

DRG NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

Welcome to the DRG Monthly Newsletter!



Dear DRG members,

This milestone 60th issue marks an important period for the Disability Reference Group. We are happy to invite our 650+ members to the first-ever DRG Annual Meeting on March 19th, a dedicated space to reflect on our progress and shape our two-year work plan.

Our focus remains firmly on the Humanitarian Reset, highlighted by our recent global meeting with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), the IASC secretariat and UN OCHA. This momentum carries into the upcoming Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW) in Geneva, where we will lead critical sessions on the inclusive transition of power.

Additionally, we bring news of the Crimes Against Humanity Treaty (**webinar today!**) and the official recognition of the Disability Caucus by the UNFCCC. This month's updates underscore our collective commitment to ensuring no one is left behind in humanitarian action.

Kindest Regards,

Kirstin Lange (UNICEF)

Ulrike Last (Humanity & Inclusion)

Gordon Rattray (International Disability Alliance)

UPDATES FROM THE DRG

FIRST EVER DRG ANNUAL MEETING

We are pleased to announce and invite all DRG members to the first DRG annual meeting, which will take place online on **Thursday 19th March from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm CET** on Zoom platform.

During the meeting, we will look back and reflect on the work of the DRG, providing space for members to exchange views, learnings and experiences; and look forward, presenting and discussing the DRG work plan for the next two years, and identifying priority areas for our ongoing collaboration.

With over 650 members, the DRG remains an active engaging platform for collaboration on disability inclusive humanitarian response. Our work continues to focus on strengthening the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, ensuring that no one is left behind in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

Join Zoom DRG Annual Meeting

19 March from 1.00 to 4.00 pm CET

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87130635997?pwd=A3NTtvbnVKN4UgNYoUdVXL646ehqXw.1>

Meeting ID: 871 3063 5997

Passcode: 961892

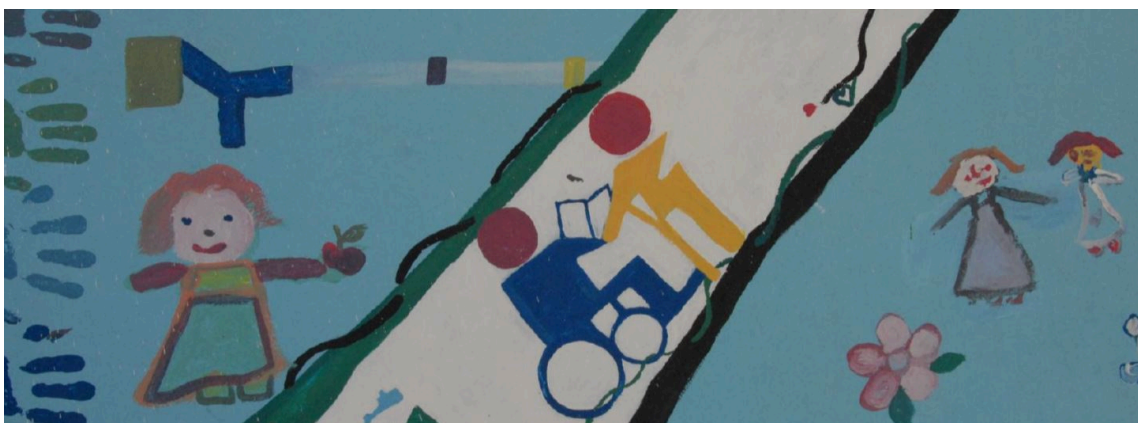
We would like to thank you for your ongoing engagement and active participation, and to encourage you to join our annual meeting. More information will be sent to DRG members shortly.

HUMANITARIAN RESET AND ORGANISATIONS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (OPDS) MEETING

On 25 February, the DRG hosted a meeting of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) from around the world together with the IASC Secretariat and representatives from UN OCHA. This meeting was part of a larger DRG initiative to strengthen the meaningful participation of local and National OPDs in the Humanitarian Reset. During the call, we had an overview of the Reset from the IASC Secretariat, followed by experience from OPDs and OCHA offices in four countries. We then had a very active Q and A session. There were more than 80 participants from more than 15 countries.

