

Using the CRPD in our courts and tribunals

27th November 2018



SPEAKERS



ULELE BURNHAM (Call: 1997)
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She is a member and former Chair of the Executive Committee of the Discrimination Law Association (Chair 2004-2006), a member of the Advisory Board of the AHRC Research Centre for Law Gender and Sexuality and was for 5 years (2002-2006) an occasional tutor in Labour Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is regularly invited to provide specialist training in respect of both equality and human rights law and mental capacity/mental health law. She has for the past four years delivered training on the Equality Act 2010 at the annual Justice/Sweet & Maxwell Human Rights Law Conference and has done a raft of training sessions on a variety of aspects of Court of Protection practice for local authorities and solicitors in private practice. Prior to coming to the bar she was a part-time lecturer in Politics and International Relations at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London.

ANNA LAWSON

In director of the University-wide interdisciplinary Centre for Disability Studies and co-ordinator of the Law School's Disability Law Hub.

Her academic interest in disability and law is rooted in her own experience of life as a disabled person. She is committed to working with disabled people, researchers with different disciplinary backgrounds and other stakeholders to tackle the persistent forms of disadvantage and exclusion experienced by disabled people all over the world.

She has held trustee and advisory positions in a range of local, national and international disabled people's and human rights organisations. She also regularly advises policy-makers, governments and intergovernmental organisations. She acted as expert advisor on accessibility for the Council of Europe in connection with its Disability Strategy 2017-2023; and was a special advisor to the House of Commons' Women and Equalities Committee in connection with its inquiry into Disability and the Built Environment 2016-2017.

She is a member of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Disability Advisory Committee.

In 2016 I was awarded the international Bob Hepple Memorial Prize by the Equal Rights Trust and the Industrial Law Society in recognition of my contribution to disability equality. In 2017, I became an honorary Master of the Bench at Middle Temple. I am also an Adjunct Anna is Professor in the School of Law, where she has worked since 1990. She is also the Member to the Graduate Program in Critical Disability Studies at York University (Toronto, Canada).

Among her publications are:

- Waddington L, Lawson A. 2018. *The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Practice A Comparative Analysis of the Role of Courts*. Oxford University Press
- Lawson AMM. 2017. Reasonable Accommodation in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Non-Discrimination in Employment: Rising to the Challenges? In: O'Mahony C; Quinn G (eds.) *Disability Law and Policy: An Analysis of the UN Convention*. Clarus Press
- Lawson A. 2017. The European Union and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Complexities, Challenges and Opportunities. In: Della Fina V; Cera R; Palmisano G (eds.) *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: A Commentary*. Springer International Publishing, pp. 61-76
- Lawson AMM. 2016. Disabled People and Access to Justice: From Disablement to Enablement?. In: Blanck P; Flynn E (eds.) *Routledge Handbook of Disability Law and Human Rights*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge
- Lawson AMM. 2014. Disability and Employment in the European Union: Collective Strategies and Tools. In: Heymann J; Stein MA; Moreno G (eds.) *Disability and Equity at Work*. Oxford University Press



DR OLIVER LEWIS (Call: 2000)
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Oliver is a barrister practising from Doughty Street Chambers. He specialises in Court of Protection cases where he is regularly instructed by the Official Solicitor to represent the protected party, and he provides representation also to other parties such as local authorities and CCGs. He has appeared in inherent jurisdiction proceedings in the High Court, in the First-tier Tribunal (Mental Health) and in nearest relative displacement hearings in the County Court. He has an evolving public law practice challenging institutionalisation and abuse of people with autism and learning disabilities. He provides representation to families at Article 2 inquests with a mental health or disability angle.

Oliver also practises in the field of international human rights law, having spent sixteen years as Legal Director, then Executive Director, of the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre, an NGO in Budapest, where he carried out strategic litigation, policy advocacy, monitoring and training on the rights of people with disabilities and mental health issues in Europe and Africa. He was involved in cases that he was involved in at the European Court of Human Rights include *Gajcsi v Hungary* (2006), *Shtukaturov v Russia* (2008), *Kiss v Hungary* (2010), *Stanev v Bulgaria*, *Bures v Czech Republic*, *Sykora v Czech Republic* (2012), *ZH v Hungary* (2013), *Centre for Legal Resources (re Campianu) v Romania* (2014), *Stankov v Bulgaria* (2015), *Blokhin v Russia*, *Kocherov v Russia*, *Cervenka v Czech Republic*, *Usmanov*



v Russia (2016), and before the European Committee of Social Rights: MDAC v Bulgaria (2008) and MDAC v Belgium (2018).

Oliver holds a part-time position as Professor of Law and Social Justice at the University of Leeds where he teaches on the undergraduate and postgraduate courses on disability law and leads a postgraduate module on global human rights advocacy. He is a trustee of the Avon and Bristol Law Centre.

Among his publications are:

- O Lewis and G Richardson, 'The right to live independently and be included in the community', *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, (2018 in press)
- O Lewis, 'Council of Europe' in L Waddington and A Lawson (eds) *The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Practice: An Analysis of the Role of Courts*, OUP, 2018
- J Craigie, M Bach, S Gurbai, A Kanter, S Y H Kim, O Lewis and G Morgan, "Legal capacity, mental capacity and supported decision-making: Report from a panel event", *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* (2018)
- O Lewis and A Campbell (2017) 'Violence and abuse against people with disabilities: a comparison of the approaches of the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities', *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 2017 Jul - Aug; doi: 10.1016/j.ijlp.2017.05.008
- O Lewis and F Callard (2017) 'The World Psychiatric Association's "Bill of Rights": A curious contribution to human rights', *International Journal of Mental Health*, Vol 46, Issue 3
- O Lewis, 'Disabling legal barriers' (2017) 1 *European Human Rights Law Review*, 49-58
- P Bartlett, O Lewis and O Thorold, "Mental Disability and the European Convention on Human Rights" (with Peter Bartlett and Oliver Thorold, Martinus Nijhof Publishers, 2007)



SOPHY MILES (Call: 2015) (1989 – Solicitor, England and Wales)
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Called to the Bar in March 2015, Sophy qualified as a solicitor in 1989. She was a founding partner at award-winning firm Miles and Partners LLP where she led the mental health and capacity team for 16 years, before becoming a consultant in 2012. As a solicitor she has been involved in significant human rights cases brought under the inherent jurisdiction and in the Court of Protection: JE v DE and others [2006] EWHC 3459 (Fam); Hillingdon v Neary [2011] EWHC 3522 (COP).

Sophy has a busy and varied Court of Protection practice which includes personal welfare, international adult protection, medical treatment and property cases, as well as challenges against deprivation of liberty authorisations. She advises in all areas of mental health law, where her long experience as a mental health solicitor gives her a practical understanding of the issues. She acts in displacement of nearest relative applications; complex Tribunals; and disputes over entitlement to after-care. She is frequently instructed on behalf of vulnerable adults and their families, and increasingly by statutory bodies as well. Sophy appeared in N v ACCG [2017] UKSC 22 (led by Doughty Street's Aswini Weeraratne QC), where the Supreme Court considered the role and powers of the Court of Protection.

Sophy regularly advises on public law challenges. In R (C) v (1) First Tier Tribunal, (2) Tribunal Procedure Committee and (3) The Lord Chancellor [2016] EWHC 707 (Admin) Sophy established that the First Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum) had the power to appoint a litigation friend for C, who lacked capacity to conduct his case before the Tribunal as a result of severe mental illness. She regularly advises on challenges to decision-making under the Care Act, particularly in cases concerning vulnerable prisoners.

Sophy undertakes civil actions under the Human Rights Act, usually concerning unlawful detentions in hospitals or care homes. She has acted for NGOs in interventions in Strasbourg applications in relation to Article 5.

Sophy is instructed in Article 2 inquests which arise from deaths in psychiatric or social care settings, as well as in Parole Board cases.

She is an accredited mediator (Regent's University London). Sophy is an active member of the Law Society's Mental Health and Disability Committee. She regularly writes and trains on the Mental Health Act, the Mental Capacity Act and on the Court of Protection.

Sophy is recommended in Legal 500 2015 (Court of Protection): "fearsomely intelligent, but also wonderfully down to earth, and her quiet comments carry far more weight than any amount of bombast from other lawyers". Chambers and Partners 2017: "She is extremely thorough, very responsive and very good with clients. Her cases are often reported, so she is at the cutting edge of legal developments." "She's incredibly knowledgeable and respected."



ASWINI WEERERATNE QC (Call: 1986) (Silk: 2015)

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Aswini is known for her attention to detail, reported to be “second to none, she’s phenomenal. Considering how busy she is, that’s just fantastic”. “She’s very measured, very technically precise and her advocacy is very elegant (Chambers and Partners, 2018).

