

DRG NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

Welcome to the DRG Monthly Newsletter!



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Dear DRG members,

This month we have a packed edition of the DRG newsletter, with thanks to the contributions by our members. June will be a busy month, with the annual [Conference of States Parties \(CoSP\) to the CRPD](#) providing an important space for reflection on the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of a shifting humanitarian landscape. In this edition we share information about the upcoming CoSP. As you will read below, there are many events related to persons with

disabilities in humanitarian contexts, including those being organized by our members.

We also share new guidance on inclusion of persons with disabilities in drills and simulations; and a resource library on feeding and nutrition for children with disabilities. This newsletter also includes information on opportunities for OPDs and NGOs to access funding, including through the PSEA Outreach Fund and the Disability Rights Fund.

As always we encourage all DRG members to share any updates, new resources, upcoming events and other relevant information to include in our newsletter.

Kindest Regards,

Kirstin Lange (UNICEF)

Ulrike Last (Humanity & Inclusion)

Gordon Rattray (International Disability Alliance)

COSP19 SECTION

COSP19 IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER



Next week, [the 19th session of the COSP](#) will start **at the United Nations Headquarters, New York**, and will last **from 9 to 11 June 2026**. The opening meeting on 9 June will be held in the General Assembly Hall. We are pleased to

share with you COSP19 update, list of side-events related to humanitarian action, invite you to the side- events and Civil Society Forum.

Themes and Sub-themes

Overarching theme: CRPD at 20: celebrating and consolidating achievements and shaping the next phase of implementation in a changing world

Sub-theme for Roundtable 1: Creating a world free from exploitation, violence and abuse for all persons with disabilities

Sub-theme for Roundtable 2: Resilient societies: strengthening care and support systems to ensure the empowerment, autonomy and independence of all persons with disabilities

Sub-theme for Roundtable 3: From participation to representation: enhancing accessible civic engagement, leadership and advocacy in political and public life.

Please find some important updates:

1. GENERAL DEBATE SUBMISSIONS

The COSP General Debate will be organised and will begin on the first day of the Conference, 9 June 2026, in the UN General Assembly Hall.

2. CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON 8 JUNE

The Civil Society Coordination Mechanism (CSCM), which is facilitated by the International Disability Alliance, hosts a Civil Society Forum (CSF) the day before the Conference each year to amplify the voice and facilitate adequate and active participation of persons with disabilities. This year, the CSF will be held on Monday 8 June. The Civil Society Forum will follow a format of a “People’s Assembly” or a Townhall meeting. Following a brief opening, four substantive sessions will be held.

The sessions will be focused on specific pre-determined topics. They will be a mirror of this year’s [three COSP themes/roundtables](#), focusing on civil society perspectives and issues CSOs deem most appropriate under each theme. This year’s CSF will also include a segment on Gains, Gaps and the Future in a Reforming UN.

3. SIDE EVENTS

The list of official COSP19 side events is available [here](#).

4. CIVIL SOCIETY REGISTRATION AND UN PASSES

Civil Society Registration for COSP19 closed on 8 May 2026. Registered participants can **pick up their passes starting at 8:30am on Monday 8 June.**

The registration desk will be located at the UNITAR Building, located at 801 1st Avenue and 45th Street, New York, NY 10017. The desk will be open during the following dates and times:

Monday 8 June 2026 | 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Tuesday 9 June 2026 | 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Wednesday 10 June 2026 | 9 am to 12:30 pm

For NGOs registered and approved via Indico, please bring your **PRINTED** confirmation letter (which was sent to you by email via Indico) and a government-issued photo identification (passport, state-issued driver's license, or similar documents) for the issuance of your UN Temporary Grounds Pass.

5. CIVIL SOCIETY BRIEFING

The International Disability Alliance is pleased to invite all civil society representatives attending COSP19 to an informal briefing. This briefing will be held **ONLINE and will be recorded and shared by email.**

 **When:** Tuesday 2 June 2026

 **Time:** 9.30 am to 11.00 am EDT (New York time)

This meeting is open to all CSO representatives, and we will discuss the week ahead and share relevant information for CSO participation. International Sign will be provided.

