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|  | **harvard-seal***Harvard Project on Disability* |

4th International Disability

Summer School

## The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – How to Use it

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Pictured are participants at the 3rd International Summer School, June 2011

## 18th – 23rd June 2012

## Centre for Disability Law & Policy, National University of Ireland, Galway, Republic of Ireland

School Directors: Professor Gerard Quinn (NUI Galway, Ireland) & Professor Michael Stein (Harvard Project on Disability)

With opening address by President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/summer_school/2012/welcome.html>

[disabilitysummerscho@nuigalway.ie](mailto:disabilitysummerscho@nuigalway.ie)

## Testimonials from 3rd International Summer School 2011

“Empowering, informative, consciousness raising”

“Offers an awareness of activism by disability rights organisation across the globe”

“Very impressed with the calibre of the speakers and the diverse range of attendees”

“Extremely informative and well organised”

“The personal experience of the lecturers was illuminating…realising possibilities and potential that are still open to me as a person with a disability”

“I am know more aware of the diversity of people and opinion with the PWD Community…and the distance between reality and the aspirations of the convention. I can now look at things more critically”

## About the School

The purpose of this six day International Summer School is to equip participants with the insights and skills necessary to translate the generalities of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into tangible reform for persons with disabilities.

The participants will include persons with disabilities, their families, civil society groups of persons with disabilities as well as advocates for disability law reform, lawyers, policy makers, policy analysts and others.

The faculty includes senior academics, practitioners and policy makers from around the world most of whom have been directly and actively engaged in drafting and implementing the Convention.

This is the fourth International Summer School on disability law & policy offered by the Centre for Disability Law & Policy and the second in conjunction with the Harvard Project on Disability. Last year it attracted over 80 participants from 18 different countries around the world which probably makes it one of the biggest such events.

This year we will be particularly honoured by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, who has graciously agreed to give an opening address at the Summer School. He takes a great interest in disability issues and has been a tireless campaigner throughout his long political life for the rights and interests of persons with disabilities in Ireland and indeed throughout the world.

The teaching faculty include Professor Theresia Degener (Member of the German delegation in the negotiations and member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Bochum University, Germany), Dr. Michael Bach (Inclusion International & Canadian Association for Communtiy Living, Toronto), Professor Jerome Bickenbach (Swiss Paraplegic Institute & University of Lucerne, Switerland), Professor Nora Groce (University College London), Andrea Coomber (INTERIGHTS London), Gauthier de Beco (University of Louvain, Belgium), Dr. Eilionoir Flynn (specialist on comparative disability strategies, Centre for Disability Law and Policy at the National University of Ireland, Galway), Janet Lord (Research Associate, Havard Law School Project on Disabiiity and International Disability Rights Legal Practitioner) and Mr. Eric Rosenthal (Disability Rights International, Washington DC).

The programme will introduce participants to the nature of the convention, to treaty interpretation in general, to the general obligations of States to reform, to the specific obligations of States with respect to social rights, to the general concept of equality in the convention. It will draw out the differences between obligations of immediate effect (non-discrimination) and obligations of conduct (to ‘progressively achieve’) social and economic rights and how to identify which provisions in the convention create which kinds of obligations. It will focus on certain core rights such as the right to legal capacity, the right to independent living, and the right to political participation. It will deal with multiple discrimination on grounds, e.g., of disability, gender, age, children. It will also focus on important provisions in the convention protecting people with disabilities against violence, exploitation and abuse. It will look at the practical institutional changes needed to give effect to the convention at national level (the obligation to create a ‘focal point’, etc). It will look at the international monitoring mechanism under the convention and how civil society can interact effectively with it. And it will explore the implications of the CRPD for development aid programmes throughout the world.

A key feature of the Summer School will be its emphasis on imparting practical skills in using the convention – no matter your region or country. There will be sessions on how to interact with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the relevant treaty monitoring body), how to draft Shadow Reports, how to craft effective complaints under the Optional Protocol and how to influence the drafting of Questions by the UN Committee to the States Parties.