Aswini is recognised as an expert in human rights, mental health and capacity law. She focuses on the protection of vulnerable adults and young people in many different spheres of life. She utilises her skills in a wide range of practice areas and cases, concerning public and private law issues before courts at all levels, including in the Court of Protection, actions against state bodies, for example, assault and unlawful detention claims, historic child abuse claims, inquests and inquiries, reporting restrictions and international law. She also drafts interventions for NGO’s in cases before the higher courts and advises on proposed legislation, she has recently chaired the topic group on the interface between the Mental Health Act and the Mental Capacity Act for the Independent Review of the Mental Health Act.

In addition she has a strong background in investigatory, and regulatory work and is a qualified mediator. Aswini has been a judge of the first-tier tribunal (mental health) since 2002. She is deputy chair of the Investigating Committee of the General Pharmaceutical Council (to be chair from December 2018). She has chaired and produced published reports for six independent inquiries into homicides by patients within mental health services.

Most recently she acted for the Child Migrants Trust who were core participants in the first of the public hearings held by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) and as part of the Children Outside the UK strand of investigation. The report was published on 1 March 2018.

Currently, she is instructed by core participants in three further IICSA strands of investigation.

She has recently returned from Siem Reap, Cambodia, where she organised and spoke at a session about the UNCRPD in the Asia and Pacific Region at the Lawasia annual conference, together with speakers from Japan, Hong Kong and Germany.

OUR COURT OF PROTECTION AND MENTAL HEALTH TEAM

We comprise an experienced and committed team of specialist advocates in this complex and sensitive area of law. Members appear in many of the most significant cases heard by the courts, as well as speaking and writing extensively in this area, with titles including well-regarded practitioners' texts Butterworth's **New Law Guide to the Mental Capacity Act 2005**, and the Legal Action Group's **Court of Protection Handbook** and **Mental Health Tribunals Handbook**.

What kind of cases do we act in?

The team has a strong public law background, and also regularly acts in claims for damages arising under the Human Rights Act 1998, for example, under articles 2, 3, 5 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and/or the common law. These claims may arise in the context of a death of a mental patient or prisoner with mental health problems, or the detention of incapacitated persons. The team has an excellent reputation for its work before the Court of Protection where members act in health and welfare cases for all parties, including health and social care bodies, and individuals, and are often instructed by the Official Solicitor for the incapacitated person. They are particularly noted for their expertise in the difficult area of overlap between the Mental Health Act 1983 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005, and issues relating to deprivation of liberty.

The team has extensive experience of human rights law, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, and of taking cases to Strasbourg under the European Convention on Human Rights. Team members are often instructed by bodies such as Liberty, Justice and the Equality and Human Rights Commission, which act as third party interveners in cases raising important issues of law and practice. The team is expanding its reach by using its expertise to tackle mental health issues internationally. To that end it is currently engaged in undertaking strategic

litigation in Europe dealing with the issue of capacity and legal guardianship with the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (see below).

Members of the team also sit as judges of the First-Tier Tribunal (Mental Health).

Multidisciplinary

There is a natural overlap between the work of this team and that of other practice teams at Doughty Street such as our **Community Care and Health, Public Law** and **Criminal Teams**. This enables members to provide specialist representation in a wider context where mental health and capacity issues arise, for example, crime, prisoners, inquests, housing, community care, immigration, professional and clinical negligence, disability discrimination, children with special educational needs, cases involving institutional abuse and homicide inquiries.

International and academic links

Doughty Street has a long and established relationship with **Validity** (formerly MDAC, the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre), an international non-governmental organization which works towards better human rights protection for people with mental health problems and intellectual disabilities across Europe and central Asia. The team is also proud to have as an associate tenant **Professor Jill Peay** of the London School of Economics who is at the forefront of research and publication on mental health law, decision-making and the treatment of mentally disordered offenders.

Members of the team are happy to discuss and plan any specific training requirements for organisations or groups. For more information on this area, please contact **Sian Wilkins** or **Rachel Finch** from our practice management team on 020 7400 9035.



Using the CRPD in our courts and tribunals

#CRPD

Speakers

- Aswini Weeraratne QC - chair
- Oliver Lewis – ECtHR findings
- Anna Lawson – UK findings
- Sophy Miles – potential in the Mental Health Act
- Ulele Burnham – potential use in Mental Capacity Act and Equality Act

Doughty Street barristers

Court of Protection and mental health team

History of pushing the envelope of international law

European Court of Human Rights

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



How does the European Court of Human Rights use the CRPD?

Oliver Lewis

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In my presentation

- International comparative law
- Method
- ECtHR cases that have cited the CRPD
- Themes
 - disability-based detention
 - independent living
 - disabled prisoners
- Tentative conclusions

International comparative law

“National courts and other arms of government domesticate international law in diverse ways, thereby creating a basis for comparative study” - Anthea Roberts (2011)

Method

- CRPD finalised in August 2006 and open for signature in 2007, entered into force upon 20 ratifications in May 2008
- Research period 1 January 2006 – 30 June 2016
- Desk-based research, categorising themes, classic textual analysis
- Yielded a dataset of 45 judgments and decisions
- Excluded cases where a party raised CRPD but the ECtHR had not cited it

Thick vertical analysis

- *Glor v Switzerland* (2009): the emergence of “a European and worldwide consensus on the need to protect people with disabilities from discriminatory treatment’
- “Relevant international law”
- ECtHR is a potential interpretive vehicle for domestic CRPD litigation

Disability-based detention

- 2012 trio of cases
 - *Stanev v Bulgaria*
 - *DD v Lithuania*
 - *Kędzior v Poland*









Stanev v Bulgaria

- Link between liberty and legal capacity
- ECHR and CRPD approach to mental health detention and forced treatment
- Fairness of legal proceedings – *Shtukaturov v Russia* (2008)
- *Stanev*: “obliged to note the growing importance which international instruments for the protection of people with mental disorders are now attaching to granting them as much legal autonomy as possible” (para. 245)

Independent living

- An incapacitating stroke left a former ballerina with night-time care needs - *MacDonald v UK* (2014)
- Local authority withdrew night-time care, required her to use incontinence pads (even though she was not incontinent)
- Art. 19 CRPD living independently and being included in the community, incl through personal assistance
- Argued under Art. 8 ECHR

- Court found: withdrawal of night time care “pursued a legitimate aim, namely the economic well-being of the State”
- Court was “satisfied that the national courts adequately balanced the applicant’s personal interests against the more general interest of the competent public authority in carrying out its social responsibility of provision of care to the community at large”

Disabled prisoners

- *Jasinskis v Latvia* (2010) – state should demonstrate “special care” in guaranteeing conditions that correspond to the prisoner’s needs
- *ZH v Hungary* (2012) – first violation of Art. 3 due to failure to take “reasonable steps” which is “a notion quite akin to that of ‘reasonable accommodation’”
- *Grimailovs v Latvia* (2013) – drew on ZH, and “special care” and found violation of Art. 3
- *Asalya v Turkey* (2014) – “special care”

- *Semikvostov v Russia* (2014) – “the State cannot absolve itself from that obligation by shifting the responsibility to other inmates”
- *Butrin v Russia* (2016), *Topehkin v Russia* (2016)

Judicial osmosis?

- ECtHR relegates CRPD to citations
- ECtHR uses a few (patronising) stock phrases – “a particularly vulnerable group in society”, “special care”
- ECtHR rarely uses CRPD to advance an ECHR point
- Little evidence of a dialogic approach

Why no osmosis?

Possible explanations might include

- Sole mandate
- Ignorance / arrogance
- Nothing to add
- Pre-empt criticism

Civil society participation

- The lifeblood of the CRPD
- NGOs represented applicants in 7/45 cases and submitted third-party interventions in 17/45
- Number of citations is an indicator of importance
- 12/45 cited *Shtukatur* and 11/45 cited *Stanev*
- 34/45 cited other cases where NGOs were involved
- Strategic disability rights litigation has contributed to the evolution of European disability law



I'm not an object.
I'm a person.
I need my freedom

- Rusi Stanev

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in UK Courts

Anna Lawson

1. Methodology

- Our template - common approach across different countries
- Focus on reported cases in which the Convention was mentioned prior to
- June 2016 (7 years after UK ratification).
- 75 cases identified.

2. Findings

2.1 Level of Engagement

- Generally, not sustained systematic interpretation of CRPD provisions.
- Exceptions, particularly concerning the procedural obligations associated with Article 7 of the CRPD on disabled children
- Understandings of CRPD provisions sometimes emerge from passing references/mentions - some of these involve clear misunderstandings (eg reasonable accommodation seems to be understood as something concerning housing quality).

2.2 Types of Court

- Level - courts of all levels decided cases in the dataset.
- Geography

- No cases mentioning the Convention were decided by the Court of Appeal of Northern Ireland (although there were cases decided by lower courts in that country).

- No cases mentioning the CRPD were decided by the higher courts in Scotland.

