



UNIVERSITY  
OF GALWAY

An tIonad Dóil & Beannas Míchúinn  
Centre for Disability Law & Policy

# Gender and Disability Justice

15th International Disability Law Summer School  
17 - 21 June 2024

# 15<sup>th</sup> International Disability Law Summer School

*17-21 June 2024*

## Introduction to the 2024 Programme

The Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) at University of Galway is pleased to welcome our in-person and online attendees to the 15th International Disability Law Summer School. This year's event will again follow a hybrid approach, enabling speakers and delegates to participate in-person or online.

Our theme this year is 'Gender and Disability Justice.' At a global level, pushback against the rights of women, girls, and gender minority people are rooted in the same soil and produce the same oppressions that disabled people face, including restrictions on access to justice, legal capacity, independent living, health care, and reproductive rights, barriers to education and employment, increased risk of violence and exploitation, and marginalisation in public debate. These experiences are amplified when individuals hold multiple marginalised identities. To address these challenges, we need to create solidarity within social movements, hold decision-makers accountable and find new pathways to enforce our collective rights.

The 15th International Disability Law Summer School will explore these challenges by centring the voices of disabled activists and disability rights researchers from around the globe. We will provide space to discuss the institutional and societal changes needed to make the promises of the United Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities a reality and explore the disability justice-informed practices that offer potential for change.

Cover artwork by Áine O'Hara.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aine O'Hara', located at the bottom of the page.

# Table of Contents

# Day 1: Monday 17 June

## About Today

Day one will provide participants with a general introduction and background to gender and disability justice under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and other UN bodies, including Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

**8:15 - 9:15 Registration (in-person)**

**9:15 - 9:25 Welcome to the University**  
Martin Hogg, School of Law, University of Galway

**9:25 - 9:40 Welcome to the Centre for Disability Law and Policy**  
Eilíonóir Flynn, CDLP, University of Galway

**9:40 - 10:55 Introduction to Summer School**  
Amanie Issa, CDLP & ICHR, University of Galway

**10:55 - 10:10 Craftivism at Summer School**  
Emma Burns, CDLP, University of Galway

**10:10 - 10:45 Keynote Address**  
Rosaleen McDonagh, Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and Board Member of Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre

**10:45 - 11:00 Response to Keynote Address**  
Amy Hassett, Disabled Women Ireland

**11:00 - 11:15 Questions and Answers**

**11:15 - 11:30 Tea and Coffee Break**

**11:30 - 13:15 Gender and Disability Rights in the CRPD and CEDAW**

**Chair:** Stacey Scriver, School of Political Science and Sociology, University of Galway

**Panellists:** Theresia Degener, Protestant University of Applied Sciences, Bochum  
Shiela May I. Aggarao, National Organization of Visually-Impaired Empowered Ladies (NOVEL)  
María Laura Serra, University of Valladolid

**Questions and Answers**

**13:15 - 14:15 Lunch**

**14:15 - 16:15 Monitoring Human Rights Obligations**

Chair: Amy Hassett, Disabled Women Ireland

Panellists: Senada Halilčević, European Platform of Self Advocates (EPSA) [online]  
Benafsha Yaqoobi, Formerly of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) [online]  
Magdalena Szarota, Lancaster University  
Elizabeth Kamundia, Human Rights Watch

Questions and Answers

**16:15 - 16:30 Tea and Coffee Break****16:30 - 17:15 Moot Court Preparatory Session (in-person and online)**

**WiFi - Eduroam**

User: 9876001t

Password: xbmja7836

**#15thDSS**

# Day 2: Tuesday 18 June

## About Today

Day two will focus on legal capacity, access to justice, and independent living. Panels will explore gendered components of the application of the right to equal recognition before the law. Activists and scholars will also share insights into achieving the right to independent living, including intersections with often neglected aspects such as the right to family life.

**8:15 - 9:00 Registration**

**9:00 - 11:00 Legal Capacity**

Chair: Ruth Barry, Community Law and Mediation

Panellists: Andrea Parra, Talleristas x la Justicia [online]  
Hege Orefellen, Human Rights Lawyer  
Jennifer Wairimu, Validity Foundation  
Anna Arstein-Kerslake, Irish Centre for Human Rights (ICHR),  
University of Galway

Questions and Answers

**11:00 - 11:15 Tea and Coffee Break**

**11:15 - 13:15 Access to Justice**

Chair: Charles O'Mahony, School of Law, University of Galway

Panellists: Sita Sah, Disable Society Janakpur  
Bruno Monteiro, Validity Foundation  
Abubakarr Bangura, African Youth with Disabilities Network

Questions and Answers

**13:15 - 14:15 Lunch**

**14:15 - 16:15 Independent Living**

Chair: Shelly Gaynor, Independent Living Movement Ireland

Panellists: John Buttimer, Cope Foundation  
Maryam Madani, Disability Power Ireland  
Elizabeth Kamundia, Human Rights Watch

Questions and Answers

**16:30 - 17:45 Poster Presentation Session (in-person)**

# Day 3: Wednesday 19 June

5

## About Today

Globally, persons with disabilities still experience discrimination in getting access to appropriate healthcare, barriers which are compounded by gender and other minority-identity factors. Gender-based violence disproportionately affects women, girls and gender-minority disabled people. Day three will focus on the right to health including reproductive justice and gender affirming care, the right to reproductive justice, disability and conflict, and prevention/redress for gender-based violence.

**8:15 - 9:00 Registration**

**9:00 - 11:00 Reproductive Justice**

Chair: Caoimhe Gleeson, Health Service Executive (HSE)

Panellists: Mia Ives-Rublee, Center for American Progress  
Hannah Gibson, University of Barcelona [online]  
Sara Rocha, Associação Portuguesa Voz do Autista [online]  
Majo Rivas, Nasc the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre

Questions and Answers

**11:00 - 11:15 Tea and Coffee Break**

**11:15 - 13:15 The Right to Health including Gender-Affirming Care**

Chair: John Gilmore, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems

Panellists: Nem Kearns, NeuroPride Ireland  
Fiona Anderson, Advocate and Activist  
Rebecca Opetsi Alitsi, University of Nottingham

Questions and Answers

**13:15 - 14:15 Lunch**

**14:15 - 16:15 Gender-Based Violence**

Chair: Siobhan Mullally, ICHR, University of Galway

Panellists: Amanie Issa, CDLP and ICHR, University of Galway  
Eliona Gjeca, University of Iceland  
Shruthi Venkatachalam, University of Leeds

Questions and Answers

**16:15 - 16:30 Tea and Coffee Break**

**16:30 - 17:15 Moot Court Preparatory Session (in-person and online)**

PROGRAMME

# Day 4: Thursday 20 June

## About Today

Day four focuses on disabled people as they navigate justice movements, organise to build cross-movement solidarity, and seek to exercise their right to participate in public and political life at all levels. A particular focus will be placed on the rights of women, LGBTQI+ people, gender minority people and people with multiply marginalised identities.

**8:15 - 9:00 Registration**

**9:00 - 11:00 Working on the Fringes of Movements**

Chair: Shivaun Quinlivan, School of Law, University of Galway

Panellists: Andrea Parra, Talleristas x la Justicia [online]  
Kaja Petersen, University of Gothenburg  
Jennifer Byrne, CBM Ireland

Questions and Answers

**11:00 - 11:15 Tea and Coffee Break**

**11:15 - 13:15 Solidarity and Cross-Movement Organising**

Chair: Emma Ward, Disability Rights Activist, Journalist and Content Creator

Panellists: Aoife Price, CDLP, University of Galway  
David Lepofsky, Disability Rights Activist, Lawyer  
Siobhán Mullally, UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons,  
Heba Hagrass, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with  
Disabilities [online] & Keelin Barry, ICHR, University of Galway [online]

Questions and Answers

**13:15 - 14:15 Lunch**

**14:15 - 16:15 Participation in Public and Political Life**

Chair: Emma Burns, CDLP, University of Galway

Panellists: Cír Doyle, NeuroPride Ireland [online]  
Pam Duncan Glancy, Member of the Scottish Parliament, UK [online]  
Mar Galcerán, Member of the Valencian Regional Parliament, in  
conversation with Maria Laura Serra, University of Valladolid [online]  
Elizabeth Ombati, Kenya Network of Women and Girls with Disabilities  
[online]

Questions and Answers

**18:00 - 20:30 BBQ at the SULT, University of Galway (H91 RTR6) (in-person)**

# Day 5: Friday 21 June

## About Today

Day five will provide an opportunity to apply the learning and discussion from the week to a moot court scenario based on Gender and Disability Justice. Attendees who elect to participate in the Moot Court will be divided into teams and will have had opportunities during the week to prepare materials based on the scenario.

**8:15 - 9:00 Registration**

**9.00 - 10.00 Final Moot Court Preparatory Session (in-person and online)**

**10:00 - 12:15 Moot Court Competition: Oral Arguments of the Teams Before “UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”**

Judges: Mia Ives Rublee, Center for American Progress  
 Anna Arstein-Kerslake, ICHR, University of Galway  
 Suzy Byrne, Disability Activist  
 Donncha O’Connell, School of Law, University of Galway

**12:15 - 12:30 Tea and Coffee Break**

**12:30 - 13:15 Close & Award of Certificates**

Presentation of certificates for attendance at Summer School, the Moot Court Competition and Poster Presentation.

**13:15 - 13:45 Light Lunch**

## Shiela May I. Aggarao



Shiela is a woman with visual impairment from the Philippines. She is a feminist with a primary interest in the intersection between gender and disability, and has spent many years working in this area. Presently, Shiela is part of two local organizations of persons with disabilities, the Nationwide Organization of Visually-Impaired Empowered Ladies (NOVEL), a group of women with visual impairment supporting the empowerment and advocating for the rights of women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ people with disabilities and Life Haven Center for Independent Living, an organization promoting independent living philosophy and concept.

