**Ola Abualghaib:**

Dr. Ola Abualghaib was appointed Manager of the Technical Secretariat of the UN Partnership of Persons with Disabilities Multi Partner Trust Fund in August 2019. Ola has over twenty years of experience working on gender and disability in development including in fragile and crisis affected settings in the Arab States, Africa and Asia. Previous to her appointment in the UNPRPD she has been the Director for Global Influencing and Research at Leonard Cheshire Disability in London, UK.  During the last 10 years she has worked with the UN system at global, regional and country level to support disability inclusive policies and programmes. She also served as the Vice Chair of the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) and a board member of the Disability Rights Funds. Ola was recently featured in the Gender Equality Top 100 list of most influential people in global policy in 2019. She has a PhD on Social Protection from the University of East Anglia, UK. Ola is originally from Palestine.

**Shivangi Agrawal**

Shivangi (they,them) is a queer and disabled activist based in Delhi, India. They are currently working as the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Associate at Thoughtworks.

They also have over 5 years of experience working as an interdependent consultant, researcher, writer, advisor and facilitator with an emphasis on advocacy for disability, sexuality, gender, policy, arts, education and accessibility, with local and global organisations.

Their key areas of work also include disability justice, trans rights, anti-caste, migrant rights, transformative justice, sexuality, gender, abolition, anthropology, politics, and technology.

As an artist with a collective called Determined Art Movement, their practice involves journaling, creating zines, poetry, painting on big canvases, walls or unique surfaces like their prosthetic shoes and wheelchairs! They like to use the various forms of art for justice, collective organising, live documentation of political narratives and radical thoughts.

Follow them on Twitter @DisabledSpice

**Dwi Ariyani**

Dwi Ariyani is the Regional Head of Programs-Asia for the Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund. Dwi is a disability rights activist. Dwi has worked for over eighteen years in Indonesia on disability rights and movement building. She has worked with grassroots and national organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to promote persons with disabilities' rights and provide technical assistance for OPDs and work with them to achieve their advocacy agenda through; legislation reform and budgetary advocacy, build a bridge across the movement. As a woman with a disability herself, Dwi has also advocated for the empowerment of women with disabilities and ensures that women with disabilities are heard in every decision-making process that affects women's lives. She received the 2020 Women of Distinction Award- NGO CSW New York

**Rebecca Cokley**

Rebecca Cokley is the program officer for the Ford foundation's first-ever U.S. Disability Rights program, which is focused on strengthening the field, building a pipeline of diverse leadership, promoting disability pride, and mobilizing resources toward disability rights work. She also serves as the foundation's liaison to the President’s Council for Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy.

Prior to joining Ford, Rebecca was the cofounder and director of the Disability Justice initiative at the Center for American Progress, where she built out a progressive policy platform that protected the rights and services disabled people depend on for survival and also developed innovative solutions like a proposed disabled worker tax credit and increased access to capital for disability-owned small businesses. She also stewarded a campaign that resulted in an unprecedented 12 presidential candidates developing disability policy platforms.

Prior to her work at American Progress, she served as the executive director for the National Council on Disability, where she worked on sexual violence on college campuses, policing reform, and the civil rights of disabled parents. A three-time presidential appointee, Rebecca served in key policy roles at the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as oversaw diversity and inclusion efforts for the Obama administration.

Rebecca is a frequent speaker and contributor on issues of public policy and disability inclusion in the media and at major national conferences. She has a bachelor’s degree in politics from the University of California, Santa Cruz

**Michael Cole:**

 Michael Cole is a former full-time Development Officer with Destined. He currently lives with his brother in the Glenabbey area of Derry, but he intends to develop the skills to live independently.

He attended Steelstown Primary school, before transferring to Belmont Special School., now Ardnashee. While a teenager, Michael also spent two years at Greystone Boarding School in Limavady,

A very articulate young man, Michael left school without any formal qualifications. But he has done several courses in literacy and numeracy since then, and would now like to pursue a career in administration.

Since leaving school, Michael has found it difficult to find full-time employment. Though he did work in Destined for a year as a Sports Development Officer, before the funding for the post expired.

