

## Conference

# The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – a European Perspective

**Maastricht University, Karl  
Dittrichzaal, Bonnefantenstraat 2**

**8-9 November, 2010**



The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) is a landmark treaty. It is the first human rights Convention of the new century; it is not merely a non-discrimination convention, but also provides for a wide range of classical and substantive rights; and, from a European perspective, it is the first human rights convention which the European Community (EC) negotiated and signed, and it will be the first such convention which the European Union (EU) will conclude. Moreover, the Convention, because of the wide ranging set of rights which it sets out to guarantee, will impose significant obligations on EU Member States. Lastly, the Convention is novel in the way that it opens the door for national and European level disability NGOs to play an important part in monitoring implementation at national and EU level.

The purpose of this conference, to be hosted by the Maastricht Centre for Human Rights and the European Disability Forum (EDF), is to examine some of the consequences of, and obligations imposed by, the UN CRPD from a European perspective. The Maastricht Centre for Human Rights and EDF are well placed to host such a conference. The Centre hosts the European Disability Forum Chair in European Disability Law, held by Prof. Lisa Waddington, and has an established track record of being at the cutting edge of global human rights research and being forward looking in its choice of research themes. The European Disability Forum is an independent European non-governmental organisation (ENGO) that represents the interests of 50 million disabled people in the European Union. It is the only European platform of disabled people, which is run by disabled people or the families of disabled people unable to represent themselves, and it participated in the negotiations which led to the Convention.

The Conference is sponsored by the Faculty of Law, Maastricht University, the European Disability Forum and Fundación ONCE.

**8 November 2010****Programme (Provisional):****Opening****11.00 – 11.30**

Dean of the Law Faculty and EDF President

**Introduction****The UN CRPD****11.30 – 12.00**

Locating the UN CRPD within the Body of UN Human Rights Law  
Prof. Theo van Boven, Maastricht University

**12.00 – 12.30**

Introduction to the UN CRPD and the work of the CRPD  
Committee

Ana Pelaez, Vice-Chair (2009-2010) of the UN Committee on  
the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and  
member of the EDF Executive Committee

**12.30 – 13.00**

Reflections on the Work of the UN Committee on the Rights of  
Persons with Disabilities, and the role of NGOs – Lessons to be  
Learnt from the CEDAW Committee

Prof. Cees Flinterman, Maastricht University and member of the  
UN Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of  
Discrimination against Women

**13.00 – 14.15 Lunch****European Responses and Developments****14.15 – 14.30**

Speaker from the European Commission or the Belgian  
Presidency (tbc)

The European Union and the UN CRPD

**14.30 – 14.50**

The Implications of the Conclusion of the UN CRPD for the  
European Community

Prof. Lisa Waddington, EDF Chair in European Disability Law,  
Maastricht University

**14.50 – 15.10**

Monitoring and Implementing the UN CRPD within Europe – at  
the National and EC Level

Prof. Gerard Quinn, Director of the Centre for Disability Law &  
Policy, National University of Ireland, Galway

**15.10 – 15.30**

The role of organisations of persons with disabilities in the  
implementation and monitoring of the CRPD,  
Stefan Trömel, Executive Director of the International Disability  
Alliance (IDA)

**15.30 – 16.20 Discussion****16.20 – 16.40 Tea / Coffee Break****16.40 – 17.00**

Presentation on results of EC funded Study on Challenges and  
Good Practices in the implementation of the UN CRPD

Marilena Vrana, European Foundation Centre, Brussels

**9 November 2010****Intersectionality and the UN CRPD****9.15 – 9.35**

The UN CRPD and Gender – Implications for the EU and its Member States

Dr. Ineke Boerefijn, Utrecht University and former Opzij Chair, Maastricht University

**9.35 – 9.55**

The UN CRPD and Children - Implications for the EU and its Member States

Dr. Jan CM Willems, Maastricht University, and former International Children's Rights Chair, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

**9.55 – 10.15 Discussion****10.15 – 10.35 Tea / Coffee break****Focus on Specific Provisions of the Convention – implications for the EU and the Member States:****10.35 – 10.55**

Accessibility (Art. 9 et al) - Implications for the EU and the Member States

Dr. Rune Halvorsen, NOVA Norwegian Social Research, Oslo

**10.55 – 11.15**

Work and Employment (Art. 27) – Implications for the EU and the Member States

Maria Ventegodt Liisberg, Danish Human Rights Institute, Copenhagen, Ph.D. researcher Maastricht University

**11.15 – 11.40**

International Cooperation, Development Aid and Disability (Art. 32); the relevance of UN CRPD for EU external relations  
Dr. Kate Rose-Sender, Maastricht University

**11.40 – 12.30 Discussion****12.30 – 13.00**

Conclusion and response from informal rapporteurs

**Information**

For more information please visit our homepage:

[www.law.unimaas.nl/uncrpdandeuropa](http://www.law.unimaas.nl/uncrpdandeuropa)

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Registration fee € 50,- including conference participation; information pack; tea/coffee breaks; one lunch.

[Click here to register](#)