On the global space, she is part of Inclusive Generation Equality Collective, a network of feminists with disabilities and allies fighting for disability and gender rights. During the height of COVID 19 pandemic, Shiela was the peer coordinators for National Capital Region for the project Community-Based Peer Monitoring on the Situation of Women with Disabilities. She worked with other women with disabilities nationwide and they were supported by Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center and UNFPA Philippines. In August 2023, NOVEL through Shiela's leadership submitted its first solo shadow report which was supported by Women Enabled International (WEI). Working alongside other Filipino civil society representatives and WEI, Shiela strongly advocated for the rights of Filipino women and girls with disabilities and brought their issues and concerns before the CEDAW Committee during the CEDAW Review of the Philippines last October 2023. Her current work includes leading Wheels of Justice, a project of Life Haven CIL in Valenzuela City supported by the European Union. It aims to build the confidence and assist persons with disabilities to seek justice, strengthen implementation of Batas Pambansa Bilang 344 or Accessibility Law and prosecute its violators. Shiela is an experienced facilitator in community-based inclusive development, and inclusive facilitation conducting training both locally and abroad. She started her journey in climate justice when she joined a team that researched the impact of climate change on rural populations of persons with disabilities in her country. This led to her participation in the first International Youth Climate Delegate Program for the 28th Conference of Parties in Dubai, United Arab Emirates last year. These are Shiela's cornerstones as she leads NOVEL's project on climate change.

## Rebecca Opetsi Alitsi



Rebecca Alitsi is a PhD scholar at the University of Nottingham (UK) where she is pursuing PhD in public policy. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the same university and an undergraduate degree in development studies from Tangaza University (Kenya). Her current research focus is on women with disabilities' access to sexual and reproductive health through the Kenyan healthcare system.

She has championed for disability-inclusive communities in different capacities in East Africa through the state (Kenya) and organisations of persons with disabilities (both national and international). Some outstanding accomplishments include co-founding a disability outreach program at Youth with a Mission in Tanzania and serving as a regional coordinator for the National Council of Persons with Disabilities in Kenya. She received an inclusive development fellowship from the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus and the International Disability Alliance which enabled her to build the capacity of African organisations of people with disabilities.

## Fiona Anderson

Fiona Anderson holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology, Political and Legal Science and a Master's in International Comparative Disability Law and Public Policy from University of Galway. Fiona is a member of the Disability Advisory Committee of IHREC representing psychosocial and mental health disabilities and disability across the board and divide. Fiona is also a current member of the Mental Health Commission's Stakeholders Forum 2024. Fiona is a country leader with the Global Mental Health Peer Network. Fiona's primary interests revolve around medical and mental health law, discrimination, legal capacity, consent to treatment, advanced healthcare directives and women's healthcare within medical and mental health services and the provision of access to justice and legal representation for persons with disabilities including psychosocial and mental health disabilities. Fiona has been an advocate and activist for over 30 years.



## Anna Arstein-Kerslake

Professor Anna Arstein-Kerslake is an international leader in the fields of human rights, disability rights, gender justice, and legal personhood. She has published widely in these areas, including her recent sole-authored books, *Restoring Voice to People* (Cambridge University Press 2017) and *Legal Capacity and Gender* (Springer 2020). She was the Programme Director of the LLM in International Human Rights Law at the Irish Centre for Human Rights (ICHR) at University of Galway (2021-22) and the Programme Director for the BA Connect in Human Rights at ICHR (2022-23). She is also the Associate Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the School of Law and is the Athena SWAN Lead for self-evaluating gender equality at the School of Law. In addition, she is the Vice Dean of Graduate Studies in the College of Business, Public Policy, and Law. She holds a PhD in Law from NUIG, a JD from the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law, and a BA in Sociology from San Diego State University (SDSU).



## Abu Bakarr Bangura

I am Abu Bakarr Bangura, a Sierra Leonean. I am the Country Representative of African Youth with Disabilities' Network – Sierra Leone with a successful experience in Administration and Communication & Advocacy skills. A Disability Professional with over Ten (10) years of experience working alongside with the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) as the Team Lead of the Physical Disability Aspect; Sight Savers as a Co-Researcher on the Project title: 'Safely at School: School Related Gender Base Violence; Human Rights Commission – Sierra Leone as a member of the Working Group; Freetown Cheshire Home Management Committee as an observer; WE THE 15 as a Commissioner; a member of the Paralympics Committee and The Church of the Latter-Day Saints as Ward President of the Sunday School Tengbeh Town, Hill Station Stake. I earned a Degree in Business Administration from the University of Management & Technology and certificates on Computer software, project and report writing, citizen journalism, organization Development System and Strength from trainings and short courses. I have won multiple awards on disability. I am a Critical Thinker and a strong believer in disability awareness, I am passionate about media campaigns' potential impact on the way we think about and treat disability in Sierra Leone and even beyond.



## Ruth Barry



Ruth Barry is a solicitor with over 12 years' experience in human rights litigation. With independent law centre, Community Law & Mediation, she specialises in equality law, children's law and social welfare law and partners with community and voluntary sector organisations to make legal services more accessible to marginalised communities.

## Keelin Barry



Keelin Barry is a PhD researcher based at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, University of Galway, Ireland. Since 2020, Keelin has written and worked with Professor Siobhán Mullally, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The aim of this work has been to increase the visibility and awareness in international law, policy and practice, of the intersections of disability and heightened risk to trafficking in persons, faced by persons with disabilities. Keelin's other research and writing has included a focus on the reception conditions of asylum seekers with disabilities in the Irish international protection system, disability and asylum law, as well as multiple submissions to UN Treaty Bodies on disability human rights. Keelin has a particular interest in the human rights protection of asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities, intersectional discrimination, as well as the rights of persons with disabilities in humanitarian crisis and conflict situations.

## Emma Burns



Emma Burns is a researcher and community organiser from County Tipperary, Ireland. She is currently a Research Associate at the CDLP working on a project about children's representative advocacy services in Ireland. She is completing a PhD on the participation of people with intellectual disabilities in public and political life at University of Galway, funded by an Irish Research Council Government of Ireland scholarship. She has previously worked on various research projects exploring disability and reproductive justice, deinstitutionalisation, inclusive research methods, and the intersection of class and gender in secondary schools. Emma is cofounder and former convenor of Tipp for Choice, a rural women's reproductive justice collective, and in 2018 coordinated the local constituency campaign in support of the referendum on abortion. She is also co-founder and coordinator of The A-Team Youth Club, a grassroots volunteer-facilitated initiative serving almost 200 autistic children and young people in North Tipperary. X/Bluesky: @betaburns

## John Buttimer



Dr John Buttimer is Psychology Manager with Cope Foundation and has a special interest in the application of social theory and public policy to clinical practice. John has over twenty five years experience supporting and working with people with intellectual disability. John is also Chair of the Board of Directors of Gay Project. Pronouns: He/Him

## Jennifer Byrne

Jennifer Byrne recently joined CBM Ireland working on Disability Inclusive Climate Justice within the advocacy team. Her role focuses on including people with disabilities in climate change movements both in Europe and beyond. She has previously worked with other Irish and international development NGOs in diverse areas ranging from development education to humanitarian action, but her main areas of interest are in gender equality and disability inclusion.

After completing a BSc in International Development and Food Policy from UCC in 2019 with a focus on disability inclusion for mainstream development organisations, Jenny is now in the process of completing her PhD at the Centre for Global Women's Studies at the University of Galway. Her research explores the intersectionality between gender and disability in Cambodia and Rwanda, and how these identity factors impact income and livelihood opportunities for women with disabilities in both countries



## Suzy Byrne

Suzy Byrne is a disabled woman, activist and commentator and has over 25 years paid and unpaid experience in the community and voluntary sectors working on equality and disability issues. She is currently working as a Regional Manager for the National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities. Suzy has worked in print and broadcast media on LGBT and other rights issues both nationally and internationally. An award winning blogger she has an interest in social media and harnessing it for social change and campaigning and more recently has worked on disability and reproductive rights campaigns and capacity building amongst disabled people. She was appointed to the board of Irish Rail by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and is also a member of the board of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties.



## Theresia Degener

Theresia Degener is professor of law and disability studies at Protestant University of Applied Sciences in Bochum, Germany and director of the Bochum Centre for Disability Studies BODYDYS. 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.  
[www.bodydys-wissen.de](http://www.bodydys-wissen.de)



## Cír Doyle

Cír Doyle (They/Them) is a social justice activist. They are disabled both physically and due to multiple Neurodivergencies. They are not formally diagnosed with some of these due to several systematic barriers. Cír is a disabled, trans, queer parent who has too many labels to name in a quick bio. Previously major campaigns they work with included Bi+ Ireland, Dublin Bay North Repeal, MarRef and other projects spanning multiple social needs. Most recently Cír has chaired the successful Scrap the Green Paper Campaign along side their ongoing work as a cofounder of Neuro Pride Ireland.



## Pam Duncan Glancy

Pam Duncan Glancy was elected as a Scottish Labour MSP representing the Glasgow Region in 2021. Pam served as Scottish Labour's Spokesperson for Social Justice and Social Security until April 2023 when she was appointed Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education. She is the first permanent wheelchair user to have been elected to the Scottish Parliament. Pam attended Stirling University where she earned a BSc Hons in Psychology and a Masters in Health Psychology. Pam later went on to get a Post Graduate Diploma in Citizenship and Human Rights from Glasgow Caledonian University.