In keeping with the practical orientation of the Summer School there will be a Moot Court competition based on a problem disseminated at the beginning of the Summer School and culminating in a mock court at the end. All participants are expected to be involved at some level. **Prior legal knowledge or experience is not required**. The aim is to provide the participants with a forum to sharpen their argumentative strategies based on the CRPD and to identify weaknesses as well as strengths in the different argumentative approaches. They will be mentored throughout the week in crafting their arguments by the international Faculty. It is likely to be a mock Complaint before the UN Committee on the most topical issue of concern around the world at the moment which concerns legal capacity law and the right of persons to make their own decisions and chart their won path through life.

## Fees and Scholarship

The fee for the Summer School is €300. The fee covers attendance on the 6 day teaching programme and a social evening event at the end of the week. The course fee covers the cost of teaching, teaching materials, lunch and refreshments during teaching hours.  Accommodation is not covered by the course fee. The course fee must be paid by credit card.

**Participant places are limited, and will be reserved on a first come first served basis.**

A course fee waiver concession will be available for a limited number of applicants from NGO’s (this may be a part or full course fee waiver and is at the discretion of the Summer School).  If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please email [disabilitysummerscho@nuigalway.ie](mailto:disabilitysummerscho@nuigalway.ie) with details of why you feel you should be considered for a scholarship by 31st March 2012.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact us at: [disabilitysummerscho@nuigalway.ie](mailto:disabilitysummerscho@nuigalway.ie).

Registration is now open at: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/summer_school/2012/welcome.html>

For more information about the Centre for Disability Law and Policy see: [**www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/**](http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/)**.**

For more information on the Harvard Project on Disability see: [**www.hpod.org**](http://www.hpod.org)**.**

## Visas

It is the responsibility of delegates to arrange travel visas where necessary. The CDLP can provide letters of registration for Embassies/Consulates where required.

Draft Programme

#### Venue for the week: Áras Moyola, North Campus, NUI Galway

## Monday 18th June – Context & Background

### 9.00 - 11.00am Welcome:

Professor Willie Golden, Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law, NUI Galway

### Introduction to the Programme

* Introduction to the Convention
* Its Place/Interaction among other HR treaties

Professor Gerard Quinn, Director, CDLP

The Treaty as a Statement of Transformative ValuesProfessor Jerome Bickenbach, Swiss Paraplegic Institute & University of Lucerne, Switzerland

11.00 - 11.15amTea & Coffee Break

11.15 - 12.00am People Power: ‘Nothing About Us Without Us’ How civil society crafted the convention and its future role in implementation/monitoring (Articles 4.3 & 33.3)

Steven Estey, Canada, DPI Delegation to UN Ad Hoc Committee

12.00 - 12.30pm Keynote Opening Address by the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins

### 12.30 - 2.00pm Lunch

### 2.00 - 3.00pm The Treaty as a Legal Instrument – How to Use it Interpretative Tools & Policing Reservations

Professor Dennis Driscoll (CDLP), former Legal Advisor to the Department of Foreign Affairs (Dublin)

### Distribution & Introduction to Moot Court Problem

Faculty

## Tuesday 19th June – Foundational Elements & Core Rights

9.15 - 11.00am What Obligations to Reform do States have under the Convention?General Obligations of States to Reform

Janet Lord, Harvard Law School Project on Disability; BlueLaw International; University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

### 11.00 - 11.20am Tea & Coffee Break

### 11.20 - 1.00am Slippery Obligations - What is ‘Progressive

### Achievement’ for Social Rights– how do we know when

### States have made sufficient progress: Inclusive Education as a case study. (Article 4.2 and Article 24)

Professor Rosemary Kayess, University of New South Wales (Sydney)

### 1.00 - 2.00pm Lunch

### 2.00 - 3.45pm Key Rights – Personhood - The Right to Make Your own Decisions & have them Respected by others (Article 12 & Legal Capacity)

Michael Bach, Inclusion International & Canada Association for Community Living, Toronto

### 3.45 – 4.00pm Tea & Coffee Break

### 4.00 - 5.30pm Key Rights – Personhood – Models of Supports to enable people exercise their legal capacity

Michael Bach, Inclusion International & Canada Association for Community Living, Toronto

David Stanton, T.D., Chair of the Joint Oireachtas (Irish Parliment) Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality.