COSP 19 SIDE-EVENTS ON HUMANITARIAN ACTION

8 June, Monday

Title: **Adding a New Seat Around the Table: Overview of the Progress and Next Steps for the Movement of Refugees with Disabilities**

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Organizer: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) and Global Network of Refugees with Disabilities (GNRD)

Location: Virtual Participation (Online)

Web link: [here](#)

Title: **Who Leads? People with Disabilities and Protection in Humanitarian Contexts**

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Organizer: International Rescue Committee IRC, Inclusion International and CBM

Location: Virtual Participation (Online)

Web link: [here](#)

9 June, Tuesday

Title: **Preparedness, Protection and Response for Persons With Disabilities in Times of Emergency**

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Organizer: Israeli Mission to the UN, Beit Issie Shapiro

Location: In Person (UN Headquarters). C-6

Web link: [here](#)

Title: **War Crimes Against Persons with Disabilities: Rethinking International Humanitarian Law**

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Organizer: Ukrainian Permanent Mission to the UN, International Partnership for Human Rights, the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights, OPD Fight For Right; Validity Foundation - Mental Disability Advocacy Center; CBM Christoffel-Blindenmission Christian Blind Mission e.V.; Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) at Ruhr University Bochum Global Rights Compliance (GRC); New Society Institute Canada

Location: In Person (UN Headquarters). C-12

Web link: [here](#)

Title: **The importance of social services for mine victims in realization of their human rights under the CRPD**

Time: 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Organizer: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations

Location: In Person (UN Headquarters). C-12

Web link: [here](#)

Title: **Scaling OPD-led Solutions for Inclusive Education in Emergencies**

Time: 4:45 PM - 6:00 PM

Organizer: Inclusion International, International Disability Alliance, International Disability and Development Consortium, Permanent Mission of Colombia (TBC), Permanent Mission of Niger (TBC)

Location: In Person (UN Headquarters), C-C

Web link: [here](#)

10 June, Wednesday

Title: Access to Justice: Ensuring a Disability-Inclusive Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Organizer: International Disability Alliance, Initiative for Disability Inclusion in the Convention on Crimes against Humanity, International Refugee Assistance Project, Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict, Validity, Amnesty international, Fight for Right

Location: Virtual Participation (Online)

Web link: [here](#)

Title: Sustainable Peace is Inclusive: Persons with Disabilities as Contributors to Peace Processes

Time: 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Organizer: Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations, Abilis Foundation

Location: In Person (UN Headquarters), CR-11

Web link: [here](#)

Title: Towards an Arab World Free from Exploitation and Violence Against Persons with Disabilities

Time: 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Organizer: Arab Organization of Disabled People, International Disability Alliance(IDA), League of Arab States(LAS)

Location: In Person (UN Headquarters), CR-C

Web link: [here](#)

Title: CRPD and Refugees Rights: Have Parties fulfilled their obligations to ensure protection and safety for displaced persons with disabilities?

Time: 4:45 PM - 6:00 PM

Organizer: Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations

Location: In Person (UN Headquarters), CR-11

Web link: [here](#)

The current list side-events at CoSP19 on humanitarian action are from the link [here](#), where you can find all the other side events happening at CoSP19.

CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Under the auspices of the 19th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CoSP19)

Civil Society Forum for the COSP19



Monday 8 June 2026, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Conference Room 4,
UN Headquarters, New York

The [Civil Society Coordination Mechanism](#) (CSCM), which is facilitated by the [International Disability Alliance](#), hosts a Civil Society Forum (CSF), as an addition to the COSP, to leverage the opportunity to amplify the voice and facilitate adequate and active participation of persons with disabilities.

- **When?** 8 June 2026
- **Time?** 10am to 1pm and 3pm to 6pm
- **Where?** Conference Room 4 of the United Nations in New York
- **Webcast.** Not going to be in New York for the COSP? Follow the webcast live: [AM session](#) [PM session](#)
- **Program can be found [here](#) with plain language and accessible version [here](#)**

The Civil Society Forum will adopt a “People’s Assembly” format, welcoming speakers from a variety of sectors, prioritising civil society organisations. Three sessions will align with the sub themes of COSP, while the fourth will address the overarching theme of the 20th anniversary of the CRPD, incorporating broader United Nations reform processes.

- Session 1: 20 Years of the CRPD: Gains, Gaps and the Future in a Reforming UN
- Session 2: Creating a world free from exploitation, violence and abuse for all persons with disabilities
- Session 3: Resilient societies: strengthening care and support systems to ensure the empowerment, autonomy and independence of all persons with disabilities
- Session 4: From participation to representation: enhancing accessible civic engagement, leadership and advocacy in political and public life.

At the conclusion of the Forum, a Civil Society statement will be issued, reflecting the key themes and outcomes of the day’s discussions. The language

of the Civil Society Forum will be in English only. International Sign and Captioning will be provided.

A note on registration: If you already registered to the COSP ([more info on this page](#)), you do not need to register for this event, too. But ensure you have registered to the COSP. The registration for COSP19 has closed now, so if you have not yet registered, please join us next year instead.