- Only one Scottish case mentioned the CRPD.

- Reasons for regional difference - with relatively numerous cases of the higher courts in England and Wales mentioning the CRPD?

2.3 Subject Matter

- benefits and care - 27 cases

- legal capacity - 20 cases.

- access to justice - 9 cases.

- deprivation of liberty - 8 cases.

- employment discrimination - 8 cases (2 against carers)

2.4 CRPD provisions Cited

- no specific provision mentioned - 27 cases.

- Article 19 - 15 cases (but none of these were court of protection cases)

- Article 12 - 12 cases (9 of which were in the Court of Protection).

- Articles 4 and 5 - 7 cases each. each

- Article 13 - 6 cases.

2.5 Types of Use

- Minimal engagement (approx a fifth of the cases).

- Mentioned only to reject (approx a tenth).
- Consideration of relevance to 'due regard' requirement in the Public Sector Equality Duty - several cases.
- Recognition/use as interpretive guide in connection with interpreting ECHR rights - most cases.
- Article 5 ECHR, deprivation of liberty - Cheshire West and subsequent cases.
- Article 14 ECHR, discrimination and objective justification (eg Matheson v Sec of State for Work and Pensions and Rutherford v Sec of State for Work and Pensions; and Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission application for judicial review on abortion law).
- Recognition/use to interpret EU law
- Employment Equality Directive (meaning of disability, discrimination against carers, access to justice).

2.6 Third Party Interventions/support

- EHRC interventions/support (excluding northern ireland and court of protection - over third of cases).
 - Law Society - 2
 - NGOs
 - Mind - 3
 - MDAC - 2
 - National Autistic Society- 2
 - Others, made 1.

3. Lessons for Litigators

3.1 Don't overclaim impact/relevance of international law

- Avoid claiming that the Convention is a source of rights in the UK

- Draw attention to the point of law which is ambiguous and explain how the CRPD is relevant to this.

3.2 Draw links to other international law

- If possible ECHR or EU

- And connection with other international treaties where they overlap.

3.3 Explain the CRPD point/provision very clearly

- Don't make assumptions that judges will understand the CRPD - particularly counter-intuitive terms such as 'independent living' and 'reasonable accommodation'.

3.4 Get the Equality and Human Rights Commission to intervene or provide support - or find out what it is that they do that makes it more likely that a court will mention the Convention!

3.5 Choose your judge!

- Some judges are more likely than others to mention/use the CRPD.

ANNA LAWSON



The UNCRPD and the Mental Health Act

Sophy Miles

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OVERVIEW

- The Mental Health Act and the CRPD
- Opportunities for reform?
- The Mental Health Tribunal
- Questions

The Mental Health Act 1983

- 1983 amendments aimed to ensure compliance with ECHR
- Most recently amended by the MHA 2007- pre-dating ratification of CRPD
- Provides for compulsory detention on basis of mental disorder presenting risk to individual or others
- CRPD Committee considers it incompatible with UNCRPD: [Concluding observations on the UK 29 August 2017](#)
- Gradual change in tone in statutory and policy guidance.

Code of Practice -2015

- Change of tone from previous version
- Five “over-arching principles”- for ALL undertaking functions
- Least restrictive option and maximising independence- “wherever possible a patient’s independence should be encouraged and supported with a focus on recovery wherever possible”
- Empowerment and involvement- “patients should be fully involved in decisions about care, support and treatment...”
- AND- respect/dignity; purpose/effectiveness/efficiency/equity
- References CRPD as relevant convention

The “Transforming Care” Agenda (I)

- June 2011- Panorama exposes abuse at Winterbourne View Hospital.
- December 2012 -Transforming Care: A National Response to Winterbourne View Hospital DoH Final report
- 2014- roll-out of care and treatment reviews
- March 2015 consultation “No Voice Unheard, no right ignored”
- 30 October 2015- “Building the Right Support”
- March 2017- Care and Treatment Reviews (CTRs): Policy and Guidance

The “Transforming Care” Agenda (2): Talking the Talk

From “Building the Right Support”

“....we need a change in culture, a shift in power to individuals and a change in services. We need to see people with a learning disability and/or autism as citizens with rights, who should expect to lead active lives in the community and live in their own homes just as other citizens expect to. And we need to build the right community based services to support them to lead those lives, thereby enabling us to close all but the essential inpatient provision.”

The “Transforming Care” Agenda (3): Talking the Talk

“No Voice Unheard, No Right Ignored”- “My right to be independent, to be part of a community and to live in a home I have chosen”: “the Care Act [2014] does not include an explicit duty to promote independent living. The term “independent living” is usually associated with Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability but the term is not defined in article 19**we will monitor [the Care Act’s] impact and explore whether guidance needs to be made clearer, for example, to underline the specific intent of the legislation for local authorities to promote independent living where this is the person’s choice.” – BUT-**

[R \(Davey\) v Oxfordshire CC and others \[2017\]EWCA Civ 1308](#)

The “Transforming Care” Agenda (4): Talking the Talk

[March 2017- Care and Treatment Reviews \(CTRs\): Policy and Guidance](#). No reference to the CRPD.

- Mandatory for those with LD, autism who are at risk of admission to hospital for mental health conditions
- Said to have avoided admissions in $\frac{3}{4}$ cases
- Rooted in principles of “human rights, person-centredness and co-production”- principle 6 “Nothing About Us Without Us”

Self-binding directives – “Ulysses Clauses”

- Research project by [Mental Health and Justice](#), Bipolar UK and others
- “An SBD is an agreement, written by someone with Bipolar, with the help of their care team and, if they liked, their family/friends. It would explain what usually happens when they become unwell and what sort of treatment is generally helpful. Most importantly, it would aim to make sure that a person receives this treatment, even if they no longer have the ability to recognise that it is needed.”

Law Commission Proposal

Clause 6 Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill

- An “eligible person”= 16 and over
- Capacity to consent to care and treatment arrangements which amount to deprivation of liberty
- May give advance consent
- = no need for LPS, and
- Could be admitted informally under s131 MHA
- NOT part of the current MCAB

Mental Health Act Review

- 7 May 2017- Theresa May announces “I am pledging to rip up the 1983 act”
- 4 October 2017 - Terms of reference announced. Sir Simon Wessley to chair
- May 2018- Interim report published
- Summer 2018- Phase 2- topic groups
- ?Late 2018- final report
- What will it say about the CRPD? What about advance consent?

The Mental Health Tribunal- Stick to the Day Job!

- [Secretary of State v MM, Welsh Ministers v PJ \[2017\] EWCA Civ 194](#)

“The MHRTW analysed the CTO scheme as taking precedence over human rights issues. It would have been better to reason that the statutory framework contains all the safeguards that are required and that the safeguards can be read compatibly with human rights jurisprudence. Individual decisions of responsible clinicians that breach those safeguards can be remedied in judicial review.”

Similar outcome reached in [Djaba v West London Mental Health NHS Trust \[2017\] EWCA Civ 436](#)

CRPD Arguments at the MHT

- Unlikely to succeed if raised as “stand-alone issue”. This may change if PJ’s appeal to the Supreme Court succeeds.
- Remember that Tribunal must have regard to the principles of the Code- relevant in consideration of necessity for detention/CTO
- Article 19-friendly language in Transforming Care policies may be useful in cross-examination/submissions in LD/autism cases AND may be important in correspondence with commissioning bodies.

The CRPD and Tribunal Procedure (I)

- Charles J (former President of the Upper Tribunal) in [YA v Central and NW London NHS Trusts and Others \(Mental health : All\) \[2015\] UKUT 37 \(AAC\)](#)

§43 “....protection of procedural rights before the FtT (and elsewhere) is also secured by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the UNCRPD) and in particular by Articles 12 and 13 thereof see, for example, *AH v West London HT* [\[2011\] UKUT 74](#) at paragraph 16 and the citation of the UNCRPD in *Surrey County Council v P and others* [\[2014\] 2 WLR 642](#))

The CRPD and Tribunal Procedure (2)

- YA : discussed the role of the representative appointed for detained person lacking capacity (Rule 11(7)(b) TPRs 2008). Must promote best interests: ensure person's views are placed before Tribunal and make arguable points about criteria.
- “In the present context the UNCRPD reinforces the procedural rights under the ECHR and the common law.”
- Adjustment or impermissible interference?

Questions?

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What scope for the use of the **UNCRPD** in **UK courts?**

Ulele Burnham

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SPREAD OF CASES

- 75 new cases to June 2016
- 27 involved challenges to austerity measures
- 20 concerned legal capacity
- 9 access to justice
- 8 DoLs, 4 medical treatment, 3 sexual relationships
- 8 employment discrimination

The courts' approach to the CRPD

- So far, mainly, an **aid to interpretation**:

“by ratifying a convention, a state undertakes that where possibly its laws will conform to the norms and values that the convention enshrines.”

