“How to Make Disability Votes Count”

Organizer: Disability Federation of Ireland
Location: CR. 6, United Nations, New York
Date: Tuesday 11th June 2019
Time: 08:15am – 09:30am

Details: Political participation of persons with disabilities means more than just installing a wheelchair ramp at polling stations. This event aims to progress understanding of participation and representation of persons with disabilities in political and public life. It shares examples of good practice from the EU and Ireland.

1. Access to voting: (20 mins)
   - The EU – how many persons with disabilities are currently denied the right to vote? What progress have we seen in the May 2019 EU elections?

Speakers:
Marie Zvolská, President, European Economic & Social Committee (EESC) Group on Disability Rights (5 mins)
Yannis Vardakastanis, President, European Disability Forum (EDF) (5 mins)
Q&A (10mins)

2. Making Disability Votes Count: (15 mins)
   - Mainstreaming disability into candidates’ campaigns - #DisabilityVotesCount & Disable Inequality

Speaker:
3. **Representation and participation: (20 mins)**

- Cross-political and non-governmental collaboration – experiences from:
  
  - Ireland’s Oireachtas Disability Group (ODG)
    Speaker: ODG Chair, Senator John Dolan **(5 mins)**
  
  - Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament
    Speaker: Yannis Vardakastanis, President, European Disability Forum (EDF) **(5 mins)**

Q&A **(10 mins)**

Moderator: Pat Clarke and Bo Jansson.