



Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group

for the Promotion of the Prevention of Limb Loss and of the Provision of Prosthetic, Orthotic, Wheelchair/Special Seating, Medical and other vital Rehabilitation Services to persons of all ages suffering Limb Loss and associated Complex Physical Disabilities in the United Kingdom and Internationally

FROM EXCLUSION TO EQUALITY

REALISING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



Alison Seabeck MP welcomes publication of Handbook for Parliamentarians on UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Alison says: *“As a member of the United Kingdom All Party Parliamentary Limb Loss Group, which has international as well as UK*

concerns, I welcome publication of this Handbook, to support and protect human rights for people with disabilities worldwide. The Users Charters published under the aegis of our Group incorporate the Convention so we are giving a lead.”

Persons with disabilities remain amongst the most marginalised in every society. While the international human rights framework has changed lives everywhere, persons with disabilities have not reaped the same benefits. Regardless of a country’s human rights or economic situation, they are generally the last in line to have their human rights respected. Being denied the opportunities that would enable them to

be self-sufficient, most persons with disabilities resort to the kindness or charity of others. In recent years, there was a growing realisation throughout the world that continuing to deny 650 million individuals their human rights was no longer acceptable. It was time to act.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the response of the international community to the long history of discrimination, exclusion and dehumanisation of persons with disabilities. It is historic and ground breaking in many ways, being the fastest negotiated human rights treaty ever and the first of the twenty-first century.

The Convention intends that the world's largest minority enjoys the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. It covers the many areas where persons with disabilities have been discriminated against including access to justice; participation in political and public life; education; employment; freedom from torture, exploitation and violence, as well as freedom of movement.

Parliaments and parliamentarians have a key role to play in promoting and protecting human rights. The Handbook which they have helped to develop aims to support efforts to realise the Convention so that persons with disabilities can achieve the transition from exclusion to equality. The Handbook seeks to raise awareness of the Convention and assist Parliaments in understanding the mechanisms and frameworks needs to translate the Convention into practice. By providing examples and insights, it is hoped that the Handbook will serve as a useful tool for parliamentarians to promote and protect the rights of person with disabilities all over the world.

Copies of **The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; The UN Disabilities Handbook for Parliamentarians** along with the **UK Equality and Human Rights Commission Guidance on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** can be downloaded from the **Supporting Documents page** of the APLLG Website on www.apllg.eu/9.html.

A further most useful source of information and advice is the **Equality and Human Rights Commission** www.equalityhumanrights.com.

Associate Members of the APLLG with a special **international** outreach include:

Anandwan Project (**no website available**)

British Organisation of NGO's Development 'BOND' (www.bond.org.uk)

Cambodia Trust (<http://cambodiatrust.org.uk/>)

Cornel Romanian Rehabilitation Centre Trust (www.thecorneltrust.co.uk)

Douglas Bader Foundation (<http://douglasbaderfoundation.co.uk/>)

Handicap International UK (www.handicap-international.org.uk)

Landmine Action (www.landmineaction.org)

Lindsay Leg Club Foundation (www.legclub.org)

Motivation (www.motivation.org.uk)

Mines Advisory Group (www.maginternational.org)

POWER International (www.powerinternational.org)

Rehabilitation International (www.riglobal.org)

Response International (www.responseinternational.org.uk)

South African Federation of the Disabled 'SAFOD' (www.safod.org)

Steps Charity Worldwide (www.steps-charity.org.uk)

Source: *Disabilities: A Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 14 2007*

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Website at www.apllg.eu or via email: feedback@apllg.eu**

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