## 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 No. 1.



## Mar Galcerán

María del Mar Galcerán Gadea is a member of the Corts Valencianes, the legislature of the Valencian Community, since September 2023. Mar is a member of the People's Party (PP) and the first Spanish regional legislator with Down syndrome. She previously worked with the President of the Valencian Government and as a civil servant with the Ministry of Health. She has presented at a number of high profile international events including the 6th World Down Syndrome Congress, the International Congress of AEDES Madrid and Down Syndrome in the 21st Century Global Perspective, Valencia.



## Shelly Gaynor

Shelly is a well-recognised disabled activist in Ireland. She has been involved in disability activism since the age of eighteen. She was been involved in many high-profile campaigns at a national level, including the mobility allowance campaign in 2013 and the 72 hour sleep out outside government buildings in 2012 to protest against a plan to drastically cut Personal Assistance Service hours. Shelly has a Personal Assistant Service for twenty-six years and is living independently in her own home for the last fifteen years. She also has a direct payment service to manage her own company to direct, employ and fund her Personal Assistance Service under her own company Shellyonwheels. Shelly was appointed to the Irish Human Rights and equality commission Disability Advisory Committee since its establishment in 2018.



Shelly joined the board of the Centre for Independent Living (CIL) in the summer of 2017 and was elected chairperson in March 2018. Shelly led the transformation of CIL into ILMI as a national cross-impairment Disabled Persons Organisation when it launched in September 2018. As chairperson, Shelly led many ILMI media campaigns and has spoken at Oireachtas Committee meetings and led political engagement on the ILMI PAS NOW. Shelly frequently leads discussions on Personal Assistance and Assistive Technology with ILMI members and with other allied organisations. Shelly stepped down as chairperson in November 2019 and became employed as ILMI Peer Mentor in 2020 to present. Shelly provides one to one peer mentoring with disabled people to explore their goals and needs and how to navigate systems, including accessing supports for Independent Living such as PAS, Housing and Assistive Technology. Part of her work is supporting disabled people from their individual lived experience into collective peer spaces to become more active in the Movement. She established a PAS peer space and an ILMI Women's space to bring disabled people together online to share experience and feed into the work of ILMI.

## Hannah Gibson

Dr Hannah Gibson is a medical anthropologist whose work over the last 11 years has spanned research on horse-assisted psychotherapy, surrogacy, mothering, vulnerability, reproductive justice, and disability rights. She is currently a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow based at the Autonomous University of Barcelona where she is conducting research on Spanish intellectually disabled women's diverse experiences of reproductive control (including practices such as forced sterilisation and the use of long-term contraceptives) and autonomy (including motherhood). Through this, she is critically examining what barriers to support exist for them to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and goals. As a disabled woman herself, Hannah brings a nuanced and embodied perspective to her work. Beyond academia, she has had extensive experience working in the private and public sectors on disability rights in New Zealand, and she regularly writes about chronic illness, medical trauma, stigma, vulnerability, and her service dog Mr Darcy.



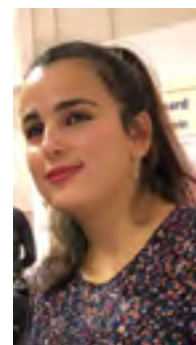
## John Gilmore

Dr John P Gilmore (he/they) is Assistant Professor and Head of Adult General Nursing at UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems. John's work focuses on the intersections of social justice and health, with a specific expertise in sexual and gender minority healthcare. John is a Fulbright HRB Health Impact Scholar and a UCD University for All Faculty Partner.



## Eliona Gjeczaj

Eliona Gjeczaj is a PHD Candidate in Disability Studies at the University of Iceland, researching the experience of gender-based violence and access to justice for disabled women in Iceland. She holds a First-Class Honours LLM Degree in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy (2018) from the Centre for Disability Law and Policy of, and BA International Degree on Sociology & Political Science and Spanish (2017) from National University of Ireland Galway. Since 2019, she is a serving member on the first ever Statutory Disability Advisory Committee in Ireland, appointed by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. Her research interests include access to justice, disability rights, intersectionality, gender equality, inclusive education, and advocacy. MS Gjeczaj is a member of SLISA, and has been recognized as 1 out of 10 Outstanding Young People of Ireland 2018 by JCI Ireland for her disability activism, academic achievements, and volunteering with disability NGOs.



## Caoimhe Gleeson

Caoimhe Gleeson is General Manager for the National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy at the Health Service Executive (HSE). Caoimhe is the HSE representative on the Inter-departmental Steering Board for the implementation of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015. Caoimhe has responsibility for the oversight of HSE National Consent Policy, oversight of the implementation programme to support compliance with the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015 in the HSE and works to progress equality, human rights advocacy and policy issues for people with disabilities and other diverse groups in Ireland. Caoimhe holds a BA, an LLB, a master's degree in Community Development, a professional diploma in Equality and Human Rights, is a trained mediator and is a candidate for the Barrister at Law degree in Kings Inns. Caoimhe is deputy chair of the National Research Ethics Committee for Clinical Trials. She is a board member of the CORU Social Workers Registration Board. Caoimhe has contributed to a number of publications on equality and human rights issues. She co-edited "The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015: Personal and Professional Reflections" with Professor Mary Donnelly, School of Law, UCC.



## Heba Hagrass

Ms. Heba Hagrass, from Egypt, was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council as the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities from 1 November 2023. She is an advocate, an international disability consultant, and a researcher on the rights of persons with disabilities with an extensive experience in Egypt, the Arab Region, and worldwide. Ms. Hagrass is a sociologist with PhD in Disability Studies at the University in Leeds (2010) with a specialization in disability rights and social policies, gender, and employment. At the international level, Ms. Hagrass was notably a representative of women with disabilities in the International Disability Caucus (IDC) who participated in the drafting of Article 6 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on women with disabilities.



## Senada Halilčević

My name is Senada Halilčević I was born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 1976. I spent most of my life in different institutions. After leaving the institution, I lived in a community-based supported housing program in Zagreb, Croatia. Since April 1, 2012, I have been living completely independently. I have been president of the Association for Self-Advocacy since 2008. Association for Self-Advocacy was the first association of persons with intellectual disabilities in Croatia and this part of Europe. It was founded in 2003 in Zagreb. I am member of the Board of Inclusion Europe and the President of European Platform of Self Advocates (EPSA) for two 2 years.



## Amy Hassett

Amy Hassett is a disability advocate and a co-chairperson of Disabled Women Ireland (DWI), Ireland's national disabled person's organisation advocating for the rights of disabled self-identified women, girls and non-binary people. Amy is also currently studying for a PhD in University College Dublin.



## Martin Hogg

Professor Martin Hogg was appointed as an Established Professor and Dean of the University of Galway School of Law in November 2021. He was previously Professor of the Law of Obligations and Dean of the Edinburgh Law School in Scotland. Professor Hogg's main academic interests lie in all aspects of the law of obligations, with a recent focus on comparative obligations law, the law of contract and promise, the fundamental structural language of the law of obligations, and restatements and codifications of the law. He is a member of the European Centre of Tort and Insurance Law.



## Amanie Issa

Amanie, a Palestinian native, is a PhD researcher and Hardiman scholar at the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Disability Law and Policy. Her research delves into the intersection of disability and gender within the framework of gender-based violence in colonial struggles, with a particular focus on Palestine as a case study. Previously, Amanie worked as a legal consultant with the World Bank on the 'Women, Business and the Law' project. In this role, she analyzed the rights of women with disabilities across 190 economies, advocating for gender and disability inclusive laws. Her professional journey also includes diverse roles in human trafficking, period poverty, and environmental and health rights advocacy.



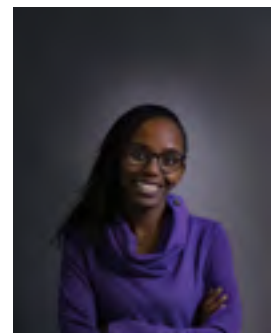
## Mia Ives-Rublee

Mia Ives-Rublee is a policy analyst, community organizer, international speaker, and passionate advocate. She currently works as the director of the Disability Justice Initiative at the Center for American Progress and is one of the commissioners on the President's Advisory Committee on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor's in Sociology and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Master's in social work. After experiencing significant issues with the safety net system personally and with her clients at the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Mia decided to commit herself to addressing more systemic issues. She worked in research, policy analysis, campaigning, and community organizing fighting for the rights of the most marginalized, including disabled people, immigrants, LGBTQ folks, and people of color. Mia helped organize the Women's March by developing a disability caucus and ensuring Deaf interpreters were represented on stage for the original March. This helped push other progressive organizations and events do more to be more accessible and inclusive and clearly helped to eventually hire the first ASL interpreters at the White House. Mia got numerous awards for her work, including Glamour magazine naming her as one of 2017's Women of the Year Award. She was also recognized by She the People as one of 20 Women of Color in Politics to Watch in 2020 and awarded the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Social Work.



## Elizabeth Kamundia

Elizabeth Kamundia works as the Deputy Director of the Disability Rights Division at Human Rights Watch. She holds an LLD from the Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria and an LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy from the Centre for Disability Law and Policy – National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG). Elizabeth has worked with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (Assistant Director), the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUIG (Legal Researcher) and the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (Disability Rights and Law Schools Project Coordinator). She has also worked at the Commission on the Implementation of the Constitution of Kenya (Consultant on Disability) and the Committee of Experts on Constitutional Review – Kenya (Legal Researcher). Elizabeth is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya.



