

International Impact of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Alison A. Hillman de Velásquez
Mental Disability Rights International

mdri

MDRI's Mission

Promote the rights and full integration into society of persons with disabilities.

- Investigating & documenting abuses
- Bringing attention to abuses
- Working with civil society, strengthening local DPOs
- International policy advocacy

Impacts of the CRPD

1. CRPD as tool to address abuses
2. International Disability Rights Movement
3. International Cooperation Agencies & UN Bodies
4. International Law
5. Role of US disability rights advocates

Why do we need a
Convention
in the first place?

1. CRPD as tool to address abuses: MDRI's findings

- A. Serbia
- B. Paraguay
- C. Argentina

1. CRPD as tool to address abuses

A. Serbia:

- Babies, children and adults with disabilities subject to life-long institutionalization
 - conditions that are dangerous and life-threatening &
 - inflict mental and physical suffering
- Restraints used for staff convenience & in place caring interventions for self abuse







1. CRPD as tool to address abuses

B. Paraguay:

- Unexplained deaths
- Years-long detention in tiny isolation cells
- Inhuman and degrading treatment
- Lack of alternatives in the community





1. CRPD as tool to address abuses

C. Argentina:

25,000 people segregated in psychiatric institutions

- 80% detained < 1 year
- Average length of detention 9 years
- 60-90% people detained for socio-economic reasons



1. CRPD as tool to address abuses

C. Argentina:

- Physical and sexual abuse
- People incinerated in isolation cells
- Forced sterilization
- Lack of medical care



2. International Disability Rights Movement

- Growth, expansion, strengthening of disability rights movement on a global scale
- Continued cooperation toward implementation of Convention

3. International Cooperation & UN Bodies

- Increased funding through international cooperation and foundations
- Transformative element of UN agency structures: must now incorporate disability (UNICEF, UNDP, etc.)
- USAID funding must include DPOs
- All actions and documentation must now comply with the CRPD
- Increased visibility of rights of PWD

4. International Law

- Specific instrument setting forth existing rights in the context of disability
- Allows for reinterpretation of other international human rights norms
- Supersedes previous standards
- Express recognition that rights guaranteed in other core human rights treaties apply to PWD

5. Role for US DPOs

- US seen as leader in disability rights
- US DPOs experience achieving disability rights legislation
- Strength of US cross-disability movement
- To maintain leadership on a global level, US must ratify the CRPD

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