AH v West London Mental Health Trust [2011] UKUT 74 (AAC)

- But:

“...great care needs to be taken in deploying provisions [in the UNCRPD] which set out broad and basic principles as determinative tools for the interpretation of a concrete measure.”

Hainsworth v MOD [2014] EWCA Civ 763

The courts' approach...

- Suggested use, the **resolution of uncertainty** vis other statutory obligations:

“If the correct legal analysis of the meaning of article 14 discrimination in the circumstances of these appeals had been elusive or uncertain (and I have held that it is not), I would have resorted to the CRPD and it would have resolved the uncertainty in favour of the claimants. It seems to me that it has the potential to illuminate our approach to both discrimination and justification.

Burnip v Birmingham CC [2013] PTSR 117

The courts' approach – interpreting equality obligations

- Courts have treated regard to the CRPD as being **part and parcel of the duty** to have “due regard” to the equality enhancing aims of **s.149 Equality Act 2010**:

In finding a breach of the section 149 EA 2010 public sector equality duty, the court in R(Bracking) v SSWP [2013] EWCA Civ 1345 stated:

“...there is no evidence that she had her attention drawn...to the more specific obligations which the UK has undertaken with respect to the disabled in the [CRPD] and which ought to inform the scope of the PSED with respect to the disabled.”

The courts' approach: reinforcing non-discriminatory decision-making

AH v West London MHT [2011] UKUT 74

“...once the threshold tests in paragraph 8 above for establishing a right to a public hearing have been satisfied, article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights (reinforced by article 13 of the CRPD) requires that a patient should have the same or substantially equivalent right of access to a public hearing as a non-disabled person who has been deprived of his or her liberty, if this article 6 right to a public hearing is to be given proper effect”

The courts' approach: reinforcing non-discriminatory decision-making

- Chief Constable of Norfolk Constabulary v Coffey [2018] ICR 812
 - Officer found to have been treated less favourably on the basis of an incorrect “perception” that a hearing impairment might have a substantial adverse effect in the future.
 - CRPD definition of disability as “an evolving concept” which “results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”

The courts' approach: reinforcing non-discriminatory decision-making

Re Birmingham City Council v D [2018] PTSR 1791

- Court found that difficulty with case put by OS and intervenor was that there was a tension between:
 - ❑ Notion that a child has “evolving capacities” which mean that chronological age ought not to be determinative of rights etc; and
 - ❑ A comparison with the way a 16-17 year old without a disability would be treated
- Reveals potential difficulty about the way in which the OS and intervenors sought to characterise discrimination and use the CRPD.
- In equality law terms: unfavourable treatment arising out of disability contrary to s.15 EA 2010 is capable of being justified and, if so, is not justified. This means that there will be no discrimination against a 16/17 yr old who is not Gillick competent by comparison with a Gillick competent young person unless the difference in treatment was unjustifiable.

Tricky Issues

- Article 6 – women and girls with disabilities – what approach e.g. to universal application of notion of sexual autonomy?
- What would the approach of the CRPD be to the deployment of the inherent jurisdiction in cases of fluctuating capacity?
- Article 14 – “the existence of a disability shall in no case justify a deprivation of liberty” ?

Convention on
the Rights of Persons
with Disabilities and
Optional Protocol



UNITED NATIONS

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Preamble

The States Parties to the present Convention,

(a) *Recalling* the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations which recognize the inherent dignity and worth and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

(b) *Recognizing* that the United Nations, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, has proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind,

(c) *Reaffirming* the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination,

(d) *Recalling* the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

(e) *Recognizing* that disability is an evolving concept and that disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others,

(f) *Recognizing* the importance of the principles and policy guidelines contained in the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and in the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in influencing the promotion, formulation and evaluation of the policies, plans, programmes and actions at the national, regional and international levels to further equalize opportunities for persons with disabilities,

(g) *Emphasizing* the importance of mainstreaming disability issues as an integral part of relevant strategies of sustainable development,

(h) *Recognizing also* that discrimination against any person on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person,

(i) *Recognizing further* the diversity of persons with disabilities,

(j) *Recognizing* the need to promote and protect the human rights of all persons with disabilities, including those who require more intensive support,

(k) *Concerned* that, despite these various instruments and undertakings, persons with disabilities continue to face barriers in their participation as equal members of society and violations of their human rights in all parts of the world,

(l) *Recognizing* the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities in every country, particularly in developing countries,

(m) *Recognizing* the valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities, and that the promotion of the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and of full participation by persons with disabilities will result in their enhanced sense of belonging and in significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty,

(n) *Recognizing* the importance for persons with disabilities of their individual autonomy and independence, including the freedom to make their own choices,

(o) *Considering* that persons with disabilities should have the opportunity to be actively involved in decision-making processes about policies and programmes, including those directly concerning them,

(p) *Concerned* about the difficult conditions faced by persons with disabilities who are subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, indigenous or social origin, property, birth, age or other status,

(q) *Recognizing* that women and girls with disabilities are often at greater risk, both within and outside the home, of violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation,

(r) *Recognizing* that children with disabilities should have full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis

with other children, and recalling obligations to that end undertaken by States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

(s) *Emphasizing* the need to incorporate a gender perspective in all efforts to promote the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities,

(t) *Highlighting* the fact that the majority of persons with disabilities live in conditions of poverty, and in this regard recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty on persons with disabilities,

(u) *Bearing in mind* that conditions of peace and security based on full respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and observance of applicable human rights instruments are indispensable for the full protection of persons with disabilities, in particular during armed conflicts and foreign occupation,

(v) *Recognizing* the importance of accessibility to the physical, social, economic and cultural environment, to health and education and to information and communication, in enabling persons with disabilities to fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

(w) *Realizing* that the individual, having duties to other individuals and to the community to which he or she belongs, is under a responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of the rights recognized in the International Bill of Human Rights,

(x) *Convinced* that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State, and that persons with disabilities and their family members should receive the necessary protection and assistance to enable families to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities,

(y) *Convinced* that a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities will make a significant contribution to redressing the profound social disadvantage of persons with disabilities and promote their participation in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres with equal opportunities, in both developing and developed countries,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1 Purpose

The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Article 2 Definitions

For the purposes of the present Convention:

“Communication” includes languages, display of text, Braille, tactile communication, large print, accessible multimedia as well as written, audio, plain-language, human-reader and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, including accessible information and communication technology;

“Language” includes spoken and signed languages and other forms of non spoken languages;

“Discrimination on the basis of disability” means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation;

“Reasonable accommodation” means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

“Universal design” means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. “Universal design” shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed.

Article 3
General principles

The principles of the present Convention shall be:

- (a) Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- (b) Non-discrimination;
- (c) Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- (d) Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- (e) Equality of opportunity;
- (f) Accessibility;
- (g) Equality between men and women;
- (h) Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

Article 4
General obligations

1. States Parties undertake to ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability. To this end, States Parties undertake:

- (a) To adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention;
- (b) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities;
- (c) To take into account the protection and promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities in all policies and programmes;

(d) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice that is inconsistent with the present Convention and to ensure that public authorities and institutions act in conformity with the present Convention;

(e) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability by any person, organization or private enterprise;

(f) To undertake or promote research and development of universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention, which should require the minimum possible adaptation and the least cost to meet the specific needs of a person with disabilities, to promote their availability and use, and to promote universal design in the development of standards and guidelines;

(g) To undertake or promote research and development of, and to promote the availability and use of new technologies, including information and communications technologies, mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, suitable for persons with disabilities, giving priority to technologies at an affordable cost;

(h) To provide accessible information to persons with disabilities about mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, including new technologies, as well as other forms of assistance, support services and facilities;

(i) To promote the training of professionals and staff working with persons with disabilities in the rights recognized in the present Convention so as to better provide the assistance and services guaranteed by those rights.

2. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, each State Party undertakes to take measures to the maximum of its available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of these rights, without prejudice to those obligations contained in the present Convention that are immediately applicable according to international law.

3. In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

4. Nothing in the present Convention shall affect any provisions which are more conducive to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and which may be contained in the law of a State Party or international law in force for that State. There shall be no restriction upon or derogation from any of the

human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized or existing in any State Party to the present Convention pursuant to law, conventions, regulation or custom on the pretext that the present Convention does not recognize such rights or freedoms or that it recognizes them to a lesser extent.

5. The provisions of the present Convention shall extend to all parts of federal States without any limitations or exceptions.

Article 5 **Equality and non-discrimination**

1. States Parties recognize that all persons are equal before and under the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law.

2. States Parties shall prohibit all discrimination on the basis of disability and guarantee to persons with disabilities equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds.

3. In order to promote equality and eliminate discrimination, States Parties shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided.

4. Specific measures which are necessary to accelerate or achieve de facto equality of persons with disabilities shall not be considered discrimination under the terms of the present Convention.