As part of his work, Michael attended public speaking engagements in the the City Hotel and at the Guildhall,

Under Destined, Michael has taken part in the Access to Citizenship programme, which aims to empower adults with learning disabilities.

A football nut, Michael spends a lot of free time following his beloved Liverpool. He also likes listening to music, reading and watching TV.

He believes that support for people with learning disabilities is improving – but still isn’t perfect.

**Theresia Degener**

Theresia Degener is professor of law and disability studies at Protestant University of Applied Sciences in Bochum, Germany and Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Maastricht, The Netherlands. She is the director of the Bochum Centre for Disability Studies BODYS. From 2011 to 2018 she was a member (and for the last 2 years the Chair) of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She co-authored the background study of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Quinn / Degener (2002) Human rights and disability: The current use and future potential of United Nations human rights instruments in the context of disability, OHCHR, United Nations and has participated in drafting the CRPD. Her research fields are anti-discrimination law, human rights, disability studies and gender studies.

**Róisín Doherty**

Róisín Doherty lives in Derry. The eldest of four children, she is a founding director of Destined, she has Asperger Syndrome, a learning disability and cerebral palsy.

Róisín was born in Dublin and lived in Donegal, before her family moved back to Westland Avenue in Derry when she was a young child. Her family are very close and Róisín led a happy childhood. She attended Foyle View, and later Belmont school.

After completing school. Róisín completed a number of courses in North West Institute, and studied drama in the Playhouse with Pauline Ross.

As well as acting, Róisín studied dance – and is particular fan of salsa. And she also took courses in reflexology and aromatherapy; indeed she is so good that she’s “tortured” by people looking for her do their hands and feet. Róisín also has a black belt in Judo.

Róisín attained NVQ qualifications in business and was employed by a local accountant, She also has experience in retail, she previously worked for the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Housing Executive. Most recently, she took up a post with Destined, as a support worker for young people.

Róisín believes that facilities and support for people with learning disabilities has improved over lifetime. But there’s still a long way to go.

**Vincenzo Falabella**

Vincenzo Falabella was born in Ostuni, in the province of Brindisi, in 1971. In May 2002, following a fall from a horse he suffered an injury to the spinal cord with a result of paraplegia. After the rehabilitation process, he approaches the world of associations with the aim of promoting policies to protect the human and civil rights of citizens with disabilities. He is a member of the National Observatory on the Condition of Persons with Disabilities and of the Scientific Technical Committee set up at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. He is the National President of FISH- Italian Federation for Overcoming Handicap. He is also National President of FAIP - Federation of Italian Associations of People with Spinal Cord Injuries.

**Eilionóir Flynn**

Eilionóir Flynn is an Established Chair in Law and Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland Galway. Her research focuses on disability and social justice, with a particular emphasis on legal capacity, advocacy and reproductive justice. She is passionate about educating the next generation of disability rights scholars; and working in active partnership with disabled people’s organisations. Her research has received funding awards from the European Research Council, Wellcome Trust and Horizon 2020. Eilionóir regularly advises policy-makers at national and international levels, including providing support to the Secretariat of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in particular the working group which developed General Comment 1.

**Jo-Ann Garnier:**

Jo-Ann Garnier is the Program Officer for Haiti for the Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund. She works closely with the program team and serves as a liaison between the Funds and grantees in Haiti.

Jo-Ann brings over a decade of experience supporting Haitian civil society to promote the rights of children, including children with disabilities, and to provide technical support to civil society and the government on rights and inclusion of marginalized groups. Prior to DRF, as Executive Director for enpaK, a Haitian NGO promoting the rights of children, she worked with multi-stakeholders on strategies realizing the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to ensure all children are included in education and social development programs. She also worked with the Secretary of State’s office on a communication strategy to popularize the Law on the Integration of Persons with Disabilities, including a child-friendly version in French and Creole. Jo-Ann served as the Chief of Party for a USAID funded project promoting the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently in the community. As Plan International’s Country Director, she built strong relationships with civil society, government, and donor agencies. She is on several national platforms for rights and development issues in Haiti and has traveled extensively throughout the country meeting with rural, grassroots community groups. She is fluent in French, Kreyol, English, and Spanish.

Jo-Ann has a law degree from the Faculty of Law and Economic Sciences of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. She attended the 9th International Disability Law Summer School.