## Wednesday 20th June – Core Rights

### 9.15 - 11.00am Getting your Own Life: The Right to Live Independently and be Included in the Community (Article 19)

Camilla Parker, Just Equality, author of "Forgotten Europeans – Forgotten Rights: The Human Rights of Persons Placed in Institutions" (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Europe Regional Office, 2011) and (with Luke Clements) "The European Union and the Right to Community Living: Structural Funds and the European Union's Obligations  
under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" (Open Society Foundations, 2012)

### 11.00 - 11.20am Tea & Coffee Break

11.20 - 1.00pm Making your Voice Heard: Influencing Public Policy – The right to Political Participation

Janet Lord, Harvard Law School Project on Disability; BlueLaw International; University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law & with Steven Estey, Canada, DPI Delegation to UN Ad Hoc Committee

### 1.00 - 2.00pm Lunch

### 2.00 - 3.30pm Protecting People against Violence, Exploitation and Abuse & the Criminal Process (Article 13)

Eric Rosenthal, Disability Rights International, Washington DC

### **3.45 – 4.00pm** Tea & Coffee Break

### 4.00 – 5.30pm Disability Interacting with other Identities: Multiple Discrimination, Intersectionability, Disability, Children, Women and Age

Professor Theresia Degener, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

### Evening Social Event (TBC)

## Thursday 21st June – Impacting Processes of Change: Getting the Most from the Convention

### 9.15 - 11.00am Primary International Process: The Disability Convention Monitoring Process- Interacting effectively with the CRPD processes (Articles 34-39)

Andrea Coomber, Interights, London

### 11.00 - 11.20am Tea & Coffee Break

### 11.20 - 1.00pm Secondary International Process: Interacting with other Treaty Mechanisms. The impact of the CRPD on other UN human rights treatises & mechanisms – how to use those mechanisms

Andrea Coomber, Interights, London

### 1.00 - 2.00pm Lunch

### 2.00 - 3.45pm The Domestic Process: Interacting effectively with New Domestic Processes for Change: (Article 33). New national ‘focal point’; new national ‘coordinating mechanism’; new national ‘framework for monitoring’

Gauthier De Beco, University of Louvain, Belgium

### 3.45 – 4.00pm Tea & Coffee Break

### 4.00 – 5.30 pm Kick starting the Process of Change: Leveraging Development Aid to Enhance the Process of change. International Cooperation – Towards inclusive development aid (Article 32)

Professor Nora Groce, Cheshire Chair on Disability, University College London, UK

## Friday 22nd June – Tools to Make Arguments from the Convention

### 9.15 – 11.00am CRPD and World – Connecting Regional Strategies to the achievement of the CRPD: Europe, Africa, Asia, Americas

Dr. Eiliónoír Flynn, Senior Researcher, CDLP, Galway

### 11.00 - 11.20am Tea & Coffee Break

### 11.20 - 1.00pm Measuring Success: Towards Human Indicators on the CRPD. (Article 31)

Professor Jerome Bickenbach, University of Lucerne, Switzerland

### 1.00 -2 .00pm Lunch

### 2.00 - 3.30pm Team Preparation for Moot Court with Faculty Members

### 3.45- 4.00pm Coffee

### 4.00 - 5.00pm Team Rehearsals: Arguments for Moot Court

## Saturday 23rd June – Moot Court Day

### 9.15 - 11.00am Moot Court Competition – oral arguments of the Teams before Faculty

Chair of Mock UN Committee: Martin Naughton, co-chair European Network for Independent Living

### 11.00 - 11.30am Tea & Coffee Break

### 11.30 - 12.00pm Moot Court Judgment

Presentation of Certificates for attendance at Summer School to participants by Martin Naughton