Article 6 **Women with disabilities**

1. States Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination, and in this regard shall take measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Convention.

Article 7 **Children with disabilities**

1. States Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.

2. In all actions concerning children with disabilities, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

3. States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right.

Article 8 **Awareness-raising**

1. States Parties undertake to adopt immediate, effective and appropriate measures:

(a) To raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;

(b) To combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life;

(c) To promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.

2. Measures to this end include:

(a) Initiating and maintaining effective public awareness campaigns designed:

(i) To nurture receptiveness to the rights of persons with disabilities;

(ii) To promote positive perceptions and greater social awareness towards persons with disabilities;

(iii) To promote recognition of the skills, merits and abilities of persons with disabilities, and of their contributions to the workplace and the labour market;

(b) Fostering at all levels of the education system, including in all children from an early age, an attitude of respect for the rights of persons with disabilities;

(c) Encouraging all organs of the media to portray persons with disabilities in a manner consistent with the purpose of the present Convention;

(d) Promoting awareness-training programmes regarding persons with disabilities and the rights of persons with disabilities.

Article 9 Accessibility

1. To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia:

(a) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;

(b) Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

2. States Parties shall also take appropriate measures:

(a) To develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;

(b) To ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;

(c) To provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;

(d) To provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms;

(e) To provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;

(f) To promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;

(g) To promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;

(h) To promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.

Article 10 Right to life

States Parties reaffirm that every human being has the inherent right to life and shall take all necessary measures to ensure its effective enjoyment by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

Article 11 Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

Article 12 Equal recognition before the law

1. States Parties reaffirm that persons with disabilities have the right to recognition everywhere as persons before the law.
2. States Parties shall recognize that persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life.
3. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to provide access by persons with disabilities to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity.
4. States Parties shall ensure that all measures that relate to the exercise of legal capacity provide for appropriate and effective safeguards to prevent abuse in accordance with international human rights law. Such safeguards shall ensure that measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity respect the rights, will and preferences of the person, are free of conflict of interest and undue influence, are proportional and tailored to the person's circumstances, apply for the shortest time possible and are subject to regular review by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body. The

safeguards shall be proportional to the degree to which such measures affect the person's rights and interests.

5. Subject to the provisions of this article, States Parties shall take all appropriate and effective measures to ensure the equal right of persons with disabilities to own or inherit property, to control their own financial affairs and to have equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, and shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not arbitrarily deprived of their property.

Article 13
Access to justice

1. States Parties shall ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, in order to facilitate their effective role as direct and indirect participants, including as witnesses, in all legal proceedings, including at investigative and other preliminary stages.

2. In order to help to ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities, States Parties shall promote appropriate training for those working in the field of administration of justice, including police and prison staff.

Article 14
Liberty and security of person

1. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others:

(a) Enjoy the right to liberty and security of person;

(b) Are not deprived of their liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily, and that any deprivation of liberty is in conformity with the law, and that the existence of a disability shall in no case justify a deprivation of liberty.

2. States Parties shall ensure that if persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty through any process, they are, on an equal basis with others, entitled to guarantees in accordance with international human rights law and shall be treated in compliance with the objectives and principles of the present Convention, including by provision of reasonable accommodation.

Article 15
**Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading
treatment or punishment**

1. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his or her free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.
2. States Parties shall take all effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, from being subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 16
Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including their gender-based aspects.
2. States Parties shall also take all appropriate measures to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse by ensuring, inter alia, appropriate forms of gender- and age-sensitive assistance and support for persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers, including through the provision of information and education on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse. States Parties shall ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive.
3. In order to prevent the occurrence of all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, States Parties shall ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities.
4. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons with disabilities who become victims of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse, including through the provision of protection services. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment that fosters the health, welfare, self-respect, dignity and autonomy of the person and takes into account gender- and age-specific needs.
5. States Parties shall put in place effective legislation and policies, including women- and child-focused legislation and policies, to ensure that instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are identified, investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted.

Article 17
Protecting the integrity of the person

Every person with disabilities has a right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity on an equal basis with others.

Article 18
Liberty of movement and nationality

1. States Parties shall recognize the rights of persons with disabilities to liberty of movement, to freedom to choose their residence and to a nationality, on an equal basis with others, including by ensuring that persons with disabilities:

(a) Have the right to acquire and change a nationality and are not deprived of their nationality arbitrarily or on the basis of disability;

(b) Are not deprived, on the basis of disability, of their ability to obtain, possess and utilize documentation of their nationality or other documentation of identification, or to utilize relevant processes such as immigration proceedings, that may be needed to facilitate exercise of the right to liberty of movement;

(c) Are free to leave any country, including their own;

(d) Are not deprived, arbitrarily or on the basis of disability, of the right to enter their own country.

2. Children with disabilities shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by their parents.

Article 19
Living independently and being included in the community

States Parties to the present Convention recognize the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and shall take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community, including by ensuring that:

(a) Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;

(b) Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;

(c) Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.

Article 20 **Personal mobility**

States Parties shall take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities, including by:

(a) Facilitating the personal mobility of persons with disabilities in the manner and at the time of their choice, and at affordable cost;

(b) Facilitating access by persons with disabilities to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including by making them available at affordable cost;

(c) Providing training in mobility skills to persons with disabilities and to specialist staff working with persons with disabilities;

(d) Encouraging entities that produce mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies to take into account all aspects of mobility for persons with disabilities.

Article 21 **Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information**

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others and through all forms of communication of their choice, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention, including by:

(a) Providing information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost;

(b) Accepting and facilitating the use of sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means,

modes and formats of communication of their choice by persons with disabilities in official interactions;

(c) Urging private entities that provide services to the general public, including through the Internet, to provide information and services in accessible and usable formats for persons with disabilities;

(d) Encouraging the mass media, including providers of information through the Internet, to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities;

(e) Recognizing and promoting the use of sign languages.

Article 22 **Respect for privacy**

1. No person with disabilities, regardless of place of residence or living arrangements, shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence or other types of communication or to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation. Persons with disabilities have the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

2. States Parties shall protect the privacy of personal, health and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

Article 23 **Respect for home and the family**

1. States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, on an equal basis with others, so as to ensure that:

(a) The right of all persons with disabilities who are of marriageable age to marry and to found a family on the basis of free and full consent of the intending spouses is recognized;

(b) The rights of persons with disabilities to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to age-appropriate information, reproductive and family planning education are recognized, and the means necessary to enable them to exercise these rights are provided;

(c) Persons with disabilities, including children, retain their fertility on an equal basis with others.

2. States Parties shall ensure the rights and responsibilities of persons with disabilities, with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship, adoption of children or similar institutions, where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the best interests of the child shall be paramount. States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to persons with disabilities in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities.

3. States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have equal rights with respect to family life. With a view to realizing these rights, and to prevent concealment, abandonment, neglect and segregation of children with disabilities, States Parties shall undertake to provide early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families.

4. States Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. In no case shall a child be separated from parents on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents.

5. States Parties shall, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, undertake every effort to provide alternative care within the wider family, and failing that, within the community in a family setting.

Article 24 **Education**

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. With a view to realizing this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity, States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning directed to:

(a) The full development of human potential and sense of dignity and self-worth, and the strengthening of respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and human diversity;

(b) The development by persons with disabilities of their personality, talents and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential;

(c) Enabling persons with disabilities to participate effectively in a free society.

2. In realizing this right, States Parties shall ensure that:

(a) Persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system on the basis of disability, and that children with disabilities are not excluded from free and compulsory primary education, or from secondary education, on the basis of disability;

(b) Persons with disabilities can access an inclusive, quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live;

(c) Reasonable accommodation of the individual's requirements is provided;

(d) Persons with disabilities receive the support required, within the general education system, to facilitate their effective education;

(e) Effective individualized support measures are provided in environments that maximize academic and social development, consistent with the goal of full inclusion.

3. States Parties shall enable persons with disabilities to learn life and social development skills to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and as members of the community. To this end, States Parties shall take appropriate measures, including:

(a) Facilitating the learning of Braille, alternative script, augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication and orientation and mobility skills, and facilitating peer support and mentoring;

(b) Facilitating the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community;

(c) Ensuring that the education of persons, and in particular children, who are blind, deaf or deafblind, is delivered in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication for the individual, and in environments which maximize academic and social development.

4. In order to help ensure the realization of this right, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language and/or Braille, and to train professionals and staff who work at all levels of education. Such training shall incorporate disability awareness and the use of appropriate augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, educational techniques and materials to support persons with disabilities.

5. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access general tertiary education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning without discrimination and on an equal basis with others. To this end, States Parties shall ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities.