**Pratima Gurung:**

Ms. Pratima Gurung is an academic activist from Nepal. She has worked on women, indigenous peoples, disability rights and has been remarkable in bridging multiple marginalized identities with an intersectional lens from Nepal, Asia and globally. She has been instrumental in advocating and documenting the issues of Indigenous peoples/women with disabilities and marginalized groups at global platforms since 2008 and engaged in environmental justice debate.

She is also a faculty member at Padmakanya College and engages in research and links her academic research to advocacy. She also contributes as an expert of the Disability National Direction Committee, formed by the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen, Nepal Government. Pratima Gurung is a founding member and currently General Secretary of Indigenous Person with Disabilities Global Network and National indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal.

**Nadia Hadad**

Nadia Hadad, has been a human right activist from young age. She worked as an engineer from water related projects to training of craftsmen and young people excluded from education, to training and supporting local women’s groups in technical issues in many countries. Later on, she became a Disability Inclusion Policy Officer in the field of development cooperation, with ngo PHOS. She’s Individual member of IDDC. She gives lectures and trainings on inclusive cooperation, the UN CRPD and SDGs at universities, ministries, NGOs, DPOs and more.

Nadia is the Vice President of the Brussels City Advisory Council of Persons with Disabilities, a member of the Brussels Region Advisory Panel and member of the Belgian Supervising Commission of the independent mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of the UN CRPD in Belgium, for GRIP. She is a Co-chair of the Board of the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) and a member of the Executive Committee of the European Disability Forum (EDF), advisory panel of European Disability Expert (previously ANED), the EC Disability Platform and previously also of the Advisory Panel of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency’s Fundamental Rights Platform.

Nadia has a degree in Electromechanical Engineering, specialising in “Mechanical conception”, water resources engineering, human ecology, environment coordination, and Philosophy.

**Martin Hogg:**

Professor Martin Hogg is the Head of the School of Law and an Established Professor at the National University of Ireland Galway, having previously been Head of School and Professor of the Law of Obligations at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. His academic interests lie in all aspects of the law of obligations, from both a national and comparative law perspective. He is a Member of the European Centre of Tort and Insurance Law (ECTIL) and a non-practising member of the Faculty of Advocates (the Scottish Bar).

**Sébastien Jodoin**

Sébastien Jodoin is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law of McGill University, where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Health, and the Environment. He is the founding director of the Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Programme, a pioneering initiative to generate, co-produce, and translate knowledge at the intersections of disability and climate justice. His work in the field of climate change has been cited by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

**Mahbub Kabir**

Mahbub is the Advocacy and Inclusion Advisory Manager at CBM Ireland. He holds an honours degree and a masters in Anthropology and has about twenty years of experience in the development sector. Previously, he worked for NGOs e.g., ActionAid, Plan International, Leonard Cheshire Disability etc. and promoted social and educational inclusion in development and protracted humanitarian contexts in Asia and Africa.

Whilst working in Bangladesh, he chaired CRPD committee at the National Disability Forum (NFOWD), which successfully influenced full ratification of CRPD as well as changing the rules and policies on disability.

Mahbub took up a research position at TUD in 2009, carried out research on disability and minority entrepreneurship. He researched and authored on diverse topics regarding gender and inclusion, primarily in easy-to-read Bengali.

At CBM Ireland, Mahbub leads advocacy and inclusion advisory work, promoting climate justice, influencing changes in policies and practices of key organisations that are impacting the lives of people with disabilities, especially in the Global South.

Follow on Twitter @@CBM\_Ireland or @MahbubKabir1

**Rosemary Kayess**

Rosemary Kayess is a human rights lawyer working in the area of disability policy and reform. She has advised on issues such as housing, education, guardianship and employment. Rosemary is the Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She is also a Senior Research Fellow at the University of New South Wales Social Policy Research Centre and Senior Lecturer in international human rights law and anti-discrimination law. Rosemary is also the Chairperson of the Australian Centre for Disability Law; an Expert Member of the Strategic Engagement Advisory Group, for Australia’s Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability and a Fellow of the Australian Discrimination Law Experts’ Group.

