



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**CCD Ad Hoc International Task Force
Annual Report for 2007**

2007 ACTIVITIES

In March of 2007 the ad hoc International Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities held its first meeting to discuss the role of CCD in international issues. The Task Force identified not only the new International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ICRPD) as an area for CCD involvement, but also disability issues involving U.S. foreign aid programs, such as assuring development projects funded by the U.S. address disability issues. Over the past ten months, the Task Force generally met on the third Friday of the month to determine the role of the Task Force within CCD and discuss possible activities.

As an initial matter, the Task Force began work on a mission statement, conducted a survey of CCD member involvement in international disabilities issues, and completed a sign-on letter encouraging the administration to sign the ICRPD. A final round of requests for signatures has been sent to CCD members, with the letter anticipated to be delivered in February 2008. In October 2007 Katherine Guernsey, an expert on the ICRPD, briefed the Task Force on the drafting process of the Convention at the United Nations and the provisions contained within the Convention. The Task Force further discussed a general strategy to pursue for U.S. adoption of the Convention to include: 1) pressing the administration to sign the Convention, 2) encouraging municipal and state governments to enact the provisions of the Convention as part of local and state laws, and 3) encouraging submission of the Convention to the Senate for ratification following a U.S. signature and creating grassroots support.

The Task Force considered conducting an event around the U.N. Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2007, however, logistical and time pressures precluded such an event at that time. Since international work is not at the heart of most Task Force members responsibilities, the Task Force had to limit the scope of its work. The co-chairs hope to use the ground work laid in discussing the December 2007 event to plan an event in 2008. The Task Force co-chairs have further meet with the staff and members of the U.S. International Council on Disabilities, the U.S. Institute for Peace, and RatifyNow to discuss the ICRPD and the role the ad hoc International Task Force can play in this effort.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Task Force hopes to coordinate, or actively partner in, an event to raise awareness about the ICRPD. The event would focus on both the national and local level to create grassroots support for the Convention and encourage state and localities to adopt provisions of the ICRPD into state and local law. The event would raise both the awareness of the Convention, and increase the solidarity of the U.S. disability advocacy community with individuals with disabilities worldwide.

The Task Force also plans to address issues surrounding U.S. foreign aid, and to consider how CCD should advocate to ensure disability issues are addressed in projects funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development and other U.S. agencies.

CO-CHAIRS:

David T. Hutt, National Disability Rights Network
Marcie Roth, National Spinal Cord Injury Association

January 11, 2008