## Nem Kearns

Nem currently serves as Co-Director of Disabled Women Ireland, the national Disabled Persons' Organisations representing women, girls, non-binary and gender non-confirming people and was appointed to the National Autism Innovation Strategy Oversight and Advisory Group. Nem is also a Co-Founder of Neuro Pride Ireland, a voluntary cross-neurodivergency community organisation and DPO as well as providing policy consultation and advocacy on gender and LGBTQIA+ equality and disability justice, and how these areas intersect. Nem is themselves Autistic and otherwise Neurodivergent.

## David Lepofsky

David Lepofsky CM, O. Ont, LLB (Osgoode Hall Law School 1979), LL. M (Harvard Law School 1982) LL.D. (Hon.) (Queens 1999, University of Western Ontario 2006, Law Society of Ontario 2016, Brock University 2022). David Lepofsky is a visiting research professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Western Ontario (starting July 2023, a past visiting professor of Disability Rights and Legal Education at the Osgoode Hall Law School and, for over three decades, an adjunct member of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law (all part time). He holds volunteer leadership roles in the disability community. He is chair of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance. He is a member and past chair of the Toronto District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee. From 2018 to 2022, he served as a member of the Kindergarten-Grade 12 Education Standards Development Committee appointed by the Ontario Government to recommend reforms to tear down barriers impeding students with disabilities. He is also a member of the board of the Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC). Twitter: @davidlepofsky



## Bruno Monteiro

Bruno Lima Monteiro is a Programmes Director at Validity Foundation and has an International Law and criminal justice background (University of Cambridge LL.M). He is currently responsible for multiple intersectional initiatives to enable persons with disabilities, especially children and women, to access criminal proceedings, reparations and support (CHAT for Victims, DIS-CONNECTED, ENABLE and LINK). He has written multiple policy briefs and proposals for reform of criminal justices to enable the adoption of age-, gender- and disability-appropriate procedural accommodations in the justice system. Before joining Validity, Bruno worked in multiple national and international settings, supporting the implementation, conducting research and/or coordinating access to justice projects at, among others, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. He has also directly supported victims of domestic violence in Portugal as a case worker.



## Rosaleen McDonagh



Rosaleen McDonagh is a Traveller woman with a disability. Originally from Sligo, she worked in Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre for ten years, managing the Violence Against Women programme, and remains a board member. Rosaleen has a BA in Biblical & Theological Studies, an MPhil in Ethnic & Racial Studies & an MPhil in Creative Writing, all from TCD. She holds a PhD from Northumbria University. She is a regular contributor to the Irish Times and has written ostensibly within the framework of a Traveller feminist perspective. McDonagh's work includes *Mainstream*, *The Baby Doll Project*, *Stuck*, *She's Not Mine*, and *Rings*. Rosaleen was appointed to The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in May 2020. Within the Commission, Rosaleen is the chair of the Disability Advisory Committee. She is also a member of Aosdana and was part of the BBC's Writers Rooms Hothouse 2021 (June/July).

Rosaleen was commissioned for a feature article in the Irish Times in 2012 responding to Channel 4's series *My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding*. Her play *Mainstream* was directed by Olivier Award winner, Jim Culleton, for Fishamble and Project Arts Centre in 2016. In 2018, Fishamble produced Rosaleen's play *Running Out of Road* in the RHK to mark the first anniversary of Traveller Ethnicity recognition. Rosaleen was writer in residence with Tuti Theatre Company in Adelaide, Australia in 2019. Corrib Theatre Company in Portland Oregon, USA, produced *The Prettiest Proud Boy* in May 2021. *Walls & Windows* was commissioned in May 2021 by The Abbey Theatre. *Contentious Spaces* was commissioned by Project Arts Centre in 2020/2021. Skein Press published a collection of essays titled *Unsettled* in September 2021.

Rosaleen is currently under Commission from the Abbey Theatre, she is writing an adaptation of Isben's 'A Dolls House'. Rosaleen is also working on two books for Skein Press. The first is a collection of short stories entitled "Contentious Spaces". Her third book "Bearings: A Letter to Amy & Rosie Bridget" is a letter to a young Traveller woman and a letter to a young Disabled woman.

## Siobhán Mullally



Siobhán Mullally is Established Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at University of Galway. In 2020, she was appointed as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children.

From 2017-19, Professor Mullally was the President of the Council of Europe treaty monitoring body, the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking (GRETA), and previously served as 1st Vice-President (2015-17 and Member (2013-19). She was a Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (2014-19) and also a member of the Joint Treaty body of the Northern Irish Human Rights Commission and the Irish Human Rights Commission (created by the Good Friday Agreement). She is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague and was the founding Joint Editor-in-Chief of the *Irish Yearbook of International Law* (2006-20), published by Hart Bloomsbury, Oxford.

## Donncha O'Connell

Donncha O'Connell is an Established Professor of Law in the School of Law, University of Galway where he has previously served terms as Dean of the Faculty of Law and Head of the School of Law. Currently, he teaches courses on Advocacy, Activism & Public Interest Law, European Human Rights, Policing and Administrative Law. He was a member of the Commission on the Future of Policing. He also served two terms as a Commissioner of the Law Reform Commission and was a board member of the Legal Aid Board. Most recently, he was a member of the Peart Review Group on the Offences Against the State Acts and, as part of that independent review, he co-authored a minority report with Dr Alan Greene of Birmingham Law School. He has served on the boards of a number of non-governmental organisations including: INTERIGHTS, FLAC and Amnesty International - Ireland. From 1999 to 2002, he was the first full-time Director of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties. For nine years Donncha was on the board of the internationally-acclaimed Druid Theatre Company



## Charles O'Mahony

Charles is a lecturer at the University of Galway's School of Law, specialising in disability law and policy, mental health law and policy, and allied areas. He uses the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as a framework in his research, identifying gaps in existing law and policy, and to identify reforms that align with international human rights standards. At the University of Galway, Charles is responsible for delivering modules for both law students, and nursing, mental health, and midwifery students. Charles has published in leading peer-reviewed journals including, the International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, the Industrial Law Journal, the Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly, and the International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice. He co-edited one of the first books on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Disability Law and Policy: An Analysis of the UN Convention, published by Clarus Press.



## Elizabeth Ombati

Elizabeth (she/her/hers) is a disability rights activist based in Nairobi, Kenya. She is a member of the Kenya Network of Women and Girls with Disabilities. Her advocacy for disability rights began in the year 2009. As one with a lived experience of a mental health condition, and having studied print journalism, it almost came naturally that she used her talent in writing to express what she was going through, which slowly had her going into advocacy. Elizabeth is currently supporting the Network to run a Ford Foundation funded project on increasing participation of women with disabilities in leadership and governance. Elizabeth uses local media to raise awareness on disability inclusion. She is a strong believer in self-advocacy. She hopes that through her work in disability activism, our communities can be less exclusionary, more inclusive, and more accessible to all persons with disabilities in their diversities.



Elizabeth blogs at: <https://elizabethombati.wordpress.com/>

## Hege Orefellen

Hege Orefellen is a Norwegian jurist and survivor of forced psychiatry. She holds a Cand. Scient. degree in analytical chemistry and a master's degree in human rights law. She is currently working on a PhD on the right to self-determination (legal capacity), and free and informed consent to mental health interventions, as set forth by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, University of Galway. Hege is the international representative of We Shall Overcome (WSO), a Norwegian NGO/DPO run by and for users and survivors of psychiatry, established in 1968. WSO advocates for the human rights of users and survivors of psychiatry, the implementation of the UN CRPD and bringing forced psychiatric practices and other infringements in the mental health system to an end. She is coordinator for the Pro Bono project, ICJ Norway (International Commission of Jurists, Norwegian section), bringing cases to courts with claims that forced psychiatric interventions violate human rights, seeking reparations. She is Chair of the human rights foundation ReDo, working on CRPD implementation, rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities and support/funding for strategic litigation.



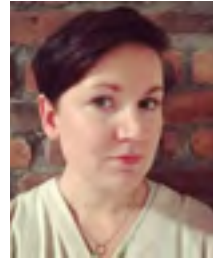
## Andrea Parra

Andrea Parra is an attorney, queer feminist legal activist, experiential trainer and translator. She holds a law degree from the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia and an LLM in American Law from Boston University. She is admitted to practice in the state of New York and in Colombia. She's an independent consultant, co-director of ALCE (Abolición de Lógicas de Castigo y Encierro), an anti-punitive initiative striving to end psychiatric violence in Colombia, director of the Latin American Network of trainer activists Talleristas x la Justicia, a core trainer with Training for Change, and co-coordinator of the Latin American Network on Art.12. As a consultant, she has worked with various human rights agencies and organizations including OHCHR, the Belém do Pará Monitoring Mechanism, Bridges, O'Neill Institute, Promsex, the Colombian Movement for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, among others. Until 2018 she was the Advocacy Director of the India-based feminist organization CREA. Between 2016 and 2017 she was the interim Practitioner-in-Residence and clinical professor of the Immigrant Justice Clinic of the Washington College of Law at American University. Between 2011 and 2016, she was the Director of the Action Program for Equality and Social Inclusion (PAIIS), a human rights law clinic at the Universidad de los Andes that engages in legal and political advocacy against discrimination based on disability, gender identity and sexual orientation. She was an adjunct professor at the same law school between 2009 and 2014. Prior to joining PAIIS, she worked as a senior staff attorney at Women's Link Worldwide, where she directed the Gender Justice Observatory and worked on projects related to migrant women and implementation of international human rights standards in sexual and reproductive rights advocacy. Between 2001 and 2006 she worked as staff attorney and supervisor of the domestic violence unit at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project in Seattle, U.S. Contact: @andreparraro, andparra@gmail.com



## Kaja Petersen

Kaja Petersen (she/her) is a masters student in Gender studies at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. She has a bachelor's degree in social work from Oslo, Norway. She is currently writing her masters thesis in gender studies on the topic of LGBTQ+ adults with chronic illness, using a crip theoretical framework. Her research interests developed from her own lived experiences, and include chronic illness, neoliberalist welfare systems, queer - and crip time/temporality, and resistance practices.



