



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**CCD International Task Force
Annual Report for 2008**

2008 ACTIVITIES

Following ad hoc status in 2007, in January 2008 the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) agreed to maintain the International Task Force as a full permanent CCD task force. Throughout 2008, Task Force activities were exclusively focused on obtaining signature and eventual ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

In March 2008, the Task Force completed a sign on letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice advocating for the United States to sign the CRPD for eventual submission to the Senate for ratification. Thirty-seven CCD members sign the letter.

Most significantly, however, in September the Task Force hosted a live webcast (co-sponsored by CCD members Easter Seals, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society) entitled [The New International Disability Rights Treaty And Why the Disability Community Should Care](#). Three speakers: Katherine Guernsey, an International Attorney and Adjunct Professor at American University; Elisabeth Doyle with Power, Pyles, Sutter, and Verville's Health/Disability Practice; and Alison Hillman de Velásquez, Director of Americas Programs at Mental Disability Rights International, discussed various aspects of the CRPD. Seventy-five individuals listened to the webcast in addition to those present at the live location, and a recording of the entire webcast and a transcript is available on the Task Force website.

In addition to the webcast, throughout much of 2008 the Task Force completed significant additions to the Task Force webpage to provide more resources about the CRPD and work of the Task Force. The co-chairs also began meeting with Senate staff in anticipation that the CRPD will be submitted to the Senate for ratification in 2009.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Task Force plans to continue to educate CCD members and others about the CRPD and to encourage the United States to sign and eventually ratify the Convention. The Task Force also hopes to address other issues in 2009 around

foreign aid and disability, accessibility of U.S. embassies abroad, and State Department policies which restrict the ability of individuals with disabilities to serve in the foreign service. A list of the International Task Force recommendations in these areas is listed in the CCD [Disability Policy Recommendations for Presidential Transition and 111th Congress](#).

CO-CHAIRS:

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

February 20, 2009