



# Living the Treaty Pac Rim Conference 2012

## Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



# About the Convention



The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an agreement by countries around the world to ensure people with disabilities and people without disabilities are treated equally. Conventions, called treaties, covenants, international agreements or legal instruments, tell governments what to do to make sure people can enjoy their rights. All adults and children with disabilities are included. The UN Convention was adopted on December 13, 2006.

## Why care about the Convention?



People with different disabilities from different countries worked together with their governments to develop the Convention. They got ideas by looking at good practices and laws that were helping people with disabilities go to school, get a job, live happily in their communities and have equal rights.

It is important to remember that the rights in the Convention are not new rights. They are the same human rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights treaties.

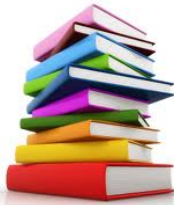
The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities guarantees these rights are respected for people with disabilities.



# Today's Plan



**About the Convention**



**Highlight Convention Articles**



**Living the Treaty - DVD**

Watch the DVD



**Advocating for the Treaty**

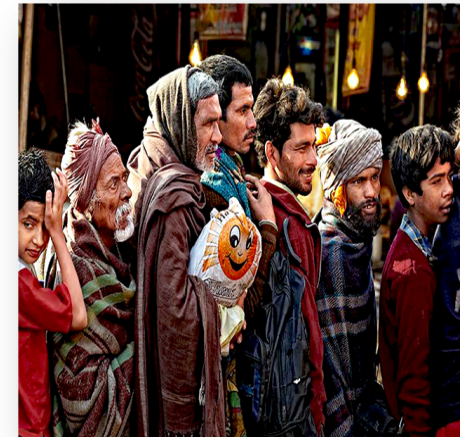
Be an advocate - what can we do?





# Human Rights

Rights we all have simply because we are human.



some basic  
rights are ...

Think what you want, be included in the community,  
work in safe conditions, be paid a wage you can live on





human  
rights are



**UNIVERSAL**

They belong to everyone.

**INALIENABLE**

Can not be taken away.

**INDIVISIBLE**

Cannot be divided from each other.

**INTERRELATED**

All human rights affect each other.



# What is a Convention?



A convention is an agreement between countries to obey the same law about a specific issue.

When a country signs and ratifies (approves) a convention, it becomes a legal promise and guides actions of the government.

It often leads the government to adapt and change its own laws to support the goals of the convention.





# Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

## WHY?

There are over 650 million people with disabilities worldwide.

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

Many people experience human rights violations.

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

Countries agreed that a human rights treaty specifically for people with disabilities was the best solution!



# The Right To

- Freedom to make their own choices and independence
- Non-discrimination
- Full participation and inclusion in society
- Accept people with disabilities as part of human diversity
- Equal opportunity
- Accessibility (transportation, places, information)
- Respect children with disabilities (respected for abilities)



