

DPI e-update
3 December 2009

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<http://v1.dpi.org/lang-en/resources/newsletters>

**** E-news for Week ending 4 December 2009 ****

Welcome to Disabled Peoples International's (DPI's) E-news. Please continue to send your activities, conference information, and publications news to Dr. Cassandra Phillips at info@dpi.org. This week we celebrate the work of various groups and organizations in empowering persons with disabilities.

The annual observance of the United Nation's International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December promotes a fuller understanding of disability issues and the human rights of persons with disabilities. This year's theme, "Making the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Inclusive: Empowering Persons with Disabilities and their Communities around the World" recognizes the tremendous potential of the new Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a mechanism for the empowerment of the global disability community.

The Convention marks a "paradigm shift" in attitudes, by challenging the old view persons with disabilities as "objects" of special treatment and charity and by making it clear that persons with disabilities, like all people, are "subjects" of the international human framework with exactly the same rights and freedoms as everyone else.

****Congratulations to UNESCO****

DPI wishes to congratulate the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on its commitment toward empowering persons with disabilities through information and communication technologies (ICTS).

Over the last decade, the world has witnessed rapid advancement in ICTs, opening up new avenues for development around the world. ICTs have the potential to improve quality of life by providing access to education, employment and health services. Indeed, the empowerment of persons with disabilities through effective use of ICTs is not a charity but the fulfillment of fundamental human rights.

UNESCO promotes the concept of knowledge societies that are inclusive, pluralistic, equitable, open and participatory. To read more go to <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001847/184704e.pdf>

****Congratulations to UNICEF****

UNICEF's work to ensure that children with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as all other children focuses on changing existing negative attitudes and prejudice in society as well as improving the structures and accessibility of health, welfare and education systems.

UNICEF and the Victor Pineda Foundation, with the active participation and input from children with disabilities, developed a child-friendly

text for the Convention titled It's about Ability. To read this document in French, English, Spanish and other languages, follow the links at

http://www.scribd.com/people/documents/15196765/folder/112030?secret_password=2kahdvsx2tkl9lrke2vm

To read more about UNICEF's work with children and HIV, follow links at <http://www.unicef.org/index2.php>

****Congratulations to the Stephen Lewis Foundation****

The Stephen Lewis Foundation supports community-based organizations working to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Since 2003, it has funded more than 300 projects in 15 countries. These grassroots groups are the lifeline for their communities: they provide counselling and education about HIV prevention, care and treatment; distribute food, medication and other necessities; reach the sick and vulnerable through home-based health care; help orphans and vulnerable children access education, and support grandmothers caring for their orphaned grandchildren. The MDGs are being fiercely compromised in many African countries by the pandemic of HIV/AIDS.

The Foundation has helped to expose the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to HIV infection. At the AIDS-Free World's and DPI's XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, the organizations called for the immediate inclusion of people with disabilities in national and global AIDS surveys and in all AIDS research, data collection and programming. To read more, go to

<http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/whatwedo.htm>

****Congratulations to DRPI****

Disability Rights Promotion International (DRPI) is a collaborative project working to establish a monitoring system to address disability discrimination globally. DRPI has adopted a holistic approach to disability rights monitoring, with three focus areas: individual experiences monitoring, systemic monitoring and media monitoring.

Monitoring involves collecting and verifying information about human rights abuses. More comprehensive information on the experiences of people with disabilities could be a powerful tool for promoting the social change needed to realize the full participation and equality of people with disabilities. Credible and accurate data about the human rights situation of people with disabilities can persuade governments that abuses are occurring and that action is needed to fulfill human rights obligations. Recording information about individual experiences can uncover a pattern of discrimination affecting large numbers of people. Data outlining the extent of disability discrimination can promote greater awareness of the need for social change, can provide facts and figures useful for lobbying and other advocacy, and can supply governments with credible documentation to support the creation of

more inclusive social policies and laws.

To read more go to <http://www.yorku.ca/drpi/index.html>

****Congratulations to DPI Members****

Finally, DPI congratulates its membership on a year of hard work as we forge ahead in making the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its ratification a reality.

****Course on Disability, Sexuality and Rights****

CREA is a feminist human rights organization based in the global South and led by women from the global South. CREA's DISABILITY, SEXUALITY AND RIGHTS ONLINE TRAINING (An Online Course for Practitioners and Activists in Human Rights, Public Health and Development Organizations and Movements) takes place 1 February to 1 April 2010. Applications are due December 18, 2009. To access application form or to view brochure, follow links at <http://web.creaworld.org/home.asp>
If you have trouble accessing the forms, please email [<cearle@creaworld.org>](mailto:cearle@creaworld.org)

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