## Aoife Price

Aoife Price is a PhD Candidate at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, University of Galway and her PhD is focused on disabled women's participation in social movements. She is currently working as a Research Associate at the University of Galway and as a part-time Lecturer at University College Cork. She has previously worked with the European Disability Forum, the Union of Students in Ireland, and the Centre for Effective Services. She is active within the disability community and is Co-Chair of the National Disabled Postgraduate Advisory Committee. She is an active member of Disabled Women Ireland and passionate about the intersection of disability and gender. Aoife was appointed to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commissions Disability Advisory Committee in 2022, the organisation tasked with monitoring Ireland's implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



## Shivaun Quinlivan

Dr Quinlivan specialises in equality law, education law and constitutional law. She is a member of the Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law. From 2018-2020, Dr. Quinlivan acted as an expert advisor to the States of Guernsey in relation to the development of new multi-ground equality legislation, legislation that was adopted in 2022. Dr. Quinlivan with Dr. Lucy-Ann Buckley were awarded the President's Prize for Societal Impact in 2020 for their work with the States of Guernsey. In 2016 Dr Quinlivan, was awarded an O'Brien Residential Fellowship and has completed a period in residence in the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, Faculty of Law, McGill University, Quebec, Canada. Dr Quinlivan was the first Vice Dean for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the College of Business, Public Policy and Law (2018-2022). She co-chaired the successful School of Business and Economics Athena SWAN Bronze Award 2020. She was a member of the Institutional self assessment team from 2016-2021, which presided over two successful applications. In 2010, Dr Quinlivan coordinated the establishment of the LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy, for which she was the Programme Director from 2010-2016. Dr Quinlivan holds a BA and LLB from NUI Galway, an LLM from King's College London and a PhD from Trinity College Dublin. She is also a qualified barrister.



## Majo Rivas

Majo holds a degree in law from the Universidad Nacional de Asunción in Paraguay and a Master of Laws from the University of Toronto, where she was a Health Law, Ethics & Policy Fellow for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and an International Reproductive Health Law Fellow for the International Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Program.



Majo has worked and volunteered in the areas of women's rights, sexual and reproductive rights, migrant rights, disability rights and sustainable mobilities. Currently, Majo is the Community Sponsorship Manager at Nasc – supporting both communities who wish to sponsor refugees reach Ireland safely and assisting refugee families in accessing government entitlements after they arrive to Ireland. She is particularly interested in intersectional discrimination and the implementation of human rights standards in public policy and practice.

## Sara Rocha

Sara Rocha is a neurodivergent and disabled advocate. She is Vice-chair of the Women's Committee of the European Disability Forum (EDF), where she is a representative of the European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP), where she is Vice-President. She is the co-founder and President of Associação Portuguesa Voz do Autista, the first self-advocacy non-profit in Portugal. She is an expert in healthcare data and public health information and works as a Data Manager for the Public Health and Primary Care department of the School of Clinical Medicine, University of Cambridge. Sara has been involved with European and international campaigns and initiatives to criminalise forced sterilisation and was involved in the Maltese change in legislation to criminalise this practice.



## Sita Sah

My name is Sita Sah. I am the third child of my parents and had seven siblings, including myself. I was born and raised in Manikdaha village, which is now part of Lahan 24 in the Siraha district of Madhesh Province. I worked with Blind Women Association Nepal (BWAN) for two years as a project assistant and am currently serving as a program officer at Disable Society Janakpur (DSJ) for the past two months. Established in 1999, Disable Society Janakpur (DSJ) is a non-political, non-profit, rights-based organization that focuses on supporting ten types of persons with disabilities in the Madhesh Province of Nepal. Our aim is to ensure no one is excluded, regardless of gender, age, caste, creed, culture, or ethnicity. Established in 2067 (Nepali calendar), BWAN is a national-level, non-profit, non-political, rights-based organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the rights of visually impaired women, and women with disabilities in general. Our work primarily focuses on education, health, employment, and advocacy for women with disabilities. BWAN also provides scholarships for girls and women with disabilities to continue their studies.



## Stacey Sriver

Stacey Sriver is a Lecturer in the School of Political Science and Sociology, Discipline of Gender and Women's Studies. Her work focuses broadly on issues of gender equality, with a particular interest in violence against women/gender-based violence. She is co-author of the groundbreaking book, 'Rape and Justice in Ireland' and is currently co-writing 'Violence against Women and the Global Economy', forthcoming with Taylor and Francis.



## María Laura Serra

Maria Laura Serra is a researcher at the University of Valladolid (UVa) in Spain. Her research interests include intersectionality, legal capacity, equality, and mental health. She currently serves as the principal investigator (PI) of RECAJES, a grant-funded project supported by the Spanish Research Council, and an independent project focused on exploring the human rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities within the Spanish mental health system, funded by the EU Next Generation Fund/UVa.



## Magdalena Szarota

Dr Magda(lena) Szarota, a Senior Research Associate at Lancaster University (UK), is an award-winning cross-sectional strategist and human rights advocate with over 15 years of experience across Europe, Asia, and the U.S., also a photographer and poet. Considered one of the pioneers of the disabled women's movement in post-socialist Poland, she has been engaged in effective policy-related advocacy and expert interventions in the European Union and the United Nations. Dr. Szarota has (co)authored books, journal articles, reports, and change-making tools, and has (co)led research and advocacy projects on technologies for innovative social change, impact, and outreach. She has received merit-based scholarships and advocacy fellowships from Yale University, the Kosciuszko Foundation, the Ashoka Foundation, and the Allianz Foundation, among others. In 2019, she was honored with the title of Ambassador for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) in recognition of her contributions in the realm of disability and intersectional justice. Her academic and advocacy work has gained media attention in English, French, Polish, Czech, and Nepalese.



## Shruthi Venkatachalam

Dr Shruthi Venkatachalam is a researcher primarily interested in investigating violence and abuse perpetrated against disabled women. She is currently a research fellow at the University of Leeds, where she works on a project focused on domestic violence and abuse among women with multiple sclerosis. As the impact lead for the project, she engages in generating and pursuing knowledge exchange and impact activities related to victim support for women with multiple sclerosis and disabled women more broadly, both within clinical settings and beyond.



Shruthi completed her PhD in Social Policy from the University of Bristol. Her doctoral research explored how disabled women who are victim survivors of violence and abuse comprehend and pursue their idea of justice. Additionally, she has researched the experiences of disabled women rape survivors within the criminal justice system in India. She is particularly interested in theories of justice, intersectionality, social power dynamics, and feminist reflexive methodologies. She has co-produced research reports and evidence briefings on violence against disabled women.

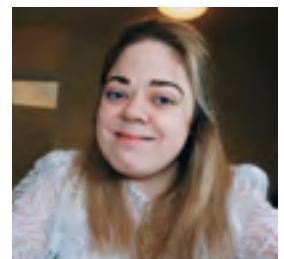
## Jennifer Wairimu

Jennifer Wairimu is a Litigation Officer at Validity Foundation, an international human rights organisation that conducts a range of litigation and advocacy initiatives to promote and advance the rights of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. Currently based in Nairobi, Kenya, she brings over 8 years of extensive experience in the field of disability rights. Her work focuses on drafting legal submissions in a range of national and international judicial forums, providing legal advices in human rights situations and conducting research analysis on laws and policies at national, sub-regional and regional levels for the rights of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. She holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from The University of Nairobi, Kenya. Her professional interests are deeply rooted in disability rights with a keen focus on legal capacity, access to justice, inclusive education, deinstitutionalization, and exploring the intersections between disability and torture. Through her work and unwavering quest for systemic change, she continues to advocate for a more inclusive and just society for persons with disabilities.



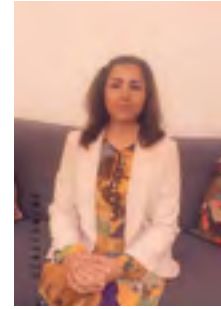
## Emma Ward

Emma Ward is a 21 year old Irish Traveller wheelchair user and disability rights activist. She is a journalist and content creator who is hoping to change the medias perception of both the Irish Traveller and disabled peoples communities in Ireland.



## 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 PhD Candidate, she is doing her PhD in her 2nd year in an Indian university in the field of political sciences.

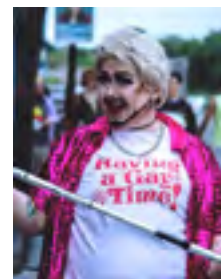


## Maryam Madani

Maryam Madani is a media and communications professional in the areas of social inclusion and arts and culture. She is active as a freelance journalist, filmmaker, writer, singer, and disability activist. Maryam is the founder of Disability Pride Ireland, a cross-disability Disabled Persons Organisation, and one of the organisers of Ireland's first Disability Pride and Power Parade which was held in July 2023. She has been a prominent campaigner on issues such as DPOs and the implementation of the CRPD, personal assistance provision, and the 'Scrap the Green Paper' campaign. Maryam holds a BA(hons) in English Studies from Trinity College Dublin and an MA in Journalism from Technological University Dublin.

## Shar Nolan

Shar Nolan (They/Them) is an artist, activist and performer based in Galway city. They're passionate about fighting for a better world for us all, with a smile and their mobility aids along for the ride. You may also know them under their drag king alias Viktor Complex!