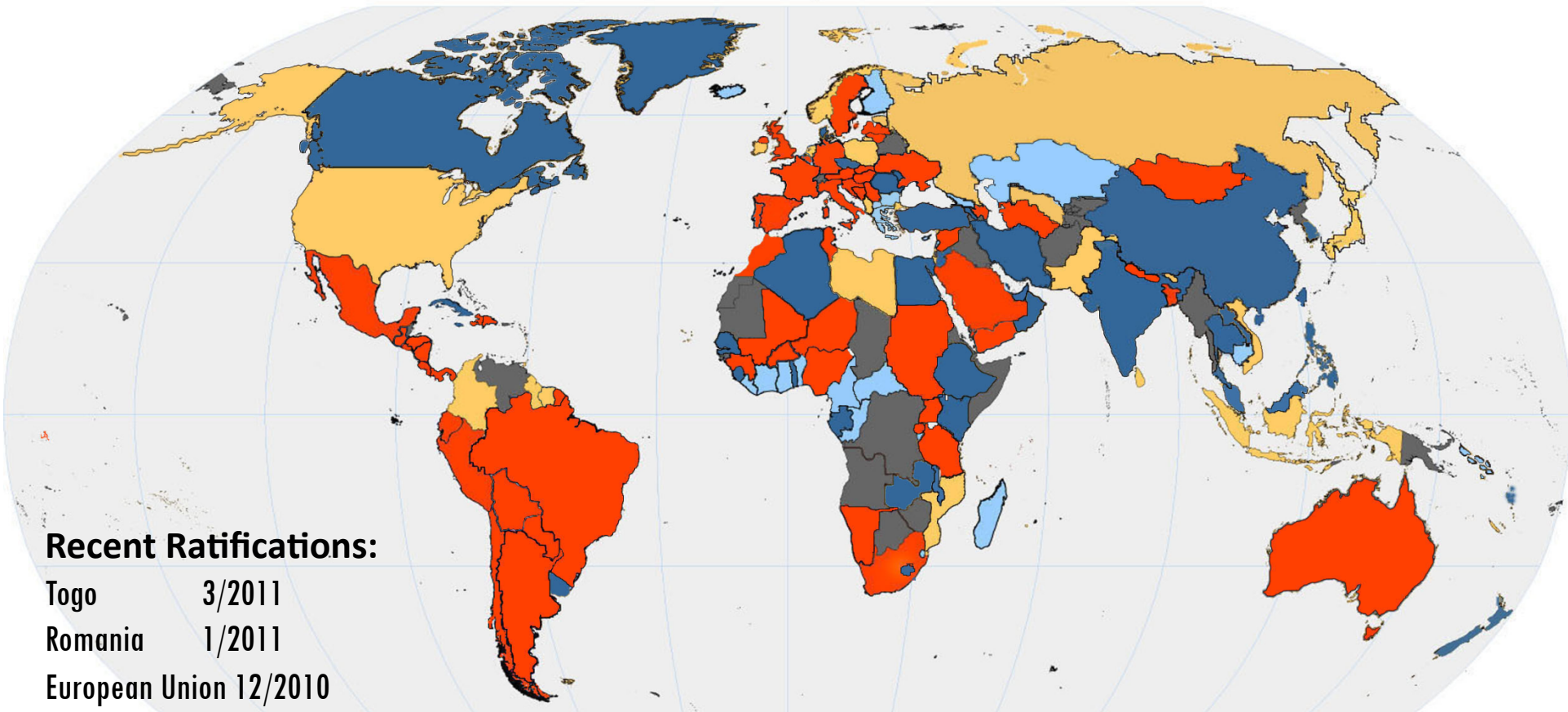


147 signatories



99 ratifications

■ Not Signed   ■ Signed Convention   ■ Signed Convention & Protocol   ■ Ratified Convention   ■ Ratified Convention & Protocol





# United States Process

## “SIGNATORY”

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



*Means:*

United States agrees with the ideas in the treaty.

United States is interested in joining the treaty.





# United States Process

## “RATIFICATION”



To become law, the Senate votes to accept the treaty  
There needs to be a two-thirds majority vote for approval



## “STATES PARTY”



When the United States ratifies the treaty  
it must follow what the treaty says to do.



# Living the Treaty



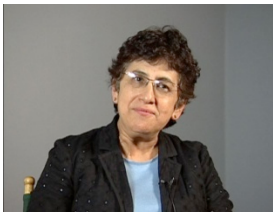
## Focus on Articles





# FOCUS

7



Children with disabilities treated equally

12



People have the same rights to make their own decisions

9

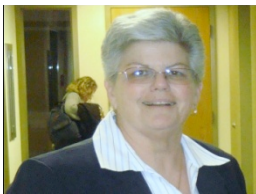


Accessibility - access to information, New technology

19

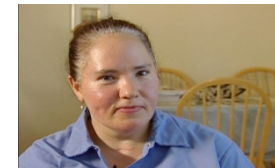
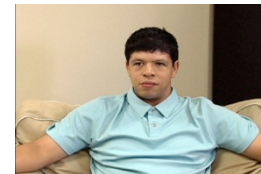


Independent living and being part of the community



People are properly protected when there are risky situations

27



People have a right to work, equal job rights, rules and pay



# Article 7: Children with Disabilities



Countries agree to take action so children with disabilities can enjoy human rights and freedoms equally with other children.

- Children with disabilities have the same rights and freedoms as other children.
- Children with disabilities have the right to be heard about things that can affect them.
- Support will be given to help make this happen.



# Article 9: Accessibility



Countries agree to make it possible for people with disabilities to have better access to participate in their communities.

- Better access to public buildings and schools and transport
- Signs in easy-read and Braille.
- Guides and sign language interpreters in public buildings.
- Access to new technology.
- People get support they need to important information.





# Article 11: Risk and Emergencies



People are properly protected when there are risky situations.

People with disabilities have the right to be protected and safe during a war, an emergency or a natural disaster.

- Cannot legally be excluded from a shelter.
- Cannot be left alone while others are rescued due to disability.

## INTERRELATED ARTICLES



**ACCESSIBILITY**



**INCLUSION**



People with disabilities have the right to enjoy ‘legal capacity’ in the same way as other people.

- People are respected by the law like everyone else.
- People have the same right to make their own decisions.
- People have the support they need when making decisions.
- If a person needs someone to speak for them there are rules to make sure it is done properly.



# Article 19: Living Independently



People have the right to make choices about where they live - like everyone else. The right to live independently and to be included in the community.

Access to support services if needed to live in the community.

- People have choices about how they live, where they live, who they live with and to be part of their community.
- Not have to live in a place they don't want to.





# Article 27: Work and Employment



The right of persons with disabilities to work at a freely chosen job without discrimination, equal with others, that is open, inclusive and accessible.

- People have equal job rights, rules and pay.
- People have access to work training.
- Help provided if people want to set up their own businesses.
- Jobs with government and other suitable places.
- People are not forced to do unpaid work.

MAKING COMPLEX IDEAS SIMPLE

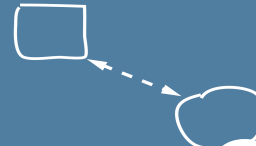
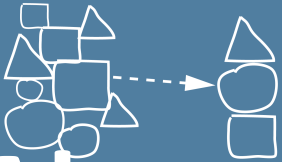
INCLUDE

CONNECT

TRANSFORM

RESOURCES

NEWS



# About Board Resource Center

**BRC creates effective solutions that increase inclusion of people with disabilities, deepen community connections and initiate effective organizational transformation.**

MAKING COMPLEX IDEAS SIMPLE



Collaborative, flexible approaches that assist individuals, groups and organizations assure inclusive decision making, policy development and service delivery using plain language and accessible formats, person/user-centered commitment to make complex ideas simple.

INCLUDE



Training and technical tools to increase access to new ideas and resources that create natural community experience, relationships and collaborative partnerships.

RESOURCES



BRC provides a library of tools that assist individuals and organizations support people they serve to live quality self-determined lives and contribute to their communities.

CONNECT



Facilitation and tools that lead to greater connections and active membership for individuals and their families in neighborhood communities, agency-to-agency collaboration, public/private cooperation that enhance agency effectiveness.

NEWS



BRC produces periodic newsletters that feature new trends, strategies and our new public domain print and digital media tools.

TRANSFORM



Training and facilitation for organizations to assist with system transformation. BRC acts as a coach and support team to encourage new ways of thinking about mission fulfillment and service.