More than Four Months in War: Latest Update on Ukrainians with Disabilities

Date and Time: Tuesday June 14, 8:15am-9:30 am EDT

Accessibility: CART, International Sign Interpretation, and simultaneous interpretation to Ukrainian and English

In-Person Location: Trusteeship Council Chamber

Webcast: The event will be webcast on UN Web TV.

Main sponsor: Ukraine

Co-sponsors: The Permanent Missions to the UN of: the European Union, Lithuania, Poland, and the United States, the International Disability Alliance, and the European Disability Forum

Rationale and Objectives

Since the onset of renewed Russian aggression against Ukraine in February 2022, children and adults with disabilities have been facing compounded protection threats. These have directly increased risk of abandonment, violence, injury and death, whether at home, in institutions, or in displacement.

Persons with disabilities lack access to evacuation support and in the context of the current emergency, have been left behind, unable to access information and seek safety from the military offensive. Women and girls with disabilities in Ukraine are also at disproportionate risk of sexual and gender-based violence during the conflict. This is particularly so...
for women and girls with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. Those who manage to flee—whether to safer areas in Ukraine or to other countries—face new challenges to their rights.

This event aims to provide the opportunity to organisations of persons with disabilities, disability rights experts and States engaged in the emergency response in Ukraine to provide the most recent update on situation of persons with disabilities affected by the armed conflict, and share their recommendations and requests with other UN Member States, donors, humanitarian actors and other stakeholders.

**Agenda**

Moderator: Catherine Naughton, Director of the European Disability Forum

**Opening remarks**

- Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations
- Yannis Vardakastanis, Chair of the International Disability Alliance
- Professor Gerard Quinn, Special Rapporteur on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**The situation of persons with disabilities in Ukraine and who fled the country**

- Larysa Bayda, Director of Department, National Assembly of Persons with Disabilities of Ukraine (NAPD)
- Update from the National Ministry of Social Affairs of Ukraine
- Update from Poland
- Update from Lithuania

**Looking ahead:**

- Sara Minkara, U.S. Special Advisor on International Disability Rights, US Department of State

**Interventions from Member States and civil society, including organisations of persons with disabilities**