**Mary Keogh:**

Dr. Mary Keogh is Advocacy Director with CBM Global Disability Inclusion- Mary is responsible for shaping the strategic direction of the federation advocacy priorities, working alongside internal stakeholders in the federation and with OPD partners.  She leads on advocacy on climate justice for persons with disabilities.

Mary is co-vice chair of the International Disability and Development Consortium, she is also co-chair of the IDDC’s climate task group. Mary’s research interests are climate justice and intersectionality. She has a human rights and development background working in the international development and human rights sector for 15 years.

**Maria Kett**

Dr Maria Kett is Associate Professor in Humanitarianism and Disability in the UCL Institute of Epidemiology and Healthcare. An anthropologist by training, she has extensive expertise in disability- inclusive humanitarian responses, global health, human rights, climate change, poverty alleviation, and the consequences of social exclusion. Maria has undertaken research in countries across Africa and Asia, leading on a number of research programmes on disability and international development and is author of over 100 publications. She regularly serves as a consultant for numerous bilateral and multilateral donors, including the UK FCDO, the World Bank, and the United Nations.

**Kirstin Lange**

Kirstin Lange works with UNICEF as a Programme Specialist on disability-inclusive humanitarian action, based in UNICEF’s Geneva Headquarters. Kirstin is also co-chair of the Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. Between 2014- 2019, she worked with UNHCR as disability advisor, providing technical support to headquarters, regional and country offices. Prior to these roles, Kirstin worked in both disability- focused and general protection roles in Gaza, Afghanistan, Jordan and Papua New Guinea.

Kirstin holds a Masters in International Development from the University of Birmingham.

**Janet E. Lord**

Senior Fellow, Harvard Law School Project on Disability & Senior Advisor to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities

An international public lawyer by training, Janet E. Lord is currently senior research fellow at the Harvard Law School Project on Disability and serves as senior legal advisor for the UN Special rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. She regularly provides independent counsel on international and comparative disability law and inclusive development projects funded by a wide variety of donors, including UN agencies, USAID, the US Department of State, the European Union and numerous non-governmental organizations.

Earlier in her career she served as legal counsel to non-governmental organizations, the United Nations, and like-minded governments throughout the negotiation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She also worked on the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, focusing on landmine survivor rights in mine-affected countries. As part of her human rights law practice, she has worked with grassroots organizations of persons with disabilities in more than 40 countries around the world to advance disability rights.

She served on the board of Amnesty International USA for two terms, holding the positions of Vice Chair and Chair during her final two years of service. She currently serves on the board of the United States International Council on Disabilities.

She has published widely in the field of international human rights law and holds part-time teaching appointments at the University of Maryland, Carey School of Law; American University, Washington College of Law; and the National University of Ireland (Galway).

She holds an LL.B. and LL.M. in law from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland), an LL.M. in international and comparative law from the George Washington University Law School and a B.A. in History from Kenyon College. She is a member of the New York Bar.

Follow her on Twitter @janetelord

**Nujeen Mustafa**

Nujeen Mustafa is a Syrian refugee, who has worked supporting UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. Nujeen is an incredible young woman who, at just sixteen, made the 3,500-mile journey from Syria to Germany in a steel wheelchair. Nujeen was born with cerebral palsy and spent most of her life confined to her apartment in Aleppo, Syria, where she taught herself English watching shows on TV. As war broke out, she and her family were forced to flee, first to her native Kobane, then Turkey. Her family didn’t have enough money for them all to make it to safety in Germany, where her brother lives, so her parents stayed in Turkey while she set out with her sister across the Mediterranean, braving inconceivable odds for the chance to have a normal life and an education. Nujeen’s optimism and defiance when confronting all of her challenges have propelled this young refugee from Syria into the spotlight as the human face of an increasingly dehumanised crisis. Since moving to Germany, Nujeen has continued to tell her remarkable story and to capture the hearts of all who hear her speak.