DRG MEMBERS UPCOMING EVENTS AND UPDATES

TOWARDS INCLUSIVE JUSTICE - ADDRESSING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY TREATY



by CBM

Event Details

Title: Towards Inclusive Justice - Addressing Persons with Disabilities in the Crimes Against Humanity Treaty

Date: Thursday, 5 March 2026

Time: 9:00–10:30 AM (US EST) / 3:00–4:30 PM (CET)

Registration link: [here](#)

Language: English

Accessibility: Sign-language interpretation & live captioning will be provided

As negotiations continue on the draft articles for a future Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity, this session explores a crucial and long-overlooked dimension: the historical, legal, and lived-experience realities of crimes committed against persons with disabilities. The webinar will feature contributions from:

- The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities
- State representatives
- A diverse panel of OPDs, legal experts, and human rights organizations

Speakers will highlight the importance of ensuring that the future treaty aligns with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and guarantees accessible justice for all survivors. The invitation can be found [here](#).

Register for webinar here

**INCLUSION AREA OF COMMON CONCERN
EVENTS AT THE HUMANITARIAN
NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS WEEKS**

The Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW) will take place in March 2026, in a slightly modified format.

- **02–06 March:** Online sessions
- **10–12 March:** In-person sessions at the CICG in Geneva

The HNPW 2026 has been streamlined and restructured to give it a more strategic direction. Unlike in previous years, the 2026 event will feature two **Network Days** on Tuesday, 10 March, and Thursday, 12 March, with a central **Community Day** on Wednesday, 11 March. This day will be dedicated to the Keynote Session and discussions within the Areas of Common Concern (AOCC), focusing on critical issues central to the humanitarian reset. This will include dedicated discussions on inclusion in the humanitarian reset. We are pleased to share with you all events on Inclusion Area of Common Concern.

COMMUNITY DAY AT THE HUMANITARIAN NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS WEEKS (HNPW) 2026 - 11 MARCH



HNPW 2026 Community Day Inclusion Area of Common Concern Inclusive Transition of Power

11 March 2026, 11:00 to 17:30 CET, Hybrid event



[Capturing Learning: 11:00-12:30 Register here](#)

[Generating Actions: 14:00-15:30 Register here](#)

[Consolidating Outcomes: 16:00-17:30 Register here](#)

Join the Inclusion Area of Common Concern (AOCC) for a series of three interconnected sessions exploring how power can be transitioned from international partners to national, local and community actors in ways that strengthen inclusion.

International Sign and live captioning in English will be provided online.

by OCHA

We are pleased to invite DRG members to the HNPW event

HNPW 2026 Community Day

Inclusion Area of Common Concern Inclusive Transition of Power

Date: 11 March 2026

Time: 11:00 to 17:30 Geneva time

Registration: You can register for face-to-face (in person) or remote attendance. You have to register for each session separately. For those attending the sessions remotely, you will receive a link to preregister from un.org via email.

International Sign and live captioning in English will be provided online.

Join the Inclusion Area of Common Concern (AOCC) for a series of three interconnected sessions exploring how power can be transitioned from international partners to national, local and community actors in ways that strengthen inclusion. Through structured dialogue among community, local, national and international stakeholders, these sessions will surface agreed outcomes to advance an inclusive Humanitarian Reset that addresses the underlying inequalities driving vulnerability and promotes sustainable, efficient coordination across all levels.

Held back-to-back in a single day, three sessions will move from learning to action and agreement, collectively producing practical recommendations and a consolidated set of priority outcomes ready for presentation to the Emergency Relief Coordinator at the closing session of HNPW 2026. These three events:

Capturing Learning (11:00–12:30), Register [via this link](#)

Generating Actions 14:00–15:30) Register [via this link](#).

Consolidating Outcomes (16:00–17:30) Register [via this link](#).

will move from exchange and learning to concrete action and collective agreement – producing practical, agreed outcomes that advance an inclusive, sustainable transfer of power under the Humanitarian Reset.

We invite community leaders, local/national and global OPDs and NGOs, international humanitarian actors, policymakers and other stakeholders committed to an inclusive, equitable humanitarian future to take part in this important community day.

Join us for a focused, action driven day where together we will turn lived experience into a powerful, agreed plan to reshape who holds power in humanitarian action

Title: Who's in the Driver's Seat? Centering Locally-Led Protection Analysis across Analysis-Informed Planning, Response and Transition

Organizer: Global Protection Cluster, Protection Analysis Local Actor Network (convened by IRC), Oxfam, Danish Refugee Council, CBM, ProLAC, Action Against Hunger

Date and time: 4 March , 14:00-15:30, Remote

Session abstract: Protection risks impacting on the lives of millions are complex and need shared understanding and cooperation among everyone involved in humanitarian work – including a meaningful role for local actors and affected communities. Although global policies stress the importance of analyzing protection risks and humanitarian needs from the point of view of those most affected, the voices of crisis-affected people and their organizations are often left out when prioritizing, interpreting, and making decisions based on the analysis. In recent years, there have been efforts to improve how protection analysis is done and used within interagency spaces, including the HNRPs; however, there has been an evident gap in meaningful inclusion of local actors within this process.

