

Resolution on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

An official statement from the Global Alliance on Behavioral Health and Social Justice (formerly the American Orthopsychiatric Association)

The Global Alliance embeds its work in principles of human rights and has a long history of advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities. We are thus concerned that the United States still has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).



Individuals with disabilities, an unrecognized health disparity population, are the largest minority group in the world.

- 10% of the world's population live with a disability.
- 80% of people with disabilities live in developing countries.
- About 1 in 5 adults have at least one disability.
- Violence against children with disabilities occurs at annual rates at least 1.7 times greater than for their peers without disabilities.
- Many in areas of conflict suffer with disabilities from physical injuries and psychological trauma.

The CRPD provides a framework for developing laws and policies that respect the rights and inherent worth of all people with disabilities. The treaty promotes equality, independence, nondiscrimination, participation, dignity, full inclusion in society, and accessibility. Further, the treaty offers protections for parental rights and highlights the important role of parents in raising children with disabilities.

The CRPD was inspired by the Americans with Disabilities Act and U.S. leadership, which makes the country's lack of ratification of the treaty surprising. Indeed, ratification of the CRPD will not result in any change in U.S. law or international authority over U.S. law. Until it ratifies the CRPD, the United States is a bystander on critical matters such as fighting discrimination (e.g., forced exclusion; institutionalization; infanticide) against person with disabilities across the lifespan.

Additional Resources	Key Articles
<p>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities homepage, https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html</p> <p>Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx</p> <p>Disability Council International. http://disabilitycouncilinternational.org</p> <p>International Disability Alliance. http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org</p> <p>Disabled Peoples' International. http://www.dpi.org</p> <p>Inclusion International. http://inclusion-international.org</p>	<p>Wertlieb, D. (2018). Inclusive early childhood development (IECD): A twin-tracking approach to advancing behavioral health and social justice. <i>American Journal of Orthopsychiatry</i>. http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ort0000351</p> <p>Walker, D.K., & Wertlieb, D. (2016, April 25). How Zika presents a teachable moment for caring for children with disabilities. http://www.huffingtonpost.com</p> <p>Krahn, G.L., Walker, D.K., & Correa-de-Araujo, R. (2015). Persons with disabilities: An unrecognized health disparity population. <i>American Journal of Public Health</i>, 105 (S2), S198-S206.</p> <p>Boberiene, L. V., & Yazykova, E. (2014). Children with disabilities in Russian institutions: Can the West help protect the most vulnerable? <i>American Journal of Orthopsychiatry</i>. http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/h0099813</p>