Article 25 **Health**

States Parties recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services that are gender-sensitive, including health-related rehabilitation. In particular, States Parties shall:

(a) Provide persons with disabilities with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care and programmes as provided to other persons, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and population-based public health programmes;

(b) Provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, including among children and older persons;

(c) Provide these health services as close as possible to people's own communities, including in rural areas;

(d) Require health professionals to provide care of the same quality to persons with disabilities as to others, including on the basis of free and informed consent by, inter alia, raising awareness of the human rights, dignity, autonomy and needs of persons with disabilities through training and the promulgation of ethical standards for public and private health care;

(e) Prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health insurance, and life insurance where such insurance is permitted by national law, which shall be provided in a fair and reasonable manner;

(f) Prevent discriminatory denial of health care or health services or food and fluids on the basis of disability.

Article 26
Habilitation and rehabilitation

1. States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures, including through peer support, to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational ability, and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life. To that end, States Parties shall organize, strengthen and extend comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes, particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services, in such a way that these services and programmes:

(a) Begin at the earliest possible stage, and are based on the multidisciplinary assessment of individual needs and strengths;

(b) Support participation and inclusion in the community and all aspects of society, are voluntary, and are available to persons with disabilities as close as possible to their own communities, including in rural areas.

2. States Parties shall promote the development of initial and continuing training for professionals and staff working in habilitation and rehabilitation services.

3. States Parties shall promote the availability, knowledge and use of assistive devices and technologies, designed for persons with disabilities, as they relate to habilitation and rehabilitation.

Article 27
Work and employment

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities. States Parties shall safeguard and promote the realization of the right to work, including for those who acquire a disability during the course of employment, by taking appropriate steps, including through legislation, to, inter alia:

(a) Prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to all matters concerning all forms of employment, including conditions of recruitment, hiring and employment, continuance of employment, career advancement and safe and healthy working conditions;

(b) Protect the rights of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to just and favourable conditions of work, including equal opportunities and equal remuneration for work of equal value, safe and healthy

working conditions, including protection from harassment, and the redress of grievances;

(c) Ensure that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their labour and trade union rights on an equal basis with others;

(d) Enable persons with disabilities to have effective access to general technical and vocational guidance programmes, placement services and vocational and continuing training;

(e) Promote employment opportunities and career advancement for persons with disabilities in the labour market, as well as assistance in finding, obtaining, maintaining and returning to employment;

(f) Promote opportunities for self-employment, entrepreneurship, the development of cooperatives and starting one's own business;

(g) Employ persons with disabilities in the public sector;

(h) Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector through appropriate policies and measures, which may include affirmative action programmes, incentives and other measures;

(i) Ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities in the workplace;

(j) Promote the acquisition by persons with disabilities of work experience in the open labour market;

(k) Promote vocational and professional rehabilitation, job retention and return-to-work programmes for persons with disabilities.

2. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not held in slavery or in servitude, and are protected, on an equal basis with others, from forced or compulsory labour.

Article 28 **Adequate standard of living and social protection**

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of disability.

2. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of disability, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right, including measures:

(a) To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to clean water services, and to ensure access to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for disability-related needs;

(b) To ensure access by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes;

(c) To ensure access by persons with disabilities and their families living in situations of poverty to assistance from the State with disability-related expenses, including adequate training, counselling, financial assistance and respite care;

(d) To ensure access by persons with disabilities to public housing programmes;

(e) To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to retirement benefits and programmes.

Article 29 **Participation in political and public life**

States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake:

(a) To ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected, inter alia, by:

(i) Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use;

(ii) Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation, and to stand for elections, to effectively hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies where appropriate;

(iii) Guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and to this end, where necessary, at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice;

(b) To promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:

(i) Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties;

(ii) Forming and joining organizations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels.

Article 30
Participation in cultural life, recreation,
leisure and sport

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities:

(a) Enjoy access to cultural materials in accessible formats;

(b) Enjoy access to television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats;

(c) Enjoy access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services, and, as far as possible, enjoy access to monuments and sites of national cultural importance.

2. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to enable persons with disabilities to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, not only for their own benefit, but also for the enrichment of society.

3. States Parties shall take all appropriate steps, in accordance with international law, to ensure that laws protecting intellectual property rights do not constitute an unreasonable or discriminatory barrier to access by persons with disabilities to cultural materials.

4. Persons with disabilities shall be entitled, on an equal basis with others, to recognition and support of their specific cultural and linguistic identity, including sign languages and deaf culture.

5. With a view to enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities, States Parties shall take appropriate measures:

(a) To encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels;

(b) To ensure that persons with disabilities have an opportunity to organize, develop and participate in disability-specific sporting and recreational activities and, to this end, encourage the provision, on an equal basis with others, of appropriate instruction, training and resources;

(c) To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to sporting, recreational and tourism venues;

(d) To ensure that children with disabilities have equal access with other children to participation in play, recreation and leisure and sporting activities, including those activities in the school system;

(e) To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to services from those involved in the organization of recreational, tourism, leisure and sporting activities.

Article 31 Statistics and data collection

1. States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention. The process of collecting and maintaining this information shall:

(a) Comply with legally established safeguards, including legislation on data protection, to ensure confidentiality and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities;

(b) Comply with internationally accepted norms to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and ethical principles in the collection and use of statistics.

2. The information collected in accordance with this article shall be disaggregated, as appropriate, and used to help assess the implementation of

States Parties' obligations under the present Convention and to identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.

3. States Parties shall assume responsibility for the dissemination of these statistics and ensure their accessibility to persons with disabilities and others.

Article 32 **International cooperation**

1. States Parties recognize the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the present Convention, and will undertake appropriate and effective measures in this regard, between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities. Such measures could include, inter alia:

(a) Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

(b) Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices;

(c) Facilitating cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge;

(d) Providing, as appropriate, technical and economic assistance, including by facilitating access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, and through the transfer of technologies.

2. The provisions of this article are without prejudice to the obligations of each State Party to fulfil its obligations under the present Convention.

Article 33 **National implementation and monitoring**

1. States Parties, in accordance with their system of organization, shall designate one or more focal points within government for matters relating to the implementation of the present Convention, and shall give due consideration to the establishment or designation of a coordination mechanism within government to facilitate related action in different sectors and at different levels.

2. States Parties shall, in accordance with their legal and administrative systems, maintain, strengthen, designate or establish within the State Party, a framework, including one or more independent mechanisms, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the present Convention. When designating or establishing such a mechanism, States Parties shall take into account the principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights.

3. Civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, shall be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process.

Article 34 **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

1. There shall be established a Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereafter referred to as “the Committee”), which shall carry out the functions hereinafter provided.

2. The Committee shall consist, at the time of entry into force of the present Convention, of twelve experts. After an additional sixty ratifications or accessions to the Convention, the membership of the Committee shall increase by six members, attaining a maximum number of eighteen members.

3. The members of the Committee shall serve in their personal capacity and shall be of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field covered by the present Convention. When nominating their candidates, States Parties are invited to give due consideration to the provision set out in article 4, paragraph 3, of the present Convention.

4. The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution, representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and participation of experts with disabilities.

5. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by the States Parties from among their nationals at meetings of the Conference of States Parties. At those meetings, for which two thirds of States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.

6. The initial election shall be held no later than six months after the date of entry into force of the present Convention. At least four months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall

address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit the nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall subsequently prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the State Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties to the present Convention.

7. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election once. However, the term of six of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election, the names of these six members shall be chosen by lot by the chairperson of the meeting referred to in paragraph 5 of this article.

8. The election of the six additional members of the Committee shall be held on the occasion of regular elections, in accordance with the relevant provisions of this article.

9. If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or declares that for any other cause she or he can no longer perform her or his duties, the State Party which nominated the member shall appoint another expert possessing the qualifications and meeting the requirements set out in the relevant provisions of this article, to serve for the remainder of the term.

10. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.

11. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention, and shall convene its initial meeting.

12. With the approval of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the members of the Committee established under the present Convention shall receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide, having regard to the importance of the Committee's responsibilities.

13. The members of the Committee shall be entitled to the facilities, privileges and immunities of experts on mission for the United Nations as laid down in the relevant sections of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

Article 35 **Reports by States Parties**

1. Each State Party shall submit to the Committee, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a comprehensive report on measures taken to give effect to its obligations under the present Convention and on the progress

made in that regard, within two years after the entry into force of the present Convention for the State Party concerned.

2. Thereafter, States Parties shall submit subsequent reports at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

3. The Committee shall decide any guidelines applicable to the content of the reports.

4. A State Party which has submitted a comprehensive initial report to the Committee need not, in its subsequent reports, repeat information previously provided. When preparing reports to the Committee, States Parties are invited to consider doing so in an open and transparent process and to give due consideration to the provision set out in article 4, paragraph 3, of the present Convention.

5. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the present Convention.