Certificate for best Moot team

Certificate for best overall advocate

Close of Summer School

# Biographies

## Michael Bach

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|  | Michael Bach is Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Association for Community Living, a national federation of over 40,000 members, 400 local and 13 Provincial/Territorial Associations for Community Living. Michael Bach is Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Association for Community Living, a national federation of over 40,000 members, 400 local and 13 Provincial/Territorial Associations for Community Living. He is also Managing Director of The Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society – IRIS. |

For over twenty years, he has undertaken research and development on law, policies and programs in Canada and internationally on ways to advance the full inclusion and human rights of persons with intellectual disabilities. Michael Bach is Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Association for Community Living, a national federation of over 40,000 members, 400 local and 13 Provincial/Territorial Associations for Community Living. He is also Managing Director of The Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society – IRIS. For over twenty years, he has undertaken research and development on law, policies and programs in Canada and internationally on ways to advance the full inclusion and human rights of persons with intellectual disabilities. His research covers a range of policy areas including education, employment, and funding and delivery of community-based services, and he has published numerous monographs, articles, and chapters in books. His particular area of expertise is in legal capacity of people with intellectual disabilities, and he recently completed a study for the Law Commission of Ontario with Lana Kerzner titled *A New Legal Paradigm for Protecting Autonomy and the Right to Legal Capacity*. He also recently co-authored *Journey to Inclusive Education in the Indian Sub-Continent* with Mithu Alur, published by Routledge Press. He holds a PhD in Sociology and Equity Studies from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. His dissertation focused on developing a more inclusive theory of personhood on which to challenge the usual equation between intellectual disability and legal incapacity.

## Gauthier de Beco

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|  | Gauthier de Beco holds a J.D. from the K.U.Leuven, an LL.M. from the University of Nottingham and a Ph.D. in Law from the University of Louvain.  He is head of the CRPD Unit at the Belgian Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism which was designated independent mechanism to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the Convention. |

He is also regular consultant on Article 33 CRPD to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and several NGOs. He is Associate Researcher at the Centre for Philosophy of Law of the University of Louvain (where he taught from 2005 to 2009) and Fellow at the Institute for Human Rights of University College London (where he taught from 2011 to 2012).

Gauthier de Beco is the author of many publications in the field of human rights including a monograph on Non-Judicial Mechanisms for the Implementation of Human Rights in European States (Bruylant, 2010) and an edited volume on Human Rights Monitoring Mechanisms of the Council of Europe (Routledge, 2011). He is currently editing a volume on Article 33 CRPD: Structural Foundations for the Implementation and Monitoring of the Convention (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, forthcoming 2012).

He is member of the Working Group on the Role of the EU in UN Human Rights Reform (COST Action IS0702) and of the editorial board of the *Revue trimestrielle des droits de l’homme* (the reference journal for international human rights law in the French-speaking world).

## Jerome Bickenbach

Disability Policy Unit Head, Swiss Paraplegic Research

Steering Committee member, ICF Research Branch of WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications in German

Department of Health Sciences & Health Policy at the University of Lucerne

Dr. Jerome Bickenbach is a full professor and holds the Research Chair in the Department of Philosophy and Faculties of Law and Medicine at Queen’s University. He is the author of *Physical Disability and Social Policy* (1993) and the co-editor of *Introduction to Disability* (1998), *Disability and Culture: Universalism and Diversity* (2000), *A Seat at the Table: Persons with Disabilities and Policy Making* (2001), *Quality of Life and Human Difference* (2003) and numerous articles and chapters in disability studies, focusing on the nature of disability and disability law and policy. He was a content editor of Sage Publications’ five 5 volume *Encyclopaedia of Disability.* His most recent book is Ethics, Law and Policy in the Sage Disability Resource Library*.* Since 1995 he has been a consultant with the World Health Organization (WHO) working on drafting, testing and implementation of the ICF, and continues to consult with WHO on international disability social policy. His research is in disability studies, using qualitative and quantitative research techniques within the paradigm of participatory action research. Most recently his research includes disability quality of life and the disability critique, disability epidemiology, universal design and inclusion, modelling disability statistics for population health surveys, the relationship between disability and wellbeing, disability and ageing issues and the application of ICF to monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As a lawyer, Prof. Bickenbach was a human rights litigator, specializing in anti-discrimination for persons with intellectual impairments and mental illness. Since 2007, he has headed the Disability Policy Unit at Swiss Paraplegic Research in Nottwil, Switzerland and is Professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Lucerne.

