

# The Long and Winding Road to Equality and Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities : The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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## Propositions

1. The transformative potential of the CRPD cannot be denied; however whether this potential will be realised is a matter of political will.
2. The CPRD mandates that States and, by consequence, society as a whole, take responsibility for the effects which result from the interaction of impairments with environmental barriers.
3. The European Court of Human Rights must take greater cognisance of the substantive disadvantage faced by persons with disabilities if the Court is to target more effectively long-standing discrimination issues and deep-seated barriers to participation for persons with disabilities.
4. In spite of certain criticisms of their application to socio-economic rights realisation, equality and dignity considerations must factor into the CRPD Committee's assessment of measures taken to realise socio-economic rights progressively if those rights are to be effective for persons with disabilities.
5. Human rights treaty interpretation should not be an exercise based on wishful thinking; notwithstanding this, human rights treaties are living instruments and account must be taken of changing social realities in their interpretation to give effect to the object and purpose of the treaty.
6. International human rights law for persons with disabilities can be rendered more effective if individuals have *de jure* and *de facto* access to remedies.
7. International law has great potential to serve as a tool for law reform in the European Union.
8. Research should provide a platform to translate the general rights and obligations of the CRPD into practical strategies to achieve substantive reform and change that can reach into the everyday lives of persons with disabilities.

9. In order to be in a position to ratify the CRPD, Ireland must take stronger measures to reform domestic laws in several areas.

10. Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought. (Albert Szent-Gyorgyi)