



Tata Institute of
Social Sciences



INTERNATIONAL
SENIOR LAWYERS
PROJECT

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Al servicio de la comunidad mundial*



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International Conference on Disability Rights, Accessibility & Inclusion in India

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15th-17th April, 2016

Organized by:

**THE CENTRE FOR DISABILITY STUDIES AND ACTION,
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK,
TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (TISS),
THE SOCIO-LEGAL INFORMATION CENTRE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS LAW NETWORK (HRLN) AND
INTERNATIONAL SENIOR LAWYERS PROJECT (ISLP),
UK.**

IMPORTANT DATES

Last date for Abstract Submission : 7th March, 2016

Date for Acceptance of Abstract: 12th March, 2016

Last Date for Acceptance of Final Paper: 15th March, 2016

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The Centre for Disability Studies and Action, in collaboration with HRLN and ISLP, seeks to bring together key stakeholders nationally and internationally, including persons with disabilities, senior lawyers, academics and activists. This three-day conference will provide a forum for dialogue and learning to build capacity on the use of law to further the rights of persons with disability in India.

The first two days of the conference will focus on six thematic areas relating to disability and the law:

- (a) What is 'disability'? How is 'disability' defined by the law?
- (b) Access to quality education.
- (c) Employment and livelihood.
- (d) Accessibility & Disability Rights.
- (e) Schemes of governments.
- (f) Identifying critical areas of disability law that need intervention.

The third day of the conference will focus on issues around disability rights in the context of Higher Education, such as:

- (a) Disability Rights, Vulnerability & Emerging Needs
- (b) Accessibility, Inclusive Education & Higher Education.
- (c) ICT and Accessible Technology.
- (d) Attitudes, Diversity and Social Inclusion
- (e) Human Development & Social Exclusion
- (f) UNCRPD/Critical Analysis of Current Policies

After the conference, important municipal and international jurisprudence that has evolved in the last five years around the rights of persons with disabilities will be consolidated. This consolidation, along with the material, will be compiled into a printed repository.

DAYS 1 AND 2: DISABILITY RIGHTS AND THE LAW

The first two days of the conference will invite key stakeholders to focus on a selection of important topics relating to disability rights and the law. The conference will engage with these topics within a vibrant multi-disciplinary, international academic space. This is a space shared across the disciplines of Law, Disability Studies, Social Sciences, Media and Culture Studies, Literature, Psychology, Policy Practice, Science and Technology, Politics, Architecture and Planning, and Special Education. Crucially, the conference will also engage with the practicalities of the topics as experienced by persons with disabilities, as well as the implications for wider society and the legal and development sectors.

The conference will facilitate learning, sharing and dialogue among participants. This process of engagement will enable an evidence-based knowledge-building process, which will help to define and construct the instruments of change related to disability. In particular, it will consider the role of the law, internationally and domestically, in promoting the rights and access to justice of persons with disabilities.

This conference will provide a platform for disability lawyers, experts and activists across India and internationally to voice and share their experiences. This inclusive sharing process will explore the range of litigations and processes of justice which change lives and empower persons with disabilities. It is expected to provide insights on how national and international laws that affect persons with disability in India could be developed or implemented differently.

The international laws in question include the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). India has signed and ratified the UN CRPD. It has also produced a draft Bill, "The Rights of PWD Bill, 2014", which is currently pending in the Parliament. In addition, there is Indian jurisprudence, which has provided great scope on furthering the rights of persons with disabilities. For example, India's apex court mandated that the UN CRPD should be read into municipal law. The conference will consider these laws, along with strategies for ensuring they reach the public realm, and that good laws and orders are effectively replicated throughout the court system.

The conference will explore these and other important laws and legal processes applicable to persons with disabilities. It will consider how they might be shaped appropriately from the bottom up, in light of the voices and experiences of persons with disabilities, adhering to the UN CRPD statement "Nothing about us without all of us", and in coherence with the legal and human rights framework. The overall aim is to foster equality and to build towards the realisation of an inclusive vision of human growth and development.

DAY 3: DISABILITY RIGHTS AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Day 3 of the conference will focus on a range of issues connected with inclusion and accessibility for students and prospective students with disabilities in Higher Education. It builds on a pioneering TISS initiative on this subject that seeks to facilitate a barrier-free learning experience. In order to do this, it is necessary to take into account the structural, educational, social, economic and technological accessibility for students with disabilities.

The conference will be platform on which to share and develop thinking and strategies on these issues, including accessibility, ICT and technology, and students with mental illness.

WHO CAN ATTEND

Open for academicians, lawyers, human rights organisations, persons with disability, disability activists, PhD and doctoral students, NGO's, Education institutes, scholars and students from any discipline (e.g. social sciences, pure sciences, architecture, psychology, media and culture studies, disability studies, political Science, English literature).

PUBLICATION

The Centre for Disability Studies and Action, TISS, HRLN, and ISLP will facilitate publication in partnership with other universities/organisations.

REGISTRATION FEE & ACCOMODATION

All invitees & guests will be provided all the Conference & Accomodation facilities

Registration Fees for Corporates, National Institutes and NGOs: 5000/- Indian Rupees

Registration Fees: 3000/- Indian Rupees

Registration charges for Persons with Disability: 1000/- Indian Rupees

Accomodation Charges: 3500/- Indian Rupees per day in three star AC Delux Room

Registration Charges for Students: 500/- Indian Ruppes

Pick up and Drop Facility to Airport/train: 500/- one way & 1000/- Rupees both ways.

CONTACT

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