Nujeen is a powerful advocate for refugee youth, undertaking media interviews and speaking at several high-profile conferences including a UNHCR Age, Gender and Diversity event at the Palais Des Nations in Geneva, and international TEDx events in the UK and Iraq. She was a keynote speaker at the 2017 Nansen Refugee Award. In 2019, at the first ever Global Refugee Forum, Nujeen spoke about the importance of keeping children’s dreams alive with Grover from the kids ‘educational TV series *Sesame Street*.  She also appeared on a panel where she stressed the need for the active involvement and meaningful participation of people with disabilities in the planning, development, and decision-making processes at all stages of the refugee response, Nujeen’s story has been told in a book co-authored by award winning journalist Christina Lamb: The Girl from Aleppo.

**Rahma Mustafa**

Rahma Mustafa is an advocate and an independent consultant with expertise in disability rights and inclusion at global level. She has a Master of Law Degree (LLM in International Comparative Disability Law and Policy) from the National University of Ireland, Galway and another master’s degrees in Business Administration MBA from the University of Khartoum, Sudan. Rahma has over 10 years’ experience in mainstreaming disability rights in public policies and programmes with extensive experience in the emergency and humanitarian field. She has worked for several international organizations in the field of disability inclusion including the World Blind Union, International Disability Alliance, the British Council, ADD International and “Bridging the Gap 2” project with the Italian Cooperation Agency – Sudan. In the last two years, she has conducted and supported many research projects, such as the Situation of Tigray refugees with disabilities in Eastern Sudan Refugees Camps with Islamic Relief Worldwide, the Evidence and Gaps Map on Inclusive Intervention for Children with Disabilities with UNICEF and reviewed CBM International Training Curricula in Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) Rahma is originally from Sudan and she based in Texas, USA.

Follow her on Twitter @umhiba1

**Yolanda Muñoz**

Yolanda Muñoz (she/her) is an academic and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. As a full-time wheelchair user, she has explored the social arrangements behind the unquestioned exclusion of people with disabilities. She was born in Mexico and is currently a guest in Tiohtiá:ke/Montreal, which is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien’kehà:ka, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst many First Nations. In the field of disability rights, she has served as a volunteer with several grassroots organizations in Mexico and Quebec. Professionally, she has served as a consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank, as Program Officer with the Disability Rights Fund, as an external consultant for Global Greengrants Fund and is the co-founder of the Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Program, with the Faculty of Law at McGill University. In the academic field, she completed a MA and a PhD in Japanese Studies, with specialty in the Ainu women of Northern Japan. Her knowledge on feminist theory and practice has been the motivation to design and teach the course “Gender and Disability,” offered since 2006 at the McGill Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies.

**Boakai Abu Nyehn. Jr**

Boakai Abu Nyehn. Jr. is a member of the Group of Seventy Seven Disabled Center in Liberia. He is a National disability rights advocate, social inclusion expert, and disability and development rights activist. He has served as a disability and social Inclusion consultant to a few National and International agencies, and a Research Assistant for several research projects in Liberia for local and international organizations (Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre, University College London, Talking Drum Studio, AIFO-Liberia, UNMIL etc.) coordinating and helping these agencies and organizations include the issues of people with disabilities in their programs and projects.

Mr. Nyehn, Jr. is a Physically Challenged Disabled person, and an Assistant Director for the Physically Challenged, his work is to ensure that the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities are met at all levels in Liberia. He is a committed and professional in his work as a disability and rights activist, he has an astute analysis of issues related to disability and engages wherever possible, promoting visible accessibility and development for people with disability in Liberia.

His passion is to see increased visibility inaccessibility in all sectors in Liberia, improved access, and a holistic approach to promoting Inclusive Development for people with disabilities in Liberia, Africa, and around the world.

Mr. Nyehn served people with disabilities in Liberia at the national level as Secretary-General for the National Union of Organizations for People with Disabilities for Eight {8} years {2011-2018}, Three years same position { 2013-2015} at the National Disabilities Taskforce, headed by the United Nations Mission in Liberia, UNMIL. Co- Monitor and Finance Officer, Reclaiming Liberia Beaches and Waterways Project, Region-2, managed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Assistant Consultant to the writing of the Shadow Report on Liberia, 2015. Advocacy Officer, Making it Work, an EU Sponsor Project for People with Disabilities in Liberia, a contributor to the development of several disabilities framework Documents; National Action Plan for the Inclusion of People with disabilities, NAP, Assistive Technology for People with disability among others. He has also worked for some disabilities youth groups including Young Voice International, a disabilities advocacy group sponsored by Leonard Cheshire Disabilities International. He is a Board member of BAHCAGWE National Transit Center for People with Disabilities, an agriculture base disabled organization, and a consultant for several local Organizations of People with Disabilities {OPDS} in Liberia.

