



## Mind the Gap: The Need for an Inclusive Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

### COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor Side event #COSP13

**Date and time:** 4th December 2020, 10:00 – 11:15 EST (16:00 – 17:15 CET)

**Organisers:** Validity Foundation, European Network on Independent Living, Disability Rights International, the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, the International Disability Alliance, the International Disability and Development Consortium, and the Disability Rights Fund/Disability Rights Advocacy Fund

**Working language:** English, with captioning and International Sign

**Register here:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ot-yDwpETZWK8QQ-irbZcg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ot-yDwpETZWK8QQ-irbZcg)

#### Agenda:

*Co-moderated by Ines Bulic Cojocariu, Deputy Director, European Network on Independent Living & Melanie Kawano-Chiu, Evaluation and Learning Manager, Disability Rights Fund*

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| 10:00 – 10:05 | Welcome and introduction by the moderator   |
| 10:05 – 10:15 | Brief presentation of ‘Disability rights during the pandemic: A global report on findings of the COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor’ – Steven Allen, Co-Executive Director, Validity Foundation |
| 10:15 – 11:10 | Moderated discussion focusing on the continued impact of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities and examples of inclusive responses by DPOs and/or Governments                                   |

#### Themes & questions:

**Access to health:** Why are the triage policies discriminating against persons with disabilities still in place eight months on?

**Institutions:** How long can we expect that persons with disabilities will continue to be locked, with contact with the outside world prohibited?

**Data collection:** Why are very few countries collecting data about the number of persons with disabilities infected with COVID-19, including the number of infections and deaths in closed settings?

**Independent monitoring of closed settings:** Why is there very little monitoring in place and what are the consequences?

**Panel:**

- **Sholih Muhdlor**, Advocacy Centre for Women with Disabilities and Children Foundation (SAPDA), Indonesia
- **Ellen Clifford**, Disabled People Against the Cuts (DPAC), UK (TBC)
- **Namugabwe Petwa**, Triumph Uganda (TBC)
- **Dr Alarcos Cieza**, Coordinator, Blindness and Deafness Prevention, Disability and Rehabilitation, World Health Organisation
- **Dr Elizabeth Lockwood**, United Nations Task Group Co-ordinator, International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC)
- Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) (TBC)
- A member of the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network (TBC)

11:10 – 11:15                      Summary of recommendations and closure of the event – Eric Rosenthal, Executive Director, Disability Rights International

**Description:**

On 22 October 2020, Validity Foundation, the European Network on Independent Living, Disability Rights International, the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, the International Disability Alliance, the International Disability and Development Consortium, and the Disability Rights Fund/Disability Rights Advocacy Fund launched the COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor Global Report (see: <https://www.covid-drm.org/statements/covid-19-disability-rights-monitor-report-highlights-catastrophic-global-failure-to-protect-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities>).

The report, based on over 2,100 responses from 134 countries, placed a spotlight on how persons with disabilities worldwide were disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and the consequential States' responses. It focused in particular on the lives, health and safety of persons with disabilities living in institutions, the measures targeting persons with disabilities living in the community, as well as underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities (children, homeless persons and persons living in remote and rural locations) and access to healthcare.

The aim of the side event is to focus on the role of organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) in contributing to the pandemic response. Areas addressed will be persons with disabilities living in institutions, those living in the community and underrepresented groups.

After presenting the main findings of the COVID-19 DRM Global Report, examples of DPO response (i.e. good practices) gathered by the DRM Coordinating Group will be presented. This will be followed by a discussion of lessons learned, to be applied during the ongoing second wave of the pandemic and in the process of recovery. Recommendations made will be placed in the framework of governments' obligations under the CRPD and the 2030 Agenda.

To date, there have been limited global efforts at understanding the impact of the pandemic on persons with disabilities and a complete lack of independent monitoring or data collection to inform an inclusive response. In this side-event, we will discuss the role that civil society can play, and the need for donors and the international community to agree on a framework to monitor the impacts in real time.