## Fire Exits

There are multiple fire exits in this building. They are located as follows: 6 on the ground floor, 4 on the first and 4 on the second floor. They are all clearly marked by a green sign with a person walking. Alternatively ask someone in a maroon t-shirt. The assembly point is T1 located outside the front of the Institute for Lifecourse and Society (ILAS) building. If you require assistance to exit the building in the event of an emergency evacuation for fire or other evacuation, please ensure you have completed a "Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan" with a member of the team.

## Accessible Bathrooms

The ILAS building has 3 accessible bathrooms, one on each floor. There is a portable hoist which can be used in the ground floor bathroom and a fixed hoist and changing area in the bathroom on the second floor.

## COVID Protocols

Unless medically exempt, we ask all in-person attendees to remain masked indoors, except when dining. Masks will be available each morning at the registration desk.

If you feel unwell during the day, or become symptomatic with COVID/flu like symptoms, you will be escorted by a team member to a separate room and transport to your accommodation will be organised. We can support you with the basic supplies you might need while restricting movements for the required five days. We ask that you do not return to the conference until you have had a negative COVID test. A test can be purchased at pharmacies and many local shops.

## Permit Parking on Campus

Pay and Display parking is available on campus, and details of this have been issued via email to all delegates. When using Pay and Display parking please ensure you are parked in the blue lined spaces only in the park and ride car park. Clamping is in operation. There are several accessible parking spaces available directly outside ILAS and at two locations close by. You do not need a campus permit to park in these spaces. However, you must display a valid EU disabled parking permit or blue badge or you may be clamped.

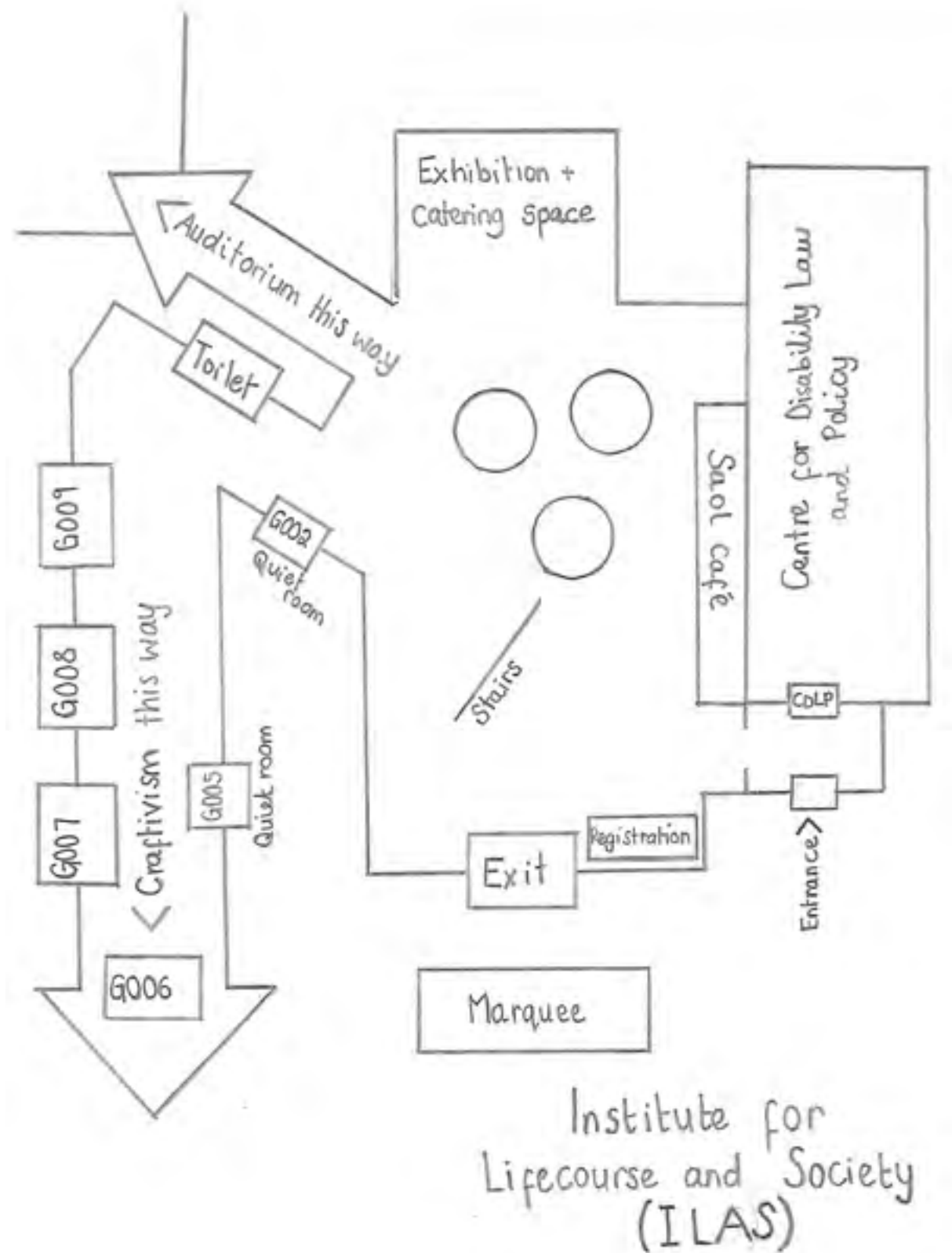
## Quiet/Lactation Room

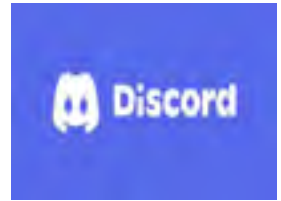
We have two quiet rooms. G002 can be used as quiet space or lactation room. It is located opposite the bathrooms on the ground floor. The second quiet room is G005. Please see venue map provided or ask a staff member or volunteer for directions.

## Photography

There will be photos taken throughout the week. If you do not want your photo taken please inform the person at the registration desk and you will receive a different coloured lanyard.

# Venue Map: Institute for Lifecourse and Society





While we don't all get to gather in Galway, we do still want to be able to chat and discuss what we are learning. To that end we have set up a Discord. The link to access the group will be in your email.

### **Channels**

These are themed by day – so there are five themed channels. We also have channels for craftivism, general gender and disability stuff and to talk about interests and what work you are doing. This is a place to ask questions and have discussions about the #15thDSS.

### **Group Purpose**

The Discord exists to allow us to communicate over the Summer School. We hope it will help facilitate some of the chats that normally occur over lunch or between sessions. We hope you will enjoy being part of the group and both benefit from it and contribute to it so others benefit. No experience is too little, and no contribution is too small!

### **Introducing Yourself**

Once you have joined, please introduce yourself. There is a channel marked for this purpose. This is a good space to share your work. Share as much as you would like to. It is never too late to introduce yourself so don't worry if you did not do so immediately.

Self-promotional posts are encouraged, as long as they relate to the CRPD or gender and disability justice. This includes asking members to like, follow or share your personal social media accounts or blogs, read your journal articles, contribute to or attend your conferences, participate in research etc. Don't be shy, it's what we're here for!

### **Posting**

Posts do not need prior moderator approval. This is a space for all Summer School delegates and we can each be responsible for what we post, and our tone. However, do please see the discussion on 'safe space' below.

### **Confidentiality**

While you are free to share public information learned in this group widely, be conscious if people are sharing personal experiences that they may not want them to be shared outside the group.

## Posting Links

Posting links to articles, threads, videos, calls for papers, conference details, jobs, etc. that may be of interest to Summer School delegates is encouraged. Please provide a basic information as a 'scene setter' rather than posting a link on its own (e.g. 'Interesting article re gender and disability justice'). This allows group members to judge whether the link is relevant and worth clicking, it promotes discussion, and it allows colleagues to search for the post later. Posts should also include a Content Warning if they contain sensitive material which others might find distressing or difficult.

## Searching

Given the size of the group and the number of posts, it is easy to miss things. You can search the channels and we encourage it.

## Duplication

Please check that a comment or article hasn't already been shared so we can keep conversations in one place; a quick search can find previous threads on popular items such as referencing, social media presence, X/Twitter names etc. It can be helpful to read/add to existing discussions rather than to create new ones that inevitably repeat the same information; this helps keep advice in the same place too rather than in multiple threads.

## Commenting and Posting Policy

By participating in this group, you are agreeing to our commenting and posting policy, outlined here. These rules are all about the creation and maintenance of a safe space.

1. Please treat your fellow group members with the same respect and understanding you would want to see in your life. When commenting try and add constructive, valuable comments to the conversation. Be friendly, be fair, and treat each other with mutual respect.
2. Do not delete posts or comments unless you have been instructed to do so by a moderator. This is so that problematic posts can be a source of learning, to sit with our discomfort if called in/out and also to acknowledge and respect the labour of commentators in replying to the post.
3. Do not personally attack other members with comments that are harmful, threatening, or demeaning.
4. Trolling, or posting deliberately disruptive statements meant to hijack comment threads or throw discussions off-track are not allowed.

Members who break these rules will receive one warning before being removed from the discord.

## Safe Space

This group is first and foremost a SAFE SPACE. What do we mean? Racism, ageism, homophobia, sexism, transphobia, ableism or prejudice based on ethnicity, disability, nationality, class, gender, gender presentation, language ability, asylum status or religious affiliation will not be tolerated.

Moderators are not here to limit or direct conversation but are here to ensure this space is safe and productive for all our members. We do not moderate this page continually, there are many posts with multiple threads, and there will inevitably be times when an inappropriate post cannot be immediately addressed by the moderators. If there is a problem, please report the post and wait for a response.