Mr. Nyehn is an Administrator, he holds several Certificates in related fields and is a graduating senior at the AME Zion University College with a Degree in Public Administration and Sociology.

**Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh**

Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh was appointed President of NUI Galway in January 2018.

Born in Dublin, he was brought up in an Irish-speaking home in Galway city and attended Scoil Iognáid and Coláiste Iognáid. Professor Ó hÓgartaigh is a first-class honours, first-in-class BComm graduate of NUI Galway. He trained as a Chartered Accountant with Arthur Andersen (Dublin) and holds a PhD in Accounting from the University of Leeds, UK.

 Prior to his appointment at NUI Galway, Ciarán served as Principal and Dean of UCD College of Business, leading its schools in Dublin (UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and UCD Smurfit Executive Development) and its overseas programmes in Hong Kong, Singapore and Sri Lanka. Ciarán has also worked in academic leadership roles in Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand and in Dublin City University.

Ciarán has published widely on financial reporting and on accounting history in international peer-reviewed publications and is a former Fulbright scholar at Northeastern University (Boston, USA). He is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and the American Accounting Association Doctoral Consortium. He has served as Audit Committee Chair at the Department of Marine, Communications and Natural Resources and as a member of the Audit Committee at the Department of Finance.

 He is currently a member of the non-statutory board of the Saolta Hospital Group and Chair of its Strategy Committee, a member of the ESRI Council and a member of the National Library of Ireland Board

In his first years in office, Ciarán drove the development of a new strategy for NUI Galway for the period 2020-2025 in collaboration with staff, students, external stakeholders and university management. In January 2020, he formally launched Shared Vision, Shaped by Values, which outlines the University’s future direction and priorities guided by the four core values of respect, excellence, openness and sustainability. The strategy highlights the importance of collaboration, collective input and regional, national and international partnership in achieving NUI Galway’s ambitions to be a force for good in and for the world. The strategy was launched following a process of greater devolvement of autonomy to the University’s four Colleges.

 As President, he has maintained his research interests with his contribution on the history of financial accounting practice in The Routledge Companion to Accounting History (2nd Edition, May 2020) He is a board member of the National Library of Ireland on the appointment of the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media, and a member of the Council of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI).

**Federico Batista Poitier:**

Federico Batista Poitier is an international policy expert and advisor on accessibility and the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; particularly in the context of urban development and the frameworks of the
Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. His background is in International Development with a focus on International, Regional and National Disability Policy; International Human Rights Law, Education, Grassroots & Community Development, Gender Equality and Human Rights Advocacy. His professional and educational experience span various regions including, Southern Africa, Europe, Asia, North & South America and the Middle East.

**Yuliia Sachuk:**

Yuliia Sachuk is a self-advocate, feminist, coordinator of the National Human Rights Defenders Network of PWDs, Head of Fight for Right OPD and Disability Research Centre.

She has 20 years’ experience advocating for the rights of people with disabilities, in particular cultural rights, political participation of women and youth with disabilities, rights to accessible information and environment. The co-founded organization of people with disabilities Fight for Right and the National Human Rights Disability Defenders Network are working towards advancing and strengthening the disability rights movement in Ukraine.

Yuliia contributed to the Electoral Code of Ukraine, she is a member of the Accessibility Working Group at the Central Election Commission. She participated in the development of the National Human Rights Strategy, with a focus on disability rights. Yuliia served as an expert of the Examination Commission within the Ministry of Social Policy (Disability Social Fund) She has served as a consultant on disability issues for the Parliament, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, the OSCE, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) in Ukraine.

Yuliia works as a guest lecturer and trainer on disability human rights for governmental bodies, business entities, media, and other stakeholders. She has co-authored analytical papers and Alternative Reports within the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies system on disability issues. Her scope of expertise includes intersectionality of social identities, advancement of the human rights-based approach to development, business and human rights, ableism in politics. Yuliia holds a master’s degree in international Relations (Hons) from Lesya Ukrainka East European National University.