WHO LEADS?

People with Disabilities and Protection in Humanitarian Contexts

Online Side Event to COSP19

Who leads?

People with Disabilities and Protection in Humanitarian Contexts

People with disabilities are the most at risk in emergencies and among the least involved in protection responses.

Join this side event to hear experience, evidence and recommendations from Organisations of People with Disabilities on how to change this.

Link to join

bit.ly/WhoLeadsCosp19



Monday, 8th June 2026

10 am New York time

English, International Sign Language

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations New York

Inclusion International

cbm christian blind mission

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 8th June 2026, 10 am New York time

Articles 11 and 16 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities affirm States Parties' obligation to protect persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies—yet women and girls with disabilities, especially those with intellectual disabilities, remain disproportionately affected by gender-based violence (GBV), institutionalization, neglect, and exclusion from protection systems.

A [survey of national, local, and representative organisations](#), echoed at the HNPW 2026 event [Who's in the Driver's Seat?](#), identified three key barriers to meaningful participation: limited resources, accessibility challenges, and tokenistic engagement. Yet when Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) are supported as leaders and equal partners, protection and GBV responses become more accurate, accessible, survivor-centered, and sustainable—as demonstrated by an [IRC and Inclusion International project](#) with adolescent girls in Ethiopia and Burkina Faso, and by ongoing IRC and CBM work in Ukraine, Palestine/Gaza, Cameroon, Niger, and South Sudan. To center these voices at COSP19, the IRC, Inclusion International, and CBM will host this side event, bringing together international, regional, and national actors to explore how shifting power toward OPD leadership strengthens GBV prevention and protection systems—and how humanitarian actors and donors can operationalize "Nothing About Us Without Us."

Join this side event to hear experience, evidence and recommendations from Organisations of People with Disabilities.

[Link to join](#)

UPDATES FROM DRG MEMBERS

GUIDE FOR INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN DRILLS AND SIMULATIONS



by ASB, AWO and CBM

The **“Guide for inclusion of people with disabilities in drills and simulations”** has recently been published. This guide was developed under the programme *“Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Central America”* (Phase 2), implemented by a consortium of Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) Germany, AWO International, and Christian Blind Mission (CBM), in partnership with 8 local organisations and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The guide provides a practical tool to ensure the **active, safe, and dignified participation of persons with disabilities** in all stages of drills and simulations, from planning to evaluation. It is grounded in the principles of accessibility, human rights, and non-discrimination, and aligned with key frameworks including the CRPD, the Sendai Framework, and regional disaster risk reduction policies.

The Guide includes:

1. The conceptual bases related to key frameworks & minimum standards, along with disability and its impact in emergencies.
2. Separate sections on inclusive emergency drills, inclusive simulations, and inclusive communication, each accompanied by accessible video explanations
3. Tools Include: Role/responsibility matrices, Model script for organizing drills and simulations, Assistive device kits, List of Inclusive situations and scenarios, Accessibility checklists, post-simulation action plans.

[Access the Guide](#)

[Access the videos](#)

STAY UPDATED WITH THE EDF GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

by EDF

The EDF Global Action Newsletter provides updates on EDF's work to advance disability inclusion in EU international cooperation, humanitarian action, and global policy processes. As the world's largest provider of development and humanitarian aid, the European Union plays a key role in shaping inclusive global policies and funding priorities.

Through the newsletter, readers can follow EDF's advocacy towards EU institutions and international actors on issues such as humanitarian assistance, climate action, disaster preparedness, global health, accessibility, and disability rights in external action. The newsletter also shares opportunities for engagement, new publications, events, and updates from partners and organisations of persons with disabilities worldwide. For previous editions, click on [this link](#).

[Subscribe to the EDF Global Action Newsletter](#)

RESOURCES ON FEEDING AND NUTRITION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

by SPOON

SPOON is a global NGO working to eliminate malnutrition for children with disabilities. Children with disabilities are at high risk for malnutrition. They are 34% more likely to be stunted and 25% more likely to be wasted compared to children without disabilities. Up to 80% of children with disabilities experience feeding difficulties. Children with disabilities and their families can experience significant barriers to accessing feeding and nutrition support, especially in humanitarian emergencies. SPOON advocates for humanitarian nutrition and early child development programs to prioritize children with disabilities.

Visit [SPOON's resource library](#) to access research, advocacy briefs, and feeding resources. You can also watch SPOON's [Zero Project fireside chat](#) or contact DRG

member Juan Cobeñas to learn more.

