



Center for the Rights
of Persons
With Disabilities

Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities

Side Event

18th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD

June 9, 2025, 1.15 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.

Conference Room 11, United Nations

Full and unfettered access to legal proceedings by persons with disabilities plays a pivotal role in recognizing every person's full equality. The guarantee of access to justice in Article 13 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a unique provision in international human rights law, protecting the right of equal recognition before the law in legal proceedings and incorporating all of the procedural safeguards guaranteed by international and domestic law.

This side event to the 18th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD aims at raising awareness of the particularly strong procedural protections the Convention guarantees to Persons with Disabilities. It highlights that CRPD States Parties need to fundamentally change their traditional structures of legal proceedings to comply with their treaty obligations

In this side event, we bring together a wide array of experience and expertise on the requirements of persons with disabilities in legal proceedings. Persons with disabilities will bear witness to their experiences with denials of access to justice, a former Chair of the CRPD Committee will delineate the content of the guarantee, the current Chair of the CRPD Committee and an organization of persons with disabilities will outline ongoing efforts on the domestic and international levels to put Article 13 into practice. Finally, international organizations will report on the insights their programs on access to justice can yield.

Moderator

- Markus Schefer, CRPD Committee, Center for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Basel, Switzerland

Speakers (in alphabetical order)

- Lisa Lamont Adams, UNDP, Global Disability Fund's Research and Diversity Advisor
- Grace Agcaoili, UNICEF, Justice for Children Global Technical Lead
- Steven Allen/Simona Florescu/Sándor Gurbai, Validity Foundation
- Rio Hada, OHCHR, Chief of Equality, Development and Rule of Law Section
- Rosemary Kayess, CRPD Committee (former Chair), Disability Discrimination Commissioner of Australia
- Miyeon Kim, Chair of the CRPD Committee
- Jonas Pauchard/Olga Manfredi/Tatjana Binggeli, Inclusion Handicap Switzerland