More information: [here](#)

Title: DELTA Resilience: Enabling the Use of Disaster Impact Data for Risk-Informed, Inclusive and Climate-Resilient Humanitarian Action

Organizers: UNDRR, RCCC

Date and time: 5 March, 14:00-15:00, Remote

Session abstract: Humanitarian needs are rising as communities, especially the most at-risk population groups, are repeatedly affected by more frequent, severe and unpredictable climate-related hazards. Despite growing evidence on climate-related risks and impacts, and on the socio-economic drivers of vulnerability and exposure patterns, humanitarian decisions are still often taken with limited use of risk information, reducing our ability to anticipate impacts, protect the most vulnerable and minimise losses. Making humanitarian action genuinely risk-informed is therefore essential to ensure that responses are timely, targeted, inclusive and climate-resilient, while also addressing the underlying risk factors that can compound and trigger acute and protracted crises.

More information: [here](#).

Title: Foundational Literacy, Numeracy, and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) in Crisis: Evidence and Innovations to Strengthen Learning Outcomes for Crisis-Affected Children

Organizer: IRC

Date and time: 5 March, 14:00-15:00, Remote

Session abstract: The International Rescue Committee (IRC) and partners will convene a session that brings together global experts, country practitioners, and researchers to explore cutting-edge evidence and scalable solutions for foundational literacy, numeracy, and SEL in humanitarian contexts.

More information: [here](#).

Title: Localising Humanitarian Action With, For, and By Young People

Organizers: UNICEF, Change The Code Campaign, ActionAid, and the Global

Platforms, under the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action

Date and time: 5 March, 14:00-15:00

Session abstract: This session will explore how existing global frameworks and tools—including the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action, the IASC Youth Guidelines, and the Young Humanitarian Handbook—can be leveraged to advance localisation and embed meaningful youth leadership across the Humanitarian Programme Cycle. In the context of the ongoing Humanitarian Reset, the discussion will highlight both opportunities and gaps in ensuring young people are recognised as essential actors within the humanitarian system.

More information: [here](#).

Title: Saving lives or selecting lives? Challenging assumptions in the Humanitarian Reset

Organizers: ICVA, HelpAge International, Humanitarian Policy Group at ODI Global

Date and time: 12 March, 9:00-10:30, Hybrid, Salle 9

Session abstract: This event aims to critically examine and question assumptions about life-saving humanitarian action by reframing it through an inclusion lens. It will explore how dominant definitions of life-saving shape funding and operational decisions, and how these choices can unintentionally exclude those most at risk.

More information: [here](#).

[More about HNPW can be found here](#)

HISTORIC CLIMATE ACTION WIN: DISABILITY CAUCUS SECURES OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

by IDA

The Disability Climate Caucus has now been officially recognised by the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This is a great step forward. It comes after continued effort by the disability movement over many years. Advocates will continue to push for full status as a Disability Constituency, which will mean that the voice of persons with disabilities has an equal place with the rest of society in the UNFCCC mechanism.

[MORE INFORMATION HERE](#)

WORLD HEARING DAY 2026: A CALL TO ACTION FOR HEARING CARE IN SOMALIA



by SDN

World Hearing Day, observed every year on 3 March and led by the World Health Organization, SDN joins [the global call](#) to raise awareness about hearing loss prevention and care. More than 1.5 billion people worldwide live with some degree of hearing loss, including 430 million with disabling hearing loss, and the number is expected to increase in the coming years.

In Somalia, although exact data is unavailable, many children and youth are affected and face barriers in education and employment. SDN calls for stronger screening, treatment, inclusive education, improved data collection, job opportunities for deaf youth, and the development of a national policy on hearing care and prevention.

[ACCESS THE CALL TO ACTION HERE](#)

Send us your job opportunities!

GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DRG

VIEW ALL NEWSLETTERS

Please share any feedback you may have on the content and format of this Newsletter with us. You can send any material you want to be included in the next issues of the Newsletter by the last Monday of the month via email: info@disabilityreferencegroup.org

