Online Launch of the COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor Global Report

22 October 2020
15:00 – 17:00 CET (Geneva) / 9:00 – 10:00 EST (New York)

Click here to register
English captions and International Sign will be provided
Agenda

15:00 – 15:05 Welcome and introduction – Steven Allen, Co-Executive Director, Validity Foundation

15:05 – 15:10 Opening remarks – Prof. Gerard Quinn, incoming Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

15:10 – 15:15 Overview of the report and its general recommendations – Steven Allen, Co-Executive Director, Validity Foundation

15:15 – 15:35 Session 1: Persons with disabilities living in institutions
Personal testimony – Celeste Fernandez, Disability Unit Coordinator, Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia, Argentina
Summary of findings and recommendations – Eric Rosenthal, Executive Director, Disability Rights International
Response to the survey findings – Danlami Basharu, Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

15:35 – 15:55 Session 2: Underrepresented groups
Personal testimony – name TBC
Summary of findings and recommendations – International Disability Alliance
Response to the survey findings – Ola Abu Alghaib, UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

15:55 – 16:25 Session 3: Persons with disabilities living in the community
Personal testimony – Advocacy Centre for Women with Disabilities and Children Foundation (SAPDA), Indonesia
Summary of findings and recommendations – Innocentia Mgijima, Programme Manager, Disability Rights Unit at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria and Jamie Bolling, Co-Chair, European Network on Independent Living
Response to the survey findings – Dainius Puras, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

16:25 – 16:40 Session 4: Role of the funders during COVID-19 pandemic
Comments and call to action to funders – Diana Samarasan, Executive Director, Disability Rights Fund/Disability Rights Advocacy Fund
Response – Catherine Hyde Townsend, Senior Advisor, Disability Inclusion, Ford Foundation TBC

16:40 - 16:55 Q&A with the Coordinating Group, authorities, DPOs and others – moderated by Dom Haslam, Chair, International Disability and Development Consortium

16:55 – 17:00 Concluding remarks - Dom Haslam, Chair, IDDC

With a video contribution from Ms Ikponwosa Ero, the UN Independent Expert on Albinism
Background information

On 22 October 2020, Validity Foundation, the European Network on Independent Living, Disability Rights International, the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, the International Disability Alliance, the International Disability and Development Consortium, and the Disability Rights Fund/Disability Rights Advocacy Fund will launch the COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor Global Report.

The COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor is a major global initiative aimed at conducting rapid independent monitoring of state measures concerning the impact of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities. Launched in April 2020 and translated into 25 languages, the survey gathered, over a three-month period, over 2,100 responses from 135 countries, spanning from Argentina to Zimbabwe and covering every continent. The vast majority of responses came from persons with disabilities themselves, as well as their representative organisations.

The report will place a spotlight on how persons with disabilities worldwide were disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and the consequential States’ responses. The report will focus in particular on the lives, health and safety of persons with disabilities living in institutions, the measures targeting persons with disabilities living in the community, as well as underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities (children, homeless persons and persons living in remote and rural locations) and access to healthcare.

The launch event will gather survey respondents, organisations representative of persons with disabilities, representatives from the United Nations and civil society organisations, with the aim to advance discussion on COVID-19 disability-inclusive responses and recovery plans. This is of particular significance as countries across the globe are now faced with the second wave of the virus.

The working language of the launch event will be English, with captioning and International Sign.