## Andrea Coomber

Andrea Coomber is an Australian qualified lawyer, with a BA and LLB (Hons) from the University of Western Australia and an LLM (Dist.) from the London School of Economics.  After practicing as a discrimination lawyer in Australia, Andrea spent five years living and working in human rights in New Delhi, Geneva and Cairo.  Andrea joined INTERIGHTS in 2002, where she initiated the development of the organisation’s work on disability.  As the Senior Lawyer on the Equality Programme she advised and co-represented applicants before the European Court of Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the UN treaty bodies, and submitting briefs of *amicus curiae*, including in landmark European Court cases such as DH and Others v the Czech Republic, Nachova v Bulgaria and Opuz v Turkey.  Now the Legal Director, Andrea manages INTERIGHTS' legal team and is responsible for the development of strategy across the organisation.  Andrea sits on the litigation advisory bodies of a number of international human rights organizations and regularly lectures on international human rights law and equality in Europe and North America. Andrea has a particular interest in the human rights of persons with disabilities and in violence against women.  Andrea signs (BSL).

## Theresia Degener

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|  | Theresia Degener is professor of law and disability studies at Evangelische Fachhochschule RWL - University of Applied Sciences in Bochum, Germany and a member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She studied law in Frankfurt am Main Germany and Berkeley, California, USA. She has been teaching law in Germany, Finland, Ireland, South Africa and USA. She is an affiliate to the *Harvard Law School Project on Disability*, |

USA and a board member of the *Centre for Disability Law and Policy* at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa.

In addition she is a board member of the German Institute on Human Rights and a member of the *Expert Group on Inclusion* of the German Section of UNESCO. She is a founding member of the German association on disability studies.

She has been working as a legal advisor to the German Government during the negotiation process of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which was adopted in 2006. During the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee which produced the first draft of the CRPD she acted as the representative of Germany.

Her research fields are international human rights, anti-discrimination law and gender and disability studies.

## Dennis Driscoll

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|  | Dennis Driscoll is a former Dean of the Law School at NUI Galway, where he taught International Law, International Human Rights, and Corporate Social Responsibility. He is also a former Visiting Professor at Harvard University and at Peking University Law School, where in 2004-2005, as the Raoul Wallenberg Institute Visiting Professor of Human Rights, he became the first Professor of Human Rights in the history of China |

Since the late 1990s, he has pursued his interests in Corporate Social Responsibility and in Comparative Corporate Governance.

He has given workshops on CSR or Corporate Governance to more than 500 companies in Europe and in Emerging Markets, especially in China, and, more recently, in the Middle East and Africa.

He is currently Visiting Professor of Management at Strathclyde Business School and at Koç University Business School in Istanbul. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy at NUI Galway.

## Steven Estey

Based in Canada, Steven Estey is an independent consultant on international disability rights. For many years he was the human rights officer at Disabled Peoples’ International (DPI), an International NGO, focussing on the Human Rights of disabled people.

Steven has travelled widely, working with Disabled Peoples’ Organizations, Governments, and UN Agencies. Over time he has developed wide experience in the areas of international cooperation, economic development, human rights and disability. He has testified before Parliamentary committees in Canada and spoken on Human Rights and people with disabilities at the United Nations and in many countries around the world.

From 2003, until the successful conclusion of the negotiations in 2006, Steven was the Adviser to Canada’s official delegation to the UN, which drafted the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD). At the same time he was the staff support person at DPI sharing information and assisting members to prepare for meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee. After the CRPD was adopted by the UN General Assembly, in 2006 Steven led DPIs work to encourage UN members to both sign and ratify the treaty. Steven left DPI in 2010 and has since worked globally on a variety of initiatives targeted at effective implementation and robust monitoring of the CRPD with UN Agencies, NGOs and National Human Rights Institutions.