Article 36 **Consideration of reports**

1. Each report shall be considered by the Committee, which shall make such suggestions and general recommendations on the report as it may consider appropriate and shall forward these to the State Party concerned. The State Party may respond with any information it chooses to the Committee. The Committee may request further information from States Parties relevant to the implementation of the present Convention.

2. If a State Party is significantly overdue in the submission of a report, the Committee may notify the State Party concerned of the need to examine the implementation of the present Convention in that State Party, on the basis of reliable information available to the Committee, if the relevant report is not submitted within three months following the notification. The Committee shall invite the State Party concerned to participate in such examination. Should the State Party respond by submitting the relevant report, the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article will apply.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall make available the reports to all States Parties.

4. States Parties shall make their reports widely available to the public in their own countries and facilitate access to the suggestions and general recommendations relating to these reports.

5. The Committee shall transmit, as it may consider appropriate, to the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, and other competent bodies, reports from States Parties in order to address a request or indication of a need for technical advice or assistance contained therein, along with the Committee's observations and recommendations, if any, on these requests or indications.

Article 37

Cooperation between States Parties and the Committee

1. Each State Party shall cooperate with the Committee and assist its members in the fulfilment of their mandate.

2. In its relationship with States Parties, the Committee shall give due consideration to ways and means of enhancing national capacities for the implementation of the present Convention, including through international cooperation.

Article 38

Relationship of the Committee with other bodies

In order to foster the effective implementation of the present Convention and to encourage international cooperation in the field covered by the present Convention:

(a) The specialized agencies and other United Nations organs shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Convention as fall within the scope of their mandate. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies and other competent bodies as it may consider appropriate to provide expert advice on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their respective mandates. The Committee may invite specialized agencies and other United Nations organs to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities;

(b) The Committee, as it discharges its mandate, shall consult, as appropriate, other relevant bodies instituted by international human rights treaties, with a view to ensuring the consistency of their respective reporting guidelines, suggestions and general recommendations, and avoiding duplication and overlap in the performance of their functions.

Article 39

Report of the Committee

The Committee shall report every two years to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council on its activities, and may make

suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States Parties. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States Parties.

Article 40
Conference of States Parties

1. The States Parties shall meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties in order to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the present Convention.

2. No later than six months after the entry into force of the present Convention, the Conference of States Parties shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The subsequent meetings shall be convened by the Secretary-General biennially or upon the decision of the Conference of States Parties.

Article 41
Depositary

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the depositary of the present Convention.

Article 42
Signature

The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States and by regional integration organizations at United Nations Headquarters in New York as of 30 March 2007.

Article 43
Consent to be bound

The present Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States and to formal confirmation by signatory regional integration organizations. It shall be open for accession by any State or regional integration organization which has not signed the Convention.

Article 44
Regional integration organizations

1. "Regional integration organization" shall mean an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region, to which its member States have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by the present Convention. Such organizations shall declare, in their instruments of formal

confirmation or accession, the extent of their competence with respect to matters governed by the present Convention. Subsequently, they shall inform the depositary of any substantial modification in the extent of their competence.

2. References to “States Parties” in the present Convention shall apply to such organizations within the limits of their competence.

3. For the purposes of article 45, paragraph 1, and article 47, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the present Convention, any instrument deposited by a regional integration organization shall not be counted.

4. Regional integration organizations, in matters within their competence, may exercise their right to vote in the Conference of States Parties, with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to the present Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

Article 45 **Entry into force**

1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. For each State or regional integration organization ratifying, formally confirming or acceding to the present Convention after the deposit of the twentieth such instrument, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its own such instrument.

Article 46 **Reservations**

1. Reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.

2. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time.

Article 47 **Amendments**

1. Any State Party may propose an amendment to the present Convention and submit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall communicate any proposed amendments to States Parties, with a request to be notified whether they favour a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and deciding upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months from the date of such communication, at least one third of

the States Parties favour such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of two thirds of the States Parties present and voting shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly of the United Nations for approval and thereafter to all States Parties for acceptance.

2. An amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment. Thereafter, the amendment shall enter into force for any State Party on the thirtieth day following the deposit of its own instrument of acceptance. An amendment shall be binding only on those States Parties which have accepted it.

3. If so decided by the Conference of States Parties by consensus, an amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article which relates exclusively to articles 34, 38, 39 and 40 shall enter into force for all States Parties on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment.

Article 48 Denunciation

A State Party may denounce the present Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall become effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

Article 49 Accessible format

The text of the present Convention shall be made available in accessible formats.

Article 50 Authentic texts

The Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of the present Convention shall be equally authentic.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.

OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The States Parties to the present Protocol have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. A State Party to the present Protocol (“State Party”) recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (“the Committee”) to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals or groups of individuals subject to its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation by that State Party of the provisions of the Convention.
2. No communication shall be received by the Committee if it concerns a State Party to the Convention that is not a party to the present Protocol.

Article 2

The Committee shall consider a communication inadmissible when:

- (a) The communication is anonymous;
- (b) The communication constitutes an abuse of the right of submission of such communications or is incompatible with the provisions of the Convention;
- (c) The same matter has already been examined by the Committee or has been or is being examined under another procedure of international investigation or settlement;
- (d) All available domestic remedies have not been exhausted. This shall not be the rule where the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged or unlikely to bring effective relief;
- (e) It is manifestly ill-founded or not sufficiently substantiated; or when
- (f) The facts that are the subject of the communication occurred prior to the entry into force of the present Protocol for the State Party concerned unless those facts continued after that date.

Article 3

Subject to the provisions of article 2 of the present Protocol, the Committee shall bring any communications submitted to it confidentially to the attention of the State Party. Within six months, the receiving State shall submit to the Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matter and the remedy, if any, that may have been taken by that State.

Article 4

1. At any time after the receipt of a communication and before a determination on the merits has been reached, the Committee may transmit to the State Party concerned for its urgent consideration a request that the State Party take such interim measures as may be necessary to avoid possible irreparable damage to the victim or victims of the alleged violation.

2. Where the Committee exercises its discretion under paragraph 1 of this article, this does not imply a determination on admissibility or on the merits of the communication.

Article 5

The Committee shall hold closed meetings when examining communications under the present Protocol. After examining a communication, the Committee shall forward its suggestions and recommendations, if any, to the State Party concerned and to the petitioner.

Article 6

1. If the Committee receives reliable information indicating grave or systematic violations by a State Party of rights set forth in the Convention, the Committee shall invite that State Party to cooperate in the examination of the information and to this end submit observations with regard to the information concerned.

2. Taking into account any observations that may have been submitted by the State Party concerned as well as any other reliable information available to it, the Committee may designate one or more of its members to conduct an inquiry and to report urgently to the Committee. Where warranted and with the consent of the State Party, the inquiry may include a visit to its territory.

3. After examining the findings of such an inquiry, the Committee shall transmit these findings to the State Party concerned together with any comments and recommendations.

4. The State Party concerned shall, within six months of receiving the findings, comments and recommendations transmitted by the Committee, submit its observations to the Committee.

5. Such an inquiry shall be conducted confidentially and the cooperation of the State Party shall be sought at all stages of the proceedings.

Article 7

1. The Committee may invite the State Party concerned to include in its report under article 35 of the Convention details of any measures taken in response to an inquiry conducted under article 6 of the present Protocol.
2. The Committee may, if necessary, after the end of the period of six months referred to in article 6, paragraph 4, invite the State Party concerned to inform it of the measures taken in response to such an inquiry.

Article 8

Each State Party may, at the time of signature or ratification of the present Protocol or accession thereto, declare that it does not recognize the competence of the Committee provided for in articles 6 and 7.

Article 9

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the depositary of the present Protocol.

Article 10

The present Protocol shall be open for signature by signatory States and regional integration organizations of the Convention at United Nations Headquarters in New York as of 30 March 2007.

Article 11

The present Protocol shall be subject to ratification by signatory States of the present Protocol which have ratified or acceded to the Convention. It shall be subject to formal confirmation by signatory regional integration organizations of the present Protocol which have formally confirmed or acceded to the Convention. It shall be open for accession by any State or regional integration organization which has ratified, formally confirmed or acceded to the Convention and which has not signed the Protocol.

Article 12

1. "Regional integration organization" shall mean an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region, to which its member States have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by the Convention and the present Protocol. Such organizations shall declare, in their instruments of formal confirmation or accession, the extent of their competence with respect to matters governed by the Convention and the present Protocol.

Subsequently, they shall inform the depositary of any substantial modification in the extent of their competence.

2. References to “States Parties” in the present Protocol shall apply to such organizations within the limits of their competence.

3. For the purposes of article 13, paragraph 1, and article 15, paragraph 2, of the present Protocol, any instrument deposited by a regional integration organization shall not be counted.