Posts that contain transphobic, homophobic, misogynistic, ableist, racist or similarly offensive material may also be removed, and the member messaged privately; egregious acts will result in immediate removal from the group. In this case, all decisions are at the discretion of the moderating team. While we will always try to explain why a decision has been made, we are under no obligation to defend an action and harassment of moderators will also not be tolerated.

If you feel a member has violated our guidelines, please challenge them or report it. However, do not use it as an excuse to violate guidelines in response; and of course, do not harass or bully other users (this includes non- and ex-members). Harassment may include: name calling, using profanity, refusing to leave a member alone if they have requested you do so, creating new threads in order to specifically target one person etc. Do report trolls or abusive commentary (by tagging or sending a message) to a moderator (listed under 'members' in the group page).

Before joining a heated debate, please ask if you can offer anything new to the conversation - dialogue is most effective when people have space to think and learn. If you do want to contribute, try to make it a positive interaction.

## Content Warnings

As noted above, all posts of a sensitive nature should be preceded with a content warning. For example, a content warning could read \*The linked article contains a description of violence or abuse.\* Do please highlight content in your post so that group members can choose to avoid it if they would prefer, but to allow others to read it and you to post without self-censoring.

**Patience and tolerance...**with each other, and with the moderators. We accept that we are all human, and we will all make mistakes within this learning process.

## Downloading the Discord Application

You will get a link to do this in your registration email. You can also go to the GooglePlay/Apple AppStore.

Follow these steps to register.

1. You will be asked to register with Discord. Press the blue button which reads 'Register'.
2. You will be asked to enter your phone number.
3. You will be sent a confirmation code.
4. You will be asked for your birthday.
5. Put in your name.
6. Make up a password
7. You are now signed up for Discord.
8. Click the Blue button to join the Summer School server.

You can also open Discord in your desktop browser using the login details you setup above.

**WiFi - Eduroam**

User: 9876001t

Password: xbmja7836

**#15thDSS**

**What is Craftivism?**

**Crafting + activism = craftivism**

Craftivism is a visual, handmade form of activism that usually includes elements of anti-capitalism, environmentalism and feminism. Craftivism includes any visual art or design work including but not limited to drawing, painting, street art, collage, embroidery, crochet, knitting, posters and digital art.

Anyone can take part. You do not need knowledge or skills, only a willingness to try and an openness to each other. Craftivism has a long history of use – particularly by women – in human rights campaigns. From the Arpilleras (narrative quilt squares) sewn by Chilean women protesting the injustices of the Pinochet regime to the AIDS memorial quilt, from the many varied actions of the #JusticeForLB campaign to the Irish abortion rights campaign around the 2018 Referendum, craftivism has lifted voices, started conversations, visually disrupted public arenas, and raised consciousness about social issues and injustices. Craftivists come together in a spirit of openness to create connection with each other and to create visual representations of the injustices that drive us.



"Craftivism is a way of looking at life where voicing opinions through creativity makes your voice stronger, your compassion deeper and your quest for justice more infinite."

- Betsy Greer, 2003

**Creating Your Craftivism Piece**

The theme of this year's International Disability Law Summer School is "Gender and Disability Justice". For our craftivism project, we invite you to collaborate with us on a piece of visual art and craft inspired by protests and direct action such as the 504 Sit-In, the Disabled People's Direct Action Network (DAN), the Women's March, and the Global Call to Action on Poverty rallies. We invite you to create a dissident body – a protestor, an activist, a crafted version of yourself or someone you admire. You can create a person who looks just like you or a fantastical imaginary avatar. You can choose to add signs and slogans about issues rooted in the intersection of gender and disability justice – a global issue, an issue that affects you locally, or anything in between. Your finished pieces will join others in a collage around the organising image of a disability justice rally, an activism tool that is used across the globe to raise awareness of injustices and unite people in an expression of solidarity.

## Submitting Your Craftivism Piece

There are two steps that must be completed by everyone **before 5pm on Wednesday, 19th June**

### 1. Written Description

Send a written description of your crafted piece by email with the subject line "Craftivism by YOUR NAME" to [emma.burns@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:emma.burns@universityofgalway.ie)

- A good written description makes an object accessible by describing essential information about it, including its shape, materials, texture, colours and size.
- Generally, image descriptions should be objective so that people reading it can form their own opinions about what the image means.
- As this is a craftivism piece, you are free to explain any meaning attached to the piece or to describe any emotions you experienced while creating it.
- Try to be concise so that it doesn't take too long for people to absorb all the information.
- Your description will be published with the online digital version of the completed project.

### 2. Submit Your Piece

**In-Person attendees**, please submit your piece to Shar Nolan in Room G006

OR

**Online attendees**, please scan or take a photograph of your piece and send it as a PNG, JPEG or PDF file by email to [emma.burns@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:emma.burns@universityofgalway.ie), again with "Craftivism by YOUR NAME" in the subject line.

- Use the best lighting you have available (sunlight is often best).
- Your image should be a maximum of 25 MBs.

All images will be uploaded to the International Disability Law Summer School Craftivism web page. In-person submissions will be integrated into the larger collaborative collage piece and will join our collection of craftivist images.

# About the CDLP

## Research

### **Representative Advocacy for Children with Intellectual Disabilities in Ireland**

This research aims to explore the need for a representative advocacy service for children with intellectual disabilities and their families in Ireland. In this research representative advocacy means individualised, independent support including support to have your views heard, representation in meetings and assistance to understand processes. This research is working with an advisory group of young people, aged 18 – 24 years old, with intellectual disabilities. Focus groups will be conducted with children with intellectual disabilities, aged 9 – 17 and their parents or guardians to document their experiences and what sort of advocacy support they require. The project will also interview key stakeholders in the area including representatives of government departments, advocacy services and children's rights organisations to ascertain their views.

**Web:** [universityofgalway.ie/cdlp](https://universityofgalway.ie/cdlp)

**Email:** [info.cdlp@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:info.cdlp@universityofgalway.ie)

### **Marginalisation, Disability and Candidature in the 2024 Elections**

This research focuses on the experiences of disabled candidates who stood in the Irish local and European elections (2024) who hold multiple marginalised identities, including those protected under the nine grounds of The Equal Status Acts 2000-2018 (e.g. disabled women, disabled migrants, disabled travellers, disabled LGBTQ+ candidates). The research is comprised of 1-to-1 qualitative interviews with multiply marginalised disabled people who stood in the 2024 elections, utilising a case study approach detailing a small number of cases. The study aims to understand the intersection of barriers facing these candidates and how Ireland's compliance with Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) could be better achieved using an intersectional lens.

**Web:** [universityofgalway.ie/cdlp](https://universityofgalway.ie/cdlp)

**Email:** [info.cdlp@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:info.cdlp@universityofgalway.ie)

### **Young people who are non-speaking, sometimes speaking or communicate differently and the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015**

This project sets out to learn how young people who are non-speaking, sometimes speaking, or communicate differently can access and use the support agreements under the Assisted Decision - Making (Capacity) Act 2015. It will research international experiences in this area to learn about best practice. It will then work with a small group of young people who are non-speaking, sometimes speaking, or communicate differently and their families to learn about their experience of using or transitioning to Ireland's new system. Finally, the project will survey professionals, who might be assessing decision making ability, to establish their understanding of new law and how it applies to young people who communicate differently.

**Web:** [universityofgalway.ie/cdlp](https://universityofgalway.ie/cdlp)

**Email:** [cliona.debhailis@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:cliona.debhailis@universityofgalway.ie)

## Select Research Outputs

### **ResPoNCE (Respecting Persons with disabilities' Needs and rights in Crisis and Emergency)**

The project sought to examine whether the rights of persons with disabilities were respected in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) during the Covid-19 pandemic. In doing so it examined the impact of the pandemic-related laws and policies in seven European countries - Ireland, the UK, Spain, France, Sweden, Italy and Germany - on the health and well being of people with disabilities. This research was funded by the Health Research Board: COV19-2020-144

**Web:** <https://researchrepository.universityofgalway.ie/>

### **Re(al) Productive Justice: Gender and Disability Perspectives**

The project aimed to make visible the experiences of disabled people in Ireland seeking reproductive justice. The experiences shared in this project were used to develop toolkits and guides to support disabled people and health and social care practitioners.

**Web:** [universityofgalway.ie/cdlp](https://universityofgalway.ie/cdlp)

### **Closing the Justice Gap for Women with Intellectual and/or Psychosocial Disabilities**

The Closing the Justice Gap project conducted legal needs surveys with women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in Nepal, Fiji, the Philippines, and Indonesia. The research project, offers significant new data on the justice gap for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and provides robust, evidence-based recommendations to close it.

**Web:** [asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/governance/womens-access-to-justice/disabilities](https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/governance/womens-access-to-justice/disabilities)

## Training

**ADM Training** is primarily designed for those working with and supporting people affected by the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act. This includes professionals working with disabled people, older people and people with mental health experience. The training is designed to focus on practical challenges in implementing the Act, with examples of promising practice from other countries.

**Web:** <https://cdlp.clr.events/>

**Email:** [cdlp.events@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:cdlp.events@universityofgalway.ie)

**Getting to Grips** is a training series primarily designed for self-advocates and those who would benefit from an accessible way of training delivery. Topics covered to date include the UNCRPD and the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act. Training may be delivered online or in-person and seeks to ensure that attendees understand their rights and how they can ensure those rights are respected.

**Web:** <https://cdlp.clr.events/>

**Email:** [cdlp.events@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:cdlp.events@universityofgalway.ie)

## LAW POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

## LLM International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy

The LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy is unique in the world as an innovative and internationally focused LLM dealing with the process of law reform in the field of disability. The programme delivers a solid grounding for future practitioners, policy-makers and academics in the field of disability reform.