[Access SPOON website](#)

UPCOMING AND CURRENT CALLS

PSEA OUTREACH FUND CALL FOR APPLICATION

by ICVA

ICVA and UNHCR are pleased to announce the launch of the 2026 round of the Interagency Community Outreach and Communication Fund on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA Outreach Fund). Since 2020, the PSEA Outreach Fund has supported 78 projects in 41 countries.

The 2026 call for applications aims to support local and national NGOs and CSOs by financing PSEA outreach and communication activities as well as systems strengthening to better protect at-risk communities in humanitarian settings.

The Fund specifically seeks to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) perpetrated by aid workers or other people associated with aid organisations against the people they are supposed to assist.

For 2026, the Fund offers two grant types through a single application process. Applicants can apply for both, or select the track that best matches their context, capacity, and ambition.

[Key Information](#)

New for 2026: Two grant types

Short-term grants of up to USD 20,000 are available for projects of 4 to 6 months, designed to address immediate PSEA outreach and communication needs (activities to be completed in 2026).

Multi-year grants of up to USD 70,000 are available for projects of 12 to 24 months, designed to support deeper, longer-term change in communities and organisations. Multi-year applicants must be members of their national PSEA Network. Consortium applications from two or more organisations are encouraged for the multi-year track.

Eligible countries for 2026:

Afghanistan, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lebanon, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen.

Who can apply:

Local and national NGOs, CSOs, and NGO networks with experience in PSEA or protection outreach at community level. Applicants must have a PSEA or safeguarding policy in place and an annual budget of at least USD 100,000. International NGOs and UN agencies are not eligible.

The Fund receives a very high volume of applications – in previous years, over 1,000 applicants. Due to this volume, only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Screening will be concluded by 10 July 2026.

Deadline for applications: 14 June 2026, 23.59 CET

Guidance & Application Form

DISABILITY RIGHTS FUND - 2026 GRANT ROUND—NOW OPEN!

Since 2008, the Disability Rights Fund is committed to funding grassroots, national, and regional organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs). DRF 2026 call for Letters of Interest from Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in sub-Saharan Africa, South and South-East Asia, and Pacific Island Countries is now open. Most grants awarded in 2026 will be under \$50,000, and will support 12 months of work.

Please take note of the following key deadlines:

- **Deadline to submit your LOI: Sunday, 21 June 2026 at 23:59 EDT (Eastern Daylight Savings Time, e.g. New York and Port-au-Prince time)**
- Invitations to successful applicants: Tuesday, 28 July 2026
- Deadline for full applications (invited organizations only): Sunday, 23 August 2026
- Final grantmaking decisions: December 2026
- Successful projects start: 1 January 2027

Submissions is open through DRF portal which you can access by clicking [here](#).

More information can be found here

CRPD COMMITTEE PUBLISHES A NEW CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS ON TWO DRAFT GENERAL COMMENTS RELATED TO ARTICLE 11 CRPD

The CRPD Committee has published a new call for submissions on two draft general comments related to article 11 CRPD (situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies):

- No.1. Draft General Comment on the obligation of States parties in situations of risk
- No.2. Draft General Comment addressing the Impacts of Situations of Risk

The deadline for submissions on these two documents is **July 10th, 2026!** Please read carefully the relevant information and instructions available at the CRPD Committee dedicated webpage.

[Access CRPD Committee website](#)

HUMANITARIAN NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS WEEKS (HNPW) 2026 REPORT

by OCHA

We are pleased to share the report for the 2026 Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week, titled "**Shaping the Humanitarian Reset: From Global Commitments to Local Action.**"

This year's report brings together the key insights, reflections, and commitments that emerged across the week, including:

- Highlights from the keynote conversation featuring Faiza Altamimi, Hashim Amiri, Anna Tazita Samuel, and Jonas Habimama, in dialogue with the UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher.

- Outcomes from Community Day, structured around four core themes: transition of power, resilience and sustainability, streamlined coordination and efficiency, and innovative financing.
- Findings from the pre-event survey, capturing perspectives from across the humanitarian ecosystem.
- Key results and commitments submitted by session organizers, reflecting the concrete outputs and forward-looking actions generated during HNPW 2026.

We hope this report serves as a valuable resource and a catalyst for continued collaboration as we collectively work toward a more locally driven, resilient, and effective humanitarian system.

[Access HNPW report here](#)

Job opportunities!

Vacancy: Migrant Women and Disabilities Expert Consultant

by UN Women

UN Women is hiring an international consultant to support the development of a policy brief on migrant women and disability. We would be very grateful if you could kindly share this vacancy widely within your network. [The announcement with a link to apply are online.](#)

[Apply online](#)

Send us your job opportunities!

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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