## Eilionóir Flynn

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|  | Eilionóir is currently working as a researcher at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy on the a project titled, “ [Advancing Ireland’s National Disability Strategy: Building on Comparative and International Innovation](http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/projects/strategies.html)”. This project will undertake a detailed examination of the structure of Irish disability law and policy, using the upcoming review of the National Disability Strategy as a catalyst for change.  Her research interests include assisted and supported decision-making, rights-enforcement mechanisms and access to justice generally. |

She has tutored in Constitutional Law and Legal Aspects of Professional Nursing at University College Cork (UCC).

Eilionóir graduated with a BCL from UCC in 2006 and has completed her PhD thesis there entitled "Advocacy Services for People with Disabilities – A Comparative Study of Disability Rights Enforcement in Ireland and Victoria”. Her thesis explores the potential of a right to advocacy to improve access to justice for people with disabilities and examines the implementation of this right in the domestic legal framework of both comparative jurisdictions, using principles of international human rights law as a basis for reform.

As part of her PhD research she attended La Trobe University, Melbourne, as an Honorary Visiting Fellow in 2007 to work with Professor Lee Ann Basser and to observe practice at the Office of the Public Advocate. Eilionóir also received a Government of Ireland Scholarship for her PhD research from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences during 2008-2009. She has presented her work at a number of national and international conferences and is currently focusing on publishing the findings of her PhD.

## Nora Groce – *biography tbc*

## Michael D. Higgins

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|  | On 11 November 2011, Michael D. Higgins was inaugurated as the ninth President of Ireland.  A passionate political voice, a poet and writer, academic and statesman, human rights advocate, promoter of inclusive citizenship and champion of creativity within Irish society, Michael D. Higgins has previously served at almost every level of public life in Ireland, including as Ireland's first Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht.  *[Taken from his official biography]* |

## Rosemary Kayess

Rosemary Kayess has extensive disability policy experience. She has held ministerial advisory roles with both the state and federal government on disability and carer issues and was the external expert on the Australian Government delegation to the United Nations negotiations for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Rosemary has had extensive research experience working and advising on a variety of social research projects including access to justice, human rights and disability, guardianship, young people in nursing homes.

Her research areas include Access to justice; Human rights and disability; Guardianship; Young people in nursing homes.

## Janet Lord

Janet E. Lord is an international disability rights lawyer who is currently senior research associate at the Harvard Law School Project on Disability and senior partner at BlueLaw International, LLP, an international law and development firm where she directs the human rights and disability inclusive development practice.

She participated in all of the negotiating sessions during the drafting of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, serving as legal advisor to Disabled Peoples’ International, several lead governments and as technical expert to the United Nations. She has designed, managed, and implemented projects addressing disability law and policy in more than 30 countries worldwide.  She consults regularly for a variety of international organizations, including the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Disability Programme, UNDP, USAID, the EU, GTZ, the World Bank, CARE, Chemonics International, Disabled Peoples’ International, Handicap International France, and the International Foundation for Election Systems. She has published widely in the area of human rights, international disability law and inclusive development. She is adjunct professor of law at American University, School of International, Service, and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. She holds degrees from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland), George Washington University Law School and Kenyon College.

## Martin Naughton

Martin Naughton is a long-time disability advocate/campaigner. He is one of the people who brought Centre for Independent Living to Ireland and has been a champion of the independent living movement with his role as co-executive director at the European Network of Independent Living. He also works as Regional Support Officer with the Disability Federation of Ireland. Recently, Martin established Áiseanna Tacaíochta (pilot funded project through Genio), which is a cost-effective user-led network, that empowers its members to move from dependency on disability service providers to managing their own personal budgets and services in a mainstream market environment. It offers its members the opportunity to direct their own Personal Assistant Services using the philosophy of the Independent Living Movement.