The introduction of the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has resulted in significant changes in the area of disability law and policy. Our graduates will be among the first to be skilled in this growing area of law and policy.

This programme will be of interest to students who have completed a primary law degree, legal practitioners, public servants, disability and human rights advocates and people working in disability services.

## Course Highlights:

- ▶ **Unique Qualification** achieved as no other university offers a similar programme. This LLM is innovative, pioneering and provides specialist education for our students.
- ▶ **Prestigious Internships** based in Geneva with the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are exclusively offered to two of our students. Interns will complete research to support the UN Committee's work and will participate in Committee sessions.
- ▶ **Expert Lecturers** with national, European and international teaching and research profiles deliver the programme.
- ▶ **The Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP)** is the only research centre of its kind in Ireland dedicated to producing research that informs the debate on national and international disability law reform and policy.
- ▶ **Skills development** is a key focus of this programme. Modules develop expertise and an ability to critically appraise issues faced by law and policy-makers in this rapidly changing environment.
- ▶ **Guest lectures** from practitioners and international experts on current challenges around disability policy and reform. Students are also encouraged to attend the conferences, seminars and events run by the CDLP.

- ▶ **A Minor Thesis** is completed by students on a topic of their choice under close supervision by leading national and international experts.
- ▶ **Career Support** is provided through professional workshops concentrating on students CV and interview skills. Careers in Law Week also provides an opportunity to meet partners from leading law firms.
- ▶ **Assessment** is primarily through research papers, presentations and minor thesis rather than exams.

## Career Opportunities:

Graduates have found employment in a variety of areas, including work in the UN, senior legal appointments, as lecturers, solicitors and barristers, in national, regional and international advocacy organisations, in national human rights institutions, as government advisors and with non-governmental organisations.

Many of our graduates are leading change and reform in disability law and policy throughout the world. Graduates of the programme have also secured funding to pursue PhD research and are now working in universities around the world.



QUALIFICATION:	LLM
DURATION	1 year full time or 2 years part time
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ An approved Second Class Honours Degree, Grade 1 (2.1) in law, or an inter-disciplinary degree in which law was a major component.</li> <li>▶ In exceptional circumstances, applicants holding a degree in another discipline or a degree of less than 2.1 standard may be considered where they have relevant professional experience in law or disability rights.</li> <li>▶ International students should refer to the country specific information section of the International Office website: <b><a href="https://www.universityofgalway.ie/international-students/">https://www.universityofgalway.ie/international-students/</a></b></li> </ul>

## WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY...

The LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy at University of Galway is the only LLM programme of its kind in the world; one focussed specifically on disability rights issues within a broader human rights framework. I will shortly begin working as a policy advisor with the Disability Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission; I have no doubt that I would not have secured this position if it wasn't for the LLM.

EMILY CUKALEVSKI



Contact us: <a href="mailto:lawpostgrad@universityofgalway.ie">lawpostgrad@universityofgalway.ie</a>	Apply at: <a href="http://www.universityofgalway.ie/apply">www.universityofgalway.ie/apply</a>	Programme information: <b><a href="https://www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/how-to-apply/">https://www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/how-to-apply/</a></b> and <b><a href="https://www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/taught-postgraduate-courses/llb/">https://www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/taught-postgraduate-courses/llb/</a></b>
---	---	---

# Accessible Galway

## Things to See

- Galway City Museum
- The Prom (Promenade Salthill)
- The Spanish Arch
- Galway Market
- Coole Park and Visitor Centre

## Things to do

- Palas Cinema (Art house)
- Eye Cinema
- IMC Cinema
- Omniplex Cinema (lift access)
- Town Hall Theatre
- Corrib Princess River tours (no bathroom)
- Galway Greyhound Track (outside ground level only)

## Places to Eat

- Hooked (Seafood)
- McDonaghs (Seafood)
- Asian Tea House (Asian Restaurant)
- Kashmir (Indian restaurant)
- Rè Nao (Asian restaurant)
- Dela (Nice Brunch and fancy dinner)
- Wylde, the cafe of The Hyde Hotel

## Cafes

- Mr Waffle (Newcastle)
- Gourmet Tart Co (Salthill)
- The Kitchen Café (Spanish Arch)
- Ground and Co (Salthill)

## Useful Numbers

- An Garda Síochána (Police), Ambulance Service, Fire Service: 112/999
- Accident & Emergency, University College Hospital: 353 91 524222
- Pharmacy on Campus, Matt O'Flaherty Chemists: 353 91 495044
- WestDoc Out of Hours Urgent GP Care: 1850 365 000 / 353 91 747700

## Good Bar Food

- Oslo (Salthill)
- The Kings Head (High Street)
- BierHaus (Henry Street)
- The Quays (Quay Street)
- An Pucan (Forster Street)
- Busker Browns (Cross Street)
- Osteria Italiana Da Simone (ramp access on request)
- Massimo (William Street)
- Roisin Dubh (Dominick Street)
- Murphys (High Street)

## Clubs

- DNA (Eyre Square)

## Taxi Services

- Galway Taxis +353 91 561111
- Galway City Taxis +353 91 525 252
- Big O Taxis +353 91 585858
- Cara Cabs +353 91 563939
- Pro Cabs +353 91 535353

## Bus Service

- 404 Serves ILAS (Institute for Lifecourse and Society) and the city centre (Eyre Square)

Handwriting practice lines consisting of alternating light gray and white horizontal bands.

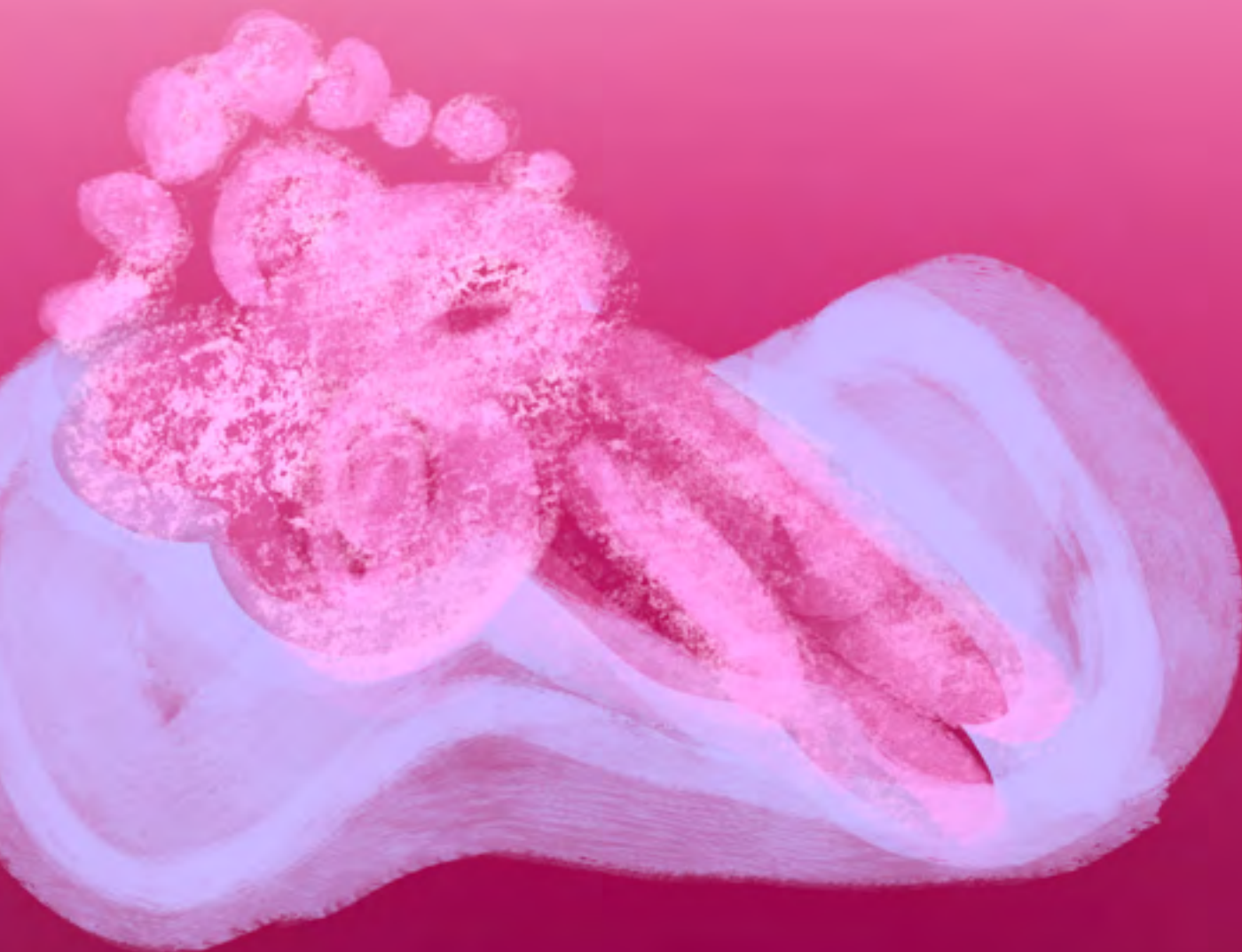


with support from



**Irish Aid**

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



School Directors: Eilionóir Flynn, Emma Burns and Amanie Issa

Centre for Disability Law and Policy  
Institute for Lifecourse and Society  
University of Galway

Email: [disabilitysummerscho@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:disabilitysummerscho@universityofgalway.ie)

Web: [www.universityofgalway.ie/cdlp](http://www.universityofgalway.ie/cdlp)