4. Regional integration organizations, in matters within their competence, may exercise their right to vote in the meeting of States Parties, with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to the present Protocol. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

Article 13

1. Subject to the entry into force of the Convention, the present Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. For each State or regional integration organization ratifying, formally confirming or acceding to the present Protocol after the deposit of the tenth such instrument, the Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its own such instrument.

Article 14

1. Reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Protocol shall not be permitted.

2. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time.

Article 15

1. Any State Party may propose an amendment to the present Protocol and submit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall communicate any proposed amendments to States Parties, with a request to be notified whether they favour a meeting of States Parties for the purpose of considering and deciding upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months from the date of such communication, at least one third of the States Parties favour such a meeting, the Secretary-General shall convene the meeting under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of two thirds of the States Parties present and voting shall be

submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly of the United Nations for approval and thereafter to all States Parties for acceptance.

2. An amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment. Thereafter, the amendment shall enter into force for any State Party on the thirtieth day following the deposit of its own instrument of acceptance. An amendment shall be binding only on those States Parties which have accepted it.

Article 16

A State Party may denounce the present Protocol by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall become effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

Article 17

The text of the present Protocol shall be made available in accessible formats.

Article 18

The Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of the present Protocol shall be equally authentic.

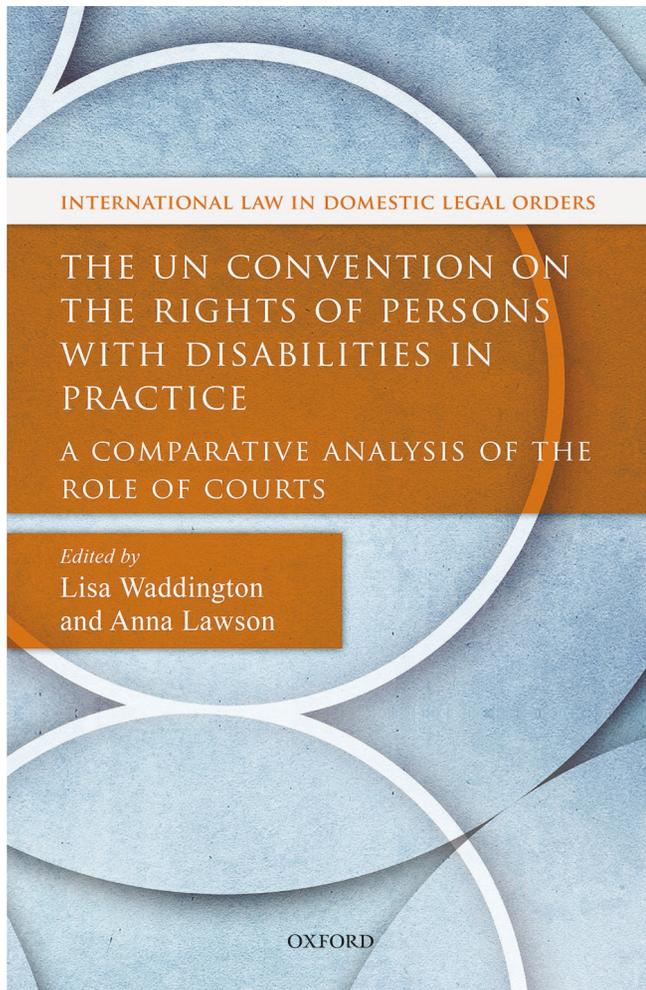
IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Protocol.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Practice

A Comparative Analysis of the Role of Courts

Edited by **Lisa Waddington**, Professor and European Disability Forum Chair in European Disability Law at Maastricht University, and **Anna Lawson**, Professor of Law and Director of the Centre for Disability Studies, University of Leeds

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Introduced in 2008, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has existed for nearly a decade. This comprehensive study examines how courts in thirteen different jurisdictions make use of the Convention. The first sustained comparative international law analysis of the CRPD, Waddington and Lawson's ground breaking text illuminates the intersection between human rights law, disability law and international law through an examination of the role of courts. The first part of the book contains chapters specific to each jurisdiction. The second part consists of comparative chapters which draw on the rich analysis of the jurisdiction-specific chapters. These chapters reflect on emerging patterns of judicial usage and interpretation of the CRPD and on the wider implications for human rights theory and the nascent field of international comparative human rights law. This volume is a vital and thought-provoking addition to the literature on comparative international law and disability rights.

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Integrating the CRPD into a Court of Protection position statement: an example

1. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (“CRPD”) was ratified by the UK on 8 June 2009. It applies to people who have intellectual disabilities or mental health issues (Article 1). Article 19 sets out the “right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others”. This provision applies to all persons with disabilities irrespective of age, nature of impairment or level of support needs. Article 19(a) specifies that measures to facilitate the full enjoyment of this right includes ensuring that, “[p]ersons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement”.
2. Paragraph (b) of Article 19 requires the state to ensure that, “[p]ersons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community.” In its general comment on Article 19 of the CRPD published on 29 July 2017, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities clarified that this provision means that, “any institutional form of support services, which segregates and limits personal autonomy, is not permitted” (para. 30).

OLIVER LEWIS

Doughty Street Chambers

27 November 2018

Anna Lawson

27th November 2018

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in UK Courts

1. Methodology

Our template - common approach across different countries

Focus on reported cases in which the Convention was mentioned prior to June 2016 (7 years after UK ratification).

75 cases identified.

2. Findings

2.1 Level of Engagement

Generally, not sustained systematic interpretation of CRPD provisions.

Exceptions, particularly concerning the procedural obligations associated with Article 7 of the CRPD on disabled children

Understandings of CRPD provisions sometimes emerge from passing references/mentions - some of these involve clear misunderstandings (eg reasonable accommodation seems to be understood as something concerning housing quality).

2.2 Types of Court

Level - courts of all levels decided cases in the dataset.

Geography

-No cases mentioning the Convention were decided by the Court of Appeal of Northern Ireland (although there were cases decided by lower courts in that country).

-No cases mentioning the CRPD were decided by the higher courts in Scotland.

-Only one Scottish case mentioned the CRPD.

Reasons for regional difference - which relatively numerous cases of the higher courts in England and Wales mentioning the CRPD?

2.3 Subject Matter

benefits and care - 27 cases

legal capacity - 20 cases.

access to justice - 9 cases.

deprivation of liberty - 8 cases.

employment discrimination - 8 cases (2 against carers)

2.4 CRPD provisions Cited

no specific provision mentioned - 27 cases.

Article 19 - 15 cases (but none of these were court of protection cases)

Article 12 - 12 cases (9 of which were in the Court of Protection).

Articles 4 and 5 - 7 cases each. each

article 13 - 6 cases.

2.5 Types of Use

minimal engagement (approx a fifth of the cases).

Mentioned only to reject (approx a tenth).

Consideration of relevance to 'due regard' requirement in the Public Sector Equality Duty - several cases.

Recognition/use as interpretive guide in connection with interpreting ECHR rights - most cases.

-Article 5 ECHR, deprivation of liberty - Cheshire West and subsequent cases.

-Article 14 ECHR, discrimination and objective justification (eg Matheson v Sec of State for Work and Pensions and Rutherford v Sec of State for Work and Pensions; and Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission application for judicial review on abortion law).

Recognition/use to interpret EU law

-Employment Equality Directive (meaning of disability, discrimination against carers, access to justice).

2.6 Third Party Interventions/support

EHRC interventions/support (excluding northern Ireland and court of protection - over third of cases).

Law Society - 2

NGOs

-Mind - 3

-MDAC - 2

-National Autistic Society- 2

Others, made 1.

3. Lessons for Litigators

3.1 Don't overclaim impact/relevance of international law

Avoid claiming that the Convention is a source of rights in the UK

Draw attention to the point of law which is ambiguous and explain how the CRPD is relevant to this.

3.2 Draw links to other international law

If possible ECHR or EU

And connection with other international treaties where they overlap.

3.3, Explain the CRPD point/provision very clearly

Don't make assumptions that judges will understand the CRPD - particularly counter-intuitive terms such as 'independent living' and 'reasonable accommodation'.

3.4 Get the Equality and Human Rights Commission to intervene or provide support - or find out what it is that they do that makes it more likely that a court will mention the Convention!

3.5 Choose your judge! Some judges are more likely than others to mention/use the CRPD. This may indicate that

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An 'amazing set of committed and talented barristers', Doughty Street Chambers has 'a great reputation, are leaders in their field' and is 'easy to work with'. Chambers has experts in public law and human rights, civil and international law matters, is 'the go-to set for inquest work', and 'covers everything under the crime umbrella' in London.

- Legal 500

"Sources are keen to highlight that the clerks are invariably very helpful."

- Chambers & Partners

"A "high calibre" set of staff led by the "extremely helpful" business development director Maurice MacSweeney, who attracts high praise from sources. One commentator states: "Maurice is very business-minded, and I think he's a massive credit to Doughty Street." The clerks here are described as user-friendly and organised."

- Chambers & Partners