of assistance. Please visit the new portal: www.un.org/ldcportal



UNAIDS published a paper on social protection and its importance for HIV prevention. The brief paper titled



UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

UNHCR
UNICEF
WFP
UNDP
UNFPA
UNODC
ILO
UNESCO
WHO
WORLD BANK

“Enhancing Social Protection for HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care & Support – The State of Evidence” explains what social protection means and how it can effect HIV prevention. For the paper please visit http://www.unicef.org/aids/files/Social_Protection_Brief_LowresOct2010.pdf



Vodafone Foundation Smart Accessibility Awards is a new competition **to promote the development of IT applications** designed to **improve the lives of those with disabilities and people who are older**, to help them get more actively involved in society. The program is supported and co-organized by [AGE Platform Europe](#), the European network of around 160 organizations of and for people aged 50+, and the [European Disability Forum](#) (EDF). The competition will award the **best smartphone application** in four areas: **social participation, independent living, mobility, and wellbeing**. The **deadline for entering the competition is October 15th**. For further information please visit <http://developer.vodafone.com/smartaccess2011>



CNN calls for nominations for the 2011 CNN Heroes award. CNN acknowledges individuals who have made **extraordinary accomplishments** in their areas of work and have inspired others. The program recognizes such individuals through a **grant support** to scale up their work and also awards



them at a ceremony which is broadcasted on CNN, giving them massive international publicity. The award features, among others, the following categories: Championing Children, Community Crusader, Protecting the Powerless. The **deadline to submit nominations is August 31st, 2011**. For further information please visit <http://edition.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cnn.heroes>



On April 28th, the 2011 Global Preparatory Meeting of ECOSOC was held in New York. The panel discussions were titled: **Removing barriers to education, ICT, girls and science, incentive and rewards, countries' achievements in reaching MDG 2**. For further information including the documentary of the meeting please visit <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/gpmdoc2011.shtml>



The Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) took place in Istanbul on May 9th – 13th, and included a High Level Debate on Human and Social Development, Gender Equality, Empowerment of Women, on Thursday May 12th. Documents on the conference are available at <http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ldc/home/documents>



The **17th session of the Human Rights Council** took place in Geneva from May 17th to 30th. On the agenda were topics like the reports of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, the Annual Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General. The European Disability Forum was assigned as observer and noted on behalf the Austrian National Council of Persons with Disabilities that despite Austria's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons in Disabilities (CRPD) in 2008, the principles of accessibility and inclusion were not recognized as cross cutting issues. Moreover, measures to realize independent living were lacking. Disability in Austria was still rather defined through the medical instead of the social model. For further information please visit <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/17session>



The **European Commission – Justice** is at the moment looking for **nominations of NGO representatives from all 27 EU member states to the Jury of the EU Journalist "Together against discrimination" Award**. Proposals should be sent to Ewa.Musialowska@ketchumpleon.com **by the latest on July 11th**. The jury needs 2 names (1 + 1 back up) for the NGO representative for each national jury (all 27 EU member states). The final list will be approved by the Commission. The 27 national juries will be made of maximum 5 people: 2-3 journalists; **1 representative from an NGO**; one representative from the national Equality body. Every jury is chaired by the Commission. Eligibility



**European Commission
Justice**

criteria to select the jury members are the following: Members shall have experience/expertise in the field of the promotion of diversity and the fight against discrimination; all Article 19 grounds shall be taken into account; gender balanced, for national jury: only one 2010 member could be renewed; for EU jury: geographical balance.



From May 16th – 24th, the **UN Committee on NGOs** met in New York and recommended **144 applications for consultative status with ECOSOC**. These recommendations will be reviewed by the Council at its annual session taking place in Geneva, at or around July 25th. For further information please visit <http://esango.un.org/paperless/Web>



The **Disability Rights Fund (DRF)** is a collaboration between donors and the disability community and **supports Disabled Persons Organizations in the Global South and Eastern Europe/former Soviet Union** to take the lead in advocating for the human rights of persons with disabilities at local and national levels, utilizing the mechanism of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). **The request for proposals for the next grantmaking round will be publicized in July 2011.** For further information please visit <http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org/>



The **Ginetta Sagan Fund of Amnesty International USA** is now accepting nominations for its **2011 Annual Award for the Human Rights of Women and Children** which recognizes and assists women who are working to protect the **liberty and lives of women and children** in areas where human rights violations are widespread. The Ginetta Sagan Award recognizes individual accomplishment, but also serves as a beacon of hope to women everywhere who are fighting for human rights. The \$10,000 award is announced and presented each year at the Annual General Meeting of Amnesty International USA. For further information please visit <http://www.amnestyusa.org/about-us/grants-and-awards/ginetta-sagan-fund>

