

# **The New UN Disability Rights Convention: Building Support in the United States for Ratification and Implementation**

April 9, 2007



**8:00 – 9:00 a.m.      Registration and Breakfast**

**9:00 – 10:00 a.m.    Welcome and Introduction**

**Welcome**                      Erin Scheick, *Human Rights Brief*, AU Washington College of Law  
Dean Claudio Grossman, American University Washington College of  
Law

**Introduction:**                John Lancaster, President, U.S. International Council on Disabilities  
(USICD)                              & National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)

**Keynote:**                      *Hope and Promise of the Convention*

Gov. Dick Thornburgh, World Committee on Disability, Kirkpatrick  
& Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP

*Introduction:* Michael Deland, President, National Organization on  
Disability & Chairman, World Committee on Disability

**10:00 – 11:15 a.m.    The New Convention: Process, Principles & Prospects**

- Maria Veronica Reina, Burton Blatt Institute, Syracuse University & International Disability Caucus
- Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo, The World Bank
- Steven Hill, U.S. Department of State, Office of the Legal Adviser
- Tara J. Melish, Mental Disability Rights International

*Moderator:* Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo

**11:15 – 11:45 a.m.    Coffee Break**

**11:45 – 1:00 p.m.      Implementation through Domestic Law, Policy & Practice**

- Prof. Arlene Kanter, Disability Law and Policy Program, Syracuse University Center on Human Policy, Law, and Disability Studies
- Kathy Martinez, World Institute on Disability
- Tina Minkowitz, World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry
- Prof. Robert Dinerstein, American University Washington College of Law
- Hadar Harris, Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, American University Washington College of Law

*Moderator:* Prof. Robert Dinerstein, American University Washington College of Law

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m.      Lunch and Keynote: *The Disability Convention and the International Human Rights Movement***

- Aryeh Neier, Open Society Institute

*Introduction:* Prof. Herman Schwartz, American University Washington College of Law

**2:30 – 3:00 p.m.      Video & Presentation: *Overcoming Abuses in Orphanages and Institutions***

- Laurie Ahern & Eric Rosenthal, Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI)

**3:00 – 4:15 p.m.      Implementation through International Development Policy**

- Judy Heumann, Global Partnership for Disability and Development
- Sam Worthington, InterAction
- John Kemp, State Department Advisory Board on Disability

*Moderator:* Eric Rosenthal, MDRI

**4:15 – 4:30 p.m.      Coffee Break**

**4:30 – 6:00 p.m.      Open Strategy Session: Seeking US Government & Public Support**

***Resource People:***

- Hans Hogrefe, Congressional Human Rights Caucus
- Holly Burkhalter, Mental Disability Rights International Board
- Tom Malinowski, Human Rights Watch
- Penny Wakefield, CEDAW Working Group
- Jerry White, Landmine Survivors Network

*Moderator:* John Lancaster, USICD & NCIL

**6:00 – 7:00 p.m.      Reception: From the ADA to the UN Disability Rights Convention**

- *Remarks:* Yoshiko Saji Dart, Disability Rights Leader