## Camilla Parker

Camilla is one of the founding partners of *Just Equality –* a human rights and equality consultancy based in London, UK. She is a qualified lawyer, with a Masters in Human Rights and Civil Liberties (LLM (with Distinction) 1992) and since 1997 has worked as an independent consultant, specialising in mental health, disability and human rights law and policy. She also works as a consultant for the Open Society Mental Health Initiative. Camilla is a member of the Mental Health and Disability Committee of the Law Society of England and Wales and an LLM tutor at Cardiff University, Wales. She was a Special Adviser to the Joint Committee on Human Rights during its inquiry into the human rights of adults with learning disabilities’ (see *A Life Like Any Other? Human Rights of Adults with Learning Disabilities’* 2008).

She is a member of the Advisory Council for the European Coalition for Community Living. Camilla has a particular interest in the human rights of young people in need of mental health care, which is the subject of her (part-time) doctoral research at Cardiff Law School.

Camilla’s publications include: Open Society Foundations, *The European Union and the Right to Community Living: Structural Funds and the European Union’s Obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,*2012 (with Luke Clements) and United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Europe Regional Office, *Forgotten Europeans – Forgotten Rights: The Human Rights of Persons Placed in Institutions*2011.

## Gerard Quinn

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|  | Gerard Quinn is the Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy at the NUI Galway School of Law.  Called to the Irish Bar in 1983, he holds a masters (LL.M.) and doctorate in law (S.J.D.) from Harvard Law School.    His specialization is international and comparative disability law and policy.   He is a member of the Irish Human Rights Commission and helps co-ordinate the work of National Human Rights Institutions worldwide on disability issues. |

He led the delegation of Rehabilitation International (RI) during the UN Working Group that elaborated the basis for the new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

He has worked in the European Commission (as a civil servant), and held a number of posts such as Director of Research for the Irish Government’s Law Reform Commission and Vice President of the European Committee of Social Rights (Council of Europe).  He sits on various advisory boards dealing with disability law and policy issues such as the Commonwealth Secretariat, SOROS-OSI (Washington, DC), Disability Rights Fund (Boston, MA), European Foundation Centre Consortium on Disability(Brussels), European Coalition for Community Living (London), Interights (London).   
  
In January 2012 President Michael D. Higgins appointed Professor Quinn to the Republic of Ireland’s Council of State.

## Eric Rosenthal

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|  | Eric Rosenthal is founder and Executive Director of Disability Rights International. Since establishing Disability Rights International in 1993, Rosenthal has trained human rights and disability activists and provided technical assistance to governments and international development organizations worldwide.  Rosenthal has conducted investigations in more than 25 countries of Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas and published reports on the human rights of people with disabilities in nine countries. |

MDRI reports have brought unprecedented worldwide press coverage and attention to the concerns of people with disabilities.   
  
 Rosenthal and his work have been profiled in The New York Times Magazine, ABC News 20/20, Good Morning America, and Nightline and has been the subject of main editorials in The New York Times, The International Herald Tribune, and The Washington Post. Rosenthal has served as a consultant to the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the US National Council on Disability (NCD).  On behalf of NCD, he co-authored ***US Foreign Policy and Disability*** (September 2003), a report that led to legislation to make US foreign assistance accessible to people with disabilities.

## David Stanton, T.D.

David Stanton was first elected as a TD for Cork East Constituency in the general election in 1997. He has served as a TD for the area for the past fifteen years having been re-elected to Dail Eireann in 2002, 2007 & 2011. He has previously held various party spokespersons positions including Disability, Dail Reform and Social and Family Affairs, in addition to junior spokesperson positions in Finance, Agriculture and Education.

Mr. Stanton is currently chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality which has been dealing with a number of very important legislative areas including the proposed Mental Capacity Bill and proposed Personal Insolvency legislation.  The Committee has also been examining criminal justice matters and mediation legislation, missing persons, penal reform and a range of equality and defence issues.

As a TD for Cork East his priorities for the area include:

* Youth & children’s facilities, education, childcare and school places
* Local infrastructure, transport and community and sports facilities
* Local enterprise and employment opportunities
* Agriculture and fishing industries

Other areas of special interest to him are:

* People with disabilities, older people and carers
* Political and local government reform