Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Human Rights Forum
California Department of Developmental Services
Consumer Advisory Committee
November 2009
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The California Department of Developmental Services Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) hosted a Human Rights Forum in November 2009 at their quarterly meeting. Katherine Guernsey, Education and Outreach Director of the United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD) facilitated a discussion about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) treaty. CAC members understand the CRPD is an important civil rights treaty that guarantees people with disabilities the rights to dignity, inclusion and choice.

CAC Believes: Knowing your rights and applying them to your everyday life is important. Members of the CAC believe effective leadership is by personal example. The committee’s motto is “My Life, My Way.” Before we can live the lives we want, we must first understand our basic rights as human beings.

Using the CAC developed decision-making strategy Think-Plan-Do, members identified the key CRPD concepts and they are provided in this easy to read manual that follows the Human Rights Forum presentation video.
Human Rights are what people need to live with dignity and “enjoy” freedom.

All people have human rights.

Nobody has more human rights than anyone else.
**Equality**  The right to be treated equally – not different than anyone else.

**Safety**  The right to be safe from disasters, abuse and violence.

**Privacy**  The right to privacy – no matter where you live.
THE RIGHT TO:

Think what you want.

Be included in the community.

Work in safe conditions.

Be paid a wage you can live on.
**UNIVERSAL** They belong to everyone.

**INALIENABLE** Can not be taken away.

**INDIVISIBLE** Cannot be divided from each other.

**INTERRELATED** All human rights affect each other.
United Nations

**MEMBERS**  
192 States (Countries)

**STARTED**  
1945 after World War II

**PURPOSE**  
International peace  
Friendly relations among countries  
Human rights for all
Treaties are agreements in writing between 2 or more countries.

Countries choose to join a treaty.

If a country joins a treaty – it is legally binding.

They must follow what a treaty says to do.

Treaty = Agreement = Convention
The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a treaty about the human rights of people with disabilities.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a treaty that helps countries understand how to act to assure people with disabilities have important human rights.
There are over 650 million people with disabilities worldwide.

People with disabilities were sometimes treated as “invisible” in many countries.

Many people experience human rights violations.

Countries want to improve the quality of life for all their citizens.

Countries agreed that a human rights treaty specifically for people with disabilities was the best solution!
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All disabilities</td>
<td>The treaty is for all people with disabilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promotes</td>
<td>Respect for the choices and full inclusion of all persons with disabilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requires</td>
<td>All countries to include people with disabilities and their organizations in decisions that affect their lives.</td>
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<td>Reports</td>
<td>Each country reports their progress.</td>
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The Treaty was written by member countries of the United Nations.

Many meetings were held at the UN headquarters in New York. Meetings included many people with disabilities!

Meetings finished December 2006.
Step #1 “SIGNATORY”

President Obama ordered the treaty to be signed, July 2009.

This means:

United States agrees with the ideas in the treaty.
United States is interested in joining the treaty.
Step #2 “RATIFICATION”

To become law in the United States, the Senate votes to accept the treaty. There needs to be a two-thirds majority vote for approval.
When the United States ratifies (approves) the treaty it must follow what the treaty says to do.
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<td>Republic of Korea</td>
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Emergencies and Disasters

*Lives can be in jeopardy if people with disabilities do not plan and are not ready to take action quickly in a disaster.*

Examples:

Natural disasters – floods, fires and earthquakes
CRPD Right

What can happen if people with disabilities do not have the right to safety?
How are other rights affected?

Right Denied

EFFECT ON OTHER RIGHTS
What can happen?

EFFECT ON OTHER RIGHTS
What can happen?

EFFECT ON OTHER RIGHTS
What can happen?
THINK:
What can the treaty do for people with disabilities in the United States?

PLAN:
What are ways to tell people about the treaty?

DO:
Take Action – **Lead by example.**
Human Rights Forum

This booklet was produced for the California Department of Developmental Services Consumer Advisory Committee’s quarterly meeting, November 2009. The CAC believes the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an important human rights treaty that assures people with disabilities dignity, inclusion and choice.

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CAC advocacy publications and videos can be viewed at:
http://dds.ca.gov/ConsumerCorner/Home.cfm