**Maegan Shanks:**

Maegan “Meg” Shanks is a Faculty and Program Assistant for the MA Program in International Development (IDMA) at Gallaudet University in Washington DC, USA, developing and strengthening students’ skills in project design and implementation for social change. Maegan is one of the faculty supporting the new Deaf and DiDRR Disaster and Emergency Planning (DEP) certificate program at Gallaudet University. Maegan is also a 3rd year PhD student in the School of International Service (SIS) at American University in Washington DC, USA, exploring her research topic in international education policy making and implementation angled around disability and development, language justice and intersectionality within the International Development field.

**Áine Sperrin:**

Dr. Áine Sperrin is currently a post-doctoral researcher on the issue of reproductive rights for disabled people at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy at NUI Galway. She lectures in Independent Living, Equality and Nursing law across undergraduate and postgraduate law and medical students. The focus of Áine’s research and advocacy has been around housing, homelessness and social inclusion.  Áine is a member of the Disability Stakeholders Group, an advisory body to the Irish government on disability. She is also Chair of Human Rights Committees for intellectual disability services and the former Chair of the Board of Aiseanna Tacaíochta, an independent living service provider. Áine's Phd focused on independent living in post-conflict settings and she has been active in raising awareness of disability rights issues in the recent pandemic. Áine obtained her Bachelor of Civil Law from UCD in 2010 , received her Masters of Law from Trinity College Dublin in 2011 and completed her Phd from NUI Galway in 2018.

Áine has worked with multiple Irish and international civil society organisations, including Dublin Simon Community, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Disability Federation Ireland, Amnesty International and Rights Watch UK.

**Sumero:**

Sumero is currently the largest organization dealing with the rights of people with intellectual disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) They are working  on the integration of people with intellectual disabilities into the local community and they are developing their independence and participation in the social community. Sumero wants to achieve the self-sustainability of PWDs, and they are working to strengthen their capacities. They carry out activities in the field of representation and self-representation of people with intellectual disabilities.

# Alberto Vásquez

Alberto Vásquez works as a Senior Advisor at the Center for Inclusive Policy (CIP). He is a Peruvian lawyer and disability rights advocate. He holds a law degree from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and an LL.M in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy from the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Previously, he worked as Research Coordinator at the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities during Catalina Devandas’ mandate. He has also worked as a consultant for different United Nations agencies, including UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the Secretary General. In Peru, he worked as Head Advisor of the Congress’ Committee on Social Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities, as well as commissioner at the Disability Unit of the Peruvian Ombudsperson’s Office.

He is the President of Sociedad y Discapacidad – SODIS, a board member of the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) and a proud member of the Latin American Network of Psychosocial Diversity.

**Benafsha Yaqoobi**

Benafsha Yaqoobi, a civic society and human rights activist, founder of The Organization of Rahyab for Rehabilitation Services for the blind (ORRSB) in 2008, an attorney in The Afghan Attorney General’s Office from 2017 until 2019, and also Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commissioner, was born in Kabul, Afghanistan. During her activities, both in the government and in the civic society, her main goal has been to advocate for the rights of vulnerable categories of the society, incl., women, children, and persons with disabilities.

She has 2 master’s degrees: one in political sciences and another in International Relations and now, as a PH.D Candidate, she is doing her PH.D in her 2nd year in an Indian university in the field of political sciences.

**Elham Youssefian**

Elham Youssefian is the Inclusive Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor in the International Disability Alliance (IDA) since 2019. Elham is responsible for leading and coordinating the implementation of IDA’s strategy to promote and support the effective enforcement of disability-inclusive humanitarian action, response to forced displacement, peace and security, Disaster Risk Reduction, and climate action. She has lead IDA’s Covid 19 emergency response in aftermath of the global pandemic announcement. Elham is co-chairing the Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action (DRG) as well as the GLAD Working Group on Disability-Inclusive Climate Action

Elham's education is in international and human rights law including Master of Human Rights Law from London School of Economics. Before joining IDA, Elham lead diverse projects on disability rights, protection of refugees, violence against women and other human rights and humanitarian projects. She is currently based in New York.