Resource Material



MTS, a phone company which operates in **Russia**, has introduced a **remote learning program for children with disabilities** in the Khabarovsk region. The project is launched in partnership with the regional Ministry of Education and with State Pacific University. With this children will be able to access the internet via USB modems. The operator is also providing texting with special tariffs. For the article please visit

<http://wirelessfederation.com/news/76707-mts-introduces-remote-learning-for-disabled-kids-in-khabarovsk-russia>



An **FIA Foundation funded project on disability parking permits** around the world has recently been completed. The output is the **FIA Guide for the disabled traveler**. The Guide explains the **parking rules** for disability parking permit holders **in about 130 countries and federal states**, and highlights whether or not the parking permit of a disabled visitor can be used in another country. The FIA Guide is a new resource and is freely available on-line at: www.fiadisabledtravellers.com.



Listen to our stories: words, pictures, and songs by young people with disabilities is a website combining poetry, essays, interviews, songs, journal writing, letters, and pictures that tell the personal stories of young people with disabilities. Contributors are young girls and boys aged 5 to 21, from varied backgrounds, different talents and a range of disabilities. Please visit the website at <http://www.listentoourstories.com>



Transitions to adulthood for young people with disabilities in India: current status and emerging prospects by Nidhi Singal and Roger Jeffery. Approximately 5 to 5.5 million young people with disabilities live in India; however, little is known about how they and their families perceive their transition to adulthood. This paper uses the framework of transitions provided in the World Bank's 'World Development Report 2007' to analyze opportunities for young people with disabilities with regard to issues such as education, employment and citizenship in India. The authors examine the lived experience of youth with disabilities by analyzing existing literature and secondary data. For this article please visit http://www.dpiap.org/resources/pdf/transition_adulthood_india_09_06_11.pdf



Sexual vulnerability and HIV seroprevalence among the deaf and hearing impaired in Cameroon by Adonis Touko et al in the Journal of the International Aids Society. This article describes a study to investigate the **prevalence of HIV in people who are hearing impaired** among the population of **Yaounde, the capital of Cameroon**, and assess their sexual vulnerability, through interviews and, in most cases, HIV testing. The research concludes that hearing impairment is a significant risk factor for contracting sexually transmitted infections and HIV, and that more research is needed into the impact of HIV and AIDS on people with disabilities, particularly those who are hearing impaired, in order to tackle this vulnerability. For this article please visit <http://www.jiasociety.org/content/13/1/5>





Youth living with disabilities by Thomas Schindlmayr in Briefing Note on Youth No. 2 by United Nations. This briefing note is part of an awareness-raising activity by the UN Program on Youth to provide information on issues from a youth policy making perspective. The document provides statistical data on the under-researched topic of youth and disability and gives information on issues related to family relations, employment, education, sexuality and acceptance in society from a world-wide perspective. This briefing note is useful for people who are interested in issues related to youth and disability. For the article please visit <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/briefingnotedisability.pdf>



National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) released its report **“Segregated and Exploited – The failure of the disability service system to provide quality work”**. The report focuses on the



problems with segregated work, sheltered environments and low wages and highlights a massive breakdown between good federal and state policies and their implementation and oversight. “For decades we have worked to ensure federal laws guarantee the right of people with disabilities to live and work in their chosen communities,” said NDRN executive director Curt Decker. “Yet, our investigation found that many people with disabilities are still being segregated and financially exploited.” For the report please visit <http://www.ndrn.org/images/Documents/Resources/Publications/Reports/Segregated-and-Exploited.pdf>



Forgotten Diaries Team from Youth Action for Change is delighted to announce the **Re-Launch of the Project Website www.forgottendiaries.org**. Forgotten Diaries is a project which raises awareness of the dire situation faced by over 100 million children and youth living in conflict ridden environments. Through Forgotten Diaries, five young bloggers from each of 10 ‘forgotten’ conflict zones **share their stories and give a voice to each crisis**. Forgotten Diaries has also empowered its participants to begin community projects which have proved both innovative and highly successful. For the latest **Forgotten Diaries Newsletter** (4th issue) please visit <http://tiny.cc/x5uax>



