

About CBM

CBM is an international Christian development organisation, committed to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities in the poorest countries of the world. Based on its Christian values and over 100 years of professional expertise, CBM addresses poverty as a cause and a consequence of disability. We work in partnership to create a society for all. CBM's vision is: "an inclusive world in which all persons with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential".

Working together with partner organisations and persons with disabilities, CBM seeks to overcome these barriers through a twin-track approach. One track addresses the empowerment of persons with disabilities and their families, regardless of their nationality, age, sex or religion. This is done through providing equal access to affordable and comprehensive health care and rehabilitation programmes, quality education programmes and livelihood opportunities. The other track simultaneously works towards breaking down the barriers that exclude persons with disabilities while promoting an accessible social and physical environment to ensure active their participation in community-based activities, planning and decision making. Through advocacy and within the framework of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPWD), CBM strives to eliminate discriminatory practices and stigma related to disability. For further information please see <http://www.cbm.ie>

About CDLP

The Centre was formally established in 2008 and is dedicated to produce research that informs debate on national and international disability law reform. Its formation coincides with one of the most intensive periods of disability law reform in Ireland as well as internationally.

The adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2007 should help accelerate this worldwide trend and give it further direction. The disability action plans of both the European Union and the Council of Europe help frame the policy choices facing Ireland and other European Member States. In addition, the Irish Governments' National Disability Strategy of 2005 provides a clear strategic direction and an unprecedented opportunity for rational developments in the field. The main challenge ahead is implementation and the Centre will produce research that contributes to that process.

The Centre has a dynamic research programme and a PhD programme, which addresses these issues. For further information please see <http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp>



The Key Role of Local Government in Promoting Disability Inclusion – Ireland and the World

A one – day seminar aimed at elected representatives, local authority officials, academics, disability organisations and disability activists.

Venue: G Hotel, Galway
Date: Monday 6th December 11.00am - 5.00pm
Official Reception 5.30pm - 7.00pm
Fee: €35 Registration, free for unwaged and students

- **Do you believe that local government could do more to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in their local communities?**
- **Are you interested in learning about innovative ways in which local authorities in Ireland and the developing world have overcome barriers to disability inclusion at a local level – and in a cost effective way?**

If so

- You should join us for a one-day seminar on “The Key Role of Local Government in promoting disability inclusion – Ireland & the World” being organised by CBM Ireland and the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUI Galway in the G Hotel, Galway on Monday 6th December.
- You will hear about effective approaches that have been used in Ireland and other parts of the world to promote the fuller participation of people with disabilities in the lives of their communities.
- Let your colleagues know about this seminar if you think they would have an interest in attending.

Purpose of Seminar

Local authorities are vital ‘**gateways into the mainstream**’ for people with disabilities. If inclusion is to become a reality, it will have to be spearheaded by practical initiatives at a local level, and in active partnership with persons with disabilities.

Ireland has much to offer, as well as to learn, from countries in other parts of the world in order to achieve full inclusion of people with disabilities. There are over 650 million persons with disabilities in the world – most of whom live in developing countries. Some of the **best practice on social inclusion and local government is happening in developing countries.**

The Seminar Programme is packed with interesting speakers who will present a global, European and local perspective on the issue of disability inclusion. Professor Gerard Quinn of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUI Galway, will speak about the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, and its implications for signatory States (including Ireland), local governments and the disability movement worldwide. Local Government representatives from the developing world will provide an overview of **cost-effective, community-based approaches** to disability inclusion in their countries.

Various European initiatives that promote accessibility for people with disabilities will be profiled, including a European Commission - European Cities Access Award.

Irish local authorities will showcase some of the impressive work that they have been doing in the **area of accessibility and disability** inclusion. Disability activists who have worked in partnership with local government will evaluate their experience and consider strategies for **enhancing future collaboration.**

Keynote Speakers

- **Deputy Michael D. Higgins**, Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs, The Labour Party
- **Professor Gerard Quinn** Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland Galway and expert on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- **Mayor Michael Crowe**, Mayor of Galway City Council
- **David Mc Allister**, CEO of CBM Ireland – a leading Disability and Development NGO
- **Disability Representative**, Galway Community Forum
- **Jack Keyes**, County Manager, Cavan County Council (Recipient of the Overall non-private sector Award at O2 Ability Awards 2010)
- **Emma Breiden** Access Officer, Cavan County Council
- **Mayor Rony Molina**, San Jose de Buena Vista Province, the Philippines
- **Ms Ging Molina**, Community organiser and disability activist in the San Jose de Buena Vista Province, the Philippines
- **Ms Fionnuala Gilsean**, Director Civil Society Section, Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs
- **Agustina Palacios**, Mayor’s office, Mar Del Plata, Argentina

Official Reception

An **Official Reception** will be held in the G Hotel following the seminar. Refreshments and canapés will be provided. Deputy Michael D Higgins will be the Guest Speaker. He will welcome Mayor Rony Molina and his wife to Ireland. A new documentary will be screened, featuring the work of Galway-based ophthalmologist, Dr. Eamon O’Donoghue featuring his work with visually impaired children in South America and Asia. All welcome to attend.