



MYRIGHT



Women and girls with disabilities in peacebuilding

Presentation of speakers and moderator

Toyin Janet Aderemi, Disability Inclusion Expert and Winner of the Her Abilities Award in 2018

Dr. Aderemi is the first indigenous Country Representative of CBM (an international development organization working on disability inclusion) Nigeria and the first person in a wheelchair to study and practice pharmacy in Nigeria. Toyin was left unable to walk due to contracting polio in her childhood. She is an experienced disability-inclusive development practitioner and researcher, working to influence government and development policies for social inclusion. She has a background in public health, with expertise in disability-inclusive sexual and reproductive health and rights, and a PhD in Behavioural Medicine. Toyin currently works as a Disability Inclusion Consultant/Researcher for UNRWA and Humanity & Inclusion.

Virginia Atkinson, Senior Global Advisor, Inclusion, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

Virginia Atkinson has 15 years of international advocacy and capacity building experience focused on empowerment of traditionally marginalized groups. She is the senior global inclusion advisor of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), where she is responsible for providing strategic leadership to IFES' inclusion portfolio and technical assistance and training to civil society organizations and government stakeholders on inclusive democracy, human rights and governance. She spearheads IFES' intersectional approach to program design to advance the human rights of people who identify with multiple social identities. Atkinson's technical leadership and close collaboration with regional program colleagues has led to recognition of IFES with the InterAction 2011 Disability Inclusion Award and Zero Project 2015 and 2019 Innovative Practice Awards.

Shyamala Gomez, Executive Director, Center for Equality and Justice

Shyamala Gomez is a human rights lawyer by training and has over twenty years of experience as an academic, researcher and activist. She has an LLB from the University of Colombo and a Masters in Law from Georgetown University, Washington DC. She has published in the areas of violence against women, masculinities, sexual violence in conflict, migrant workers' rights, women's land rights, reproductive rights and on women, peace and security.

The Centre for Equality and Justice (CEJ) is a women's organization based in Colombo, Sri Lanka, working primarily on the rights of war affected women from the Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim communities, Transitional Justice and Reconciliation. CEJ engages with policy

makers, government officers and strengthens grassroots level women's capacities to claim their rights.

Caroline Atim, Director at South Sudan Women with Disabilities Network and co-founder of SSWDN, Disability Rights Activist Advocate.

Caroline is Director at South Sudan Women with Disabilities Network and Co-founder of Southern Sudan Deaf Development Concern. She has made history as the first deaf woman to brief the security council, when she spoke at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. She represents South Sudan in the group on the UNSCR 1325 and is involved with the National Human Rights Commission as an advocate for the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

Batool Abuali – Founder of Light Initiative

Batool is a peacebuilder and a youth and social advocate from Syria. Since she was a child, she has lived with muscle dystrophy. As a young woman and as a person with a disability, she has worked to promote equality and inclusion. With a masters in Web Science, Ms. Abouali is the founder of Light Initiative, a non-profit voluntary-based organization supporting persons with visual disabilities to access education opportunities and materials in Syria. She is currently participating in the Young Women Peacebuilders Programme implemented by UN Women's Regional Office for the Arab States.

Jelena Mišić, Disability rights activist from Bosnia-Herzegovina, MyRight programme

Jelena started her human rights activism in a local organization of persons with disabilities - Association of paraplegics, persons with polio, and other physical disabilities of Doboj region in 2007 and since then she has been working on promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She played an important role as a Field Coordinator for the Doboj region in the project "Monitoring of rights of persons with disability and creation of Shadow Report on the implementation of CRPD in Bosnia and Herzegovina" ensuring that the experience of persons with disabilities from the Doboj region is included into the Shadow report. Jelena has been active within the MyRight's programme of joint activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina especially as president of the Board for the promotion of inclusive education in accordance with article 24 of the CRPD. She studied at the University of Tuzla which enabled her to adapt to the work in a multi-ethnic Coalition (the Coalition includes the organizations from 4 municipalities and two BiH entities). She has been successfully cooperating with multi-ethnic organizations outside of the disability movement. She is a professor of the English language and currently works as a radio host at the local radio station.

A.H. Monjurul Kabir, UN Coordination Adviser on Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion, UN Women

A.H. Monjurul Kabir is the UN Coordination Adviser on Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion. He leads UN Women's Global Task Team on Disability Inclusion and Intersectionality. Prior to this, he was Chief of Asia-Pacific Section with UN-Women HQ. Among others, he led the development of UN-Women's approach to inclusive South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and, Disability Inclusion. Previously, he was the Practice Team Leader and Policy Adviser (2010-14) for Governance and Human Rights for UNDP Europe and Central Asia (ECA) and the Global Policy Specialist (2006-10) at UNDP Headquarters to support democratic governance practice and promote knowledge leadership and innovation in development.

Hanna Gerdes (moderator), Founder Hanna and Goliath Law & Education

Hanna is an experienced human rights lawyer, educator and founder of Hanna and Goliath Law & Education. She has worked as an expert and advisor for international organisations, civil society organisations, the Swedish government and different Swedish agencies. She has held over 400 training courses and moderated hundreds of conferences and seminars.