In preparation for the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV), the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** has produced a **report “Growth, Productive Employment and Decent Work in the LDCs”**, which argues for transformative policies for decent work in LDCs. United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service interviewed **José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director for Employment, ILO**, on the key insights and recommendations of the report. For the interview please visit http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=aldc4&id_article=3392. The report is available as a pdf-document at

http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/portal/images/stories/contenido/pdf/LabourandEmployment/wcms_153868.pdf



Save the Children prepared a *policy brief* titled **"The Least Developed Countries: Biggest Challenges, Least Assistance?"** for the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV). The policy brief examines the **key challenges** that the LDCs are experiencing, particularly since the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and warns that "Although aid to LDCs has risen, it falls well short of the targets agreed upon in the Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in 2001." The *policy brief* provides five **recommendations for the international community** "to ensure that LDCs have enough high quality aid to meet their unique development challenges and reach the MDGs." For further information please visit



Save the Children.

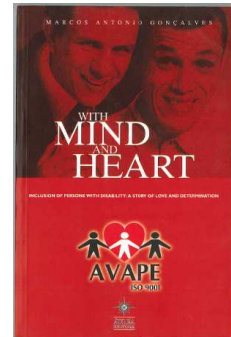
http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=aldc4&id_article=3406.

The policy brief is available as a pdf-document at

http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/LDC_briefing.pdf



With Mind And Heart by **Marcos Antonio Gonçalves**. Utterly discontent with the inhuman treatment suffered by his younger brother, a person with mental disability, Marcos Gonçalves takes over the role of the father in an age when he needed one himself. And thus begins the trajectory of a future community leader and successful entrepreneur. He led AVAPE, an institution considered a model for management and assistance services dedicated to persons with disabilities. His testimonial stirs compassion, moves, amuses and most of all, teaches an innovative formula to revolutionize the role of families, communities, welfare agencies, enterprises and the government. To order the book in English or Portuguese please contact eventos@avape.org.br



The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** launched a new report, entitled **"Equality at work: The continuing challenge"**, which cites that equality bodies who receive increased numbers of complaints, show that workplace discrimination has become more varied, and discrimination on multiple grounds is becoming the rule rather than the exception. **Work-related discrimination continues to exist for many of the world's 650 million persons with disabilities as their low employment rate reveals.** To read the full report please visit

http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/pr/lang--en/WCMS_155364/index.htm



As part of its ongoing contribution to the implementation of the Arab Decade of Disabled Persons (2004-2013), **Economic and Social**

Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) of the UN has recently published a working paper on **“The regional and international practices fostering the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labor market”** and a policy report on **“Proposed methods to combat poverty among persons with disabilities”**. The two publications highlight the inter-linkages between disability, poverty and social exclusion, and look into provisions with regard to the employment, empowerment and social protection of persons with disabilities. For further information on ESCWA please visit <http://www.escwa.un.org>. For the working paper please refer to http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/div_editor/Download.asp?table_name=divisions_other&field_name=ID&FileID=1361 and for the policy report to <http://css.escwa.org.lb/sdd/1415/6e.pdf>



Les Matins Courts by Marie de Premonville. Disability doesn't affect her life – until Olivia meets Antoine and falls in love with him. Antoine is quadriplegic. Olivia begins to rethink everything and takes on a spiritual quest. The book is published in French by Anne Carriere and available in known (online) bookstores. For further information please visit the publisher's webpage <http://www.anne-carriere.fr/fiche.php?fiche=81>

Inspiration



A Source of Hope for All touched by mental illness (ASHA) International celebrated **Mental Illness Awareness Month in May** and highlighted three persons with bipolar disorder II who went public in order to make a difference in the lives of others and foster social change: [Anushka Shenoy](#), a 24-year old living in San Francisco, writes a blog over her experiences with bipolar disorder II; [Kanyi Gikonyo](#), a member of [USP Kenya](#) (Users and Survivors of Psychiatry in Kenya), runs a private technology firm in Nairobi; [Akhileshwar Sahay](#), Founder Trustee & Principal Instigator of [Whole Mind India Foundation](#), is the director of the transportation division at Feedback Ventures, a Gurgaon-based infrastructure services firm where he has worked since 2002. ASHA International was founded by Gayathri Rampasad who herself has had mental illness and recovered. For more information about ASHA International please visit <http://www.myasha.org>

AL Hawker.

Anne Hawker, RI President

Venus Ilagan

Venus Ilagan, Secretary General

**<< Thank you for supporting
RI Global and let's make
change happen together >>**



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Picture by Franck Boston