



HÁSKÓLINN Í REYKJAVÍK
REYKJAVÍK UNIVERSITY



MANNRÉTTINDASKRIFSTOFA ÍSLANDS
ICELANDIC HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

The Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities - from Social Policy to Equal Rights -

27-28 September 2007

At Reykjavík University - School of Law

**Conference organised by Reykjavík University and
the Icelandic Human Rights Centre**

in cooperation with:

The Organisation of Disabled in Iceland and
the National Federation for People with Learning Disabilities.

The International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 December 2006. It has been signed by 86 signatories, including the European Community. At the regional level, the protection of the European equality directives was in 2000 extended beyond gender equality to include, *inter alia*, disability and Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights extends the sphere of protection against discrimination under the Convention. Also, under the European Social Charter, the rights of persons with disabilities are increasingly conceptualised as a non-discrimination issue. It seems clear that the dawn of the 21st century has witnessed many important legal developments relevant to disability rights.

The aim of the Conference is to examine these important legal developments at the global and European level and their transposition into domestic law. Underlying is the realisation that they are related to some of the key themes of the human rights law of the 21st century. These developments bear witness to several paradigmatic shifts, for example we can identify a transition from social policy to legal rights, from procedural administrative law to substantive human rights law, from “soft law” to “hard law”, from formal equality to substantive and multidimensional equality, and from rehabilitation and assimilation to dignity and diversity. Recent legislative developments also places the idea that all human rights are indivisible and interdependent in sharp focus and calls for a critical re-evaluation of the traditional dichotomy between the categories of civil and political rights on one hand and economic, social and cultural rights on the other. Closely related is the question of the justiciability of the different rights claims which is highlighted by all the recent developments mentioned.

The expected Conference audience includes academics, postgraduate students and professionals from various fields of law, sociology, political science and disability studies. For further information and registration see www.disabilityrights.is



2007 – European Year of Equal Opportunities for All



Draft Programme

Thursday, 27 September 2007

09:45-12:30 The Global Agenda - The United Nations Disability Convention, the drafting of the Convention, the basic concepts and approaches taken in the Convention, the future prospects and impact of the Convention

Chair/Rapporteur: N.N.

09:45-10:15 Professor Gerard Quinn, National University of Ireland

10:15-10:45 Professor Michael Stein, William and Mary School of Law

10:45-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-11:30 Dr. Ida Elisabeth Koch, Senior Researcher, Danish Human Rights Centre

11:30-12:00 Knut Roger Andersen, Norwegian Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

12:00-12:30 Questions and panel discussion

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-16:15 Regional Trends - Recent European developments, the European disability rights agenda and the interplay between European disability rights and the UN Convention

Chair/Rapporteur: Anna Lawson, Senior Lecturer, University of Leeds

13:30-14:00 Professor Lisa Waddington, European Disability Forum Chair in Disability Law, Maastricht University

14:00-14:30 Judge David Thor Björgvinsson, The European Court of Human Rights and Professor at Reykjavík University

14:30-14:50 Coffee break

14:50-15:20 Colm O'Conneide, Senior Lecturer, University College London, Member of the European Committee of Social Rights

15:20-15:50 Professor Oddný Mjöll Arnardóttir, Reykjavík University

15:50-16:30 Questions and panel discussion

16:30-17:30 Reception, Reykjavík University

Friday, 28 September 2007

09:00-12:30 Local issues - The implementation of international and European law into domestic law and the needs for legal reform.

Chair/Rapporteur: N.N.

09:00-09:30 Holger Kallehauge, Ex High Court Judge, Member of the UN Ad Hoc Committee on the United Nations Disability Convention

09:30-10:00 Professor Ragnhildur Helgadóttir, Reykjavík University

10:00-10:20 Coffee break

10:20-10:50 Brynhildur Flóvenz, Chairman of the Board of the Icelandic Human Rights Centre and Lecturer at the University of Iceland

10:50-11:20 Professor Rannveig Traustadóttir, the University of Iceland

11:20-13:00 Closing panel with the participation of speakers from all three sessions.

