***14th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities***

# SIDE EVENT **Covid-19 and the Return of the Medical Model – Call for a Global Independent Living Movement**

**Date:**  14 June 2021 @ 10:00 to 11:15 EST (New York time)

**Registration:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Fw6VYQEzQjSxWpPlww_cFw>

**Accessibility:** International Sign Language interpretation and closed captioning will be provided (in English, French, Spanish and Japanese)

This side event will highlight a worrying trend emerging globally through the Covid-19 pandemic; that of the increasing perception of disabled people as vulnerable and a steady return of the medical model of disability. As countries concurrently deal with the pandemic and embark on the process of recovery, it is important to ensure that we move forward with implementation of Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and prevent going back to segregation and charity.

Independent Living movement has played a major part in getting people out of institutions, ensuring they have access to personal assistance, and are able to live in their own homes, on their own terms. The objective of the side event is to explore how joining forces and working together globally can play a role in the Covid-19 recovery, sharing good practice and helping to prevent a slide backward.

* *What is Independent Living - are we all using the same definition?*
* *How has understanding of Independent Living and the implementation of Article 19 CRPD and the General comment 5 been affected by the pandemic?*
* *Why are we calling for emergency deinstitutionalization and what does that entail?*
* *How do we utilize the process of recovery from pandemic to end pre-existing human rights violations and fully realize the rights of persons with disabilities to live in the community?*
* *Why is Independent Living advocacy globally important at this moment in time?*
* *What role can the World Network on Independent Living play in the Covid-19 recovery?*

**AGENDA**

10:00 – 10:05 **Welcome and introduction** – (Nadia Hadad, ENIL) (5 mins)

10:05 – 10:08 **Presentation of WIN** (Sarah Launderville, NCIL, USA) (3mins)

10:08 – 10:28 **WIN representatives** (20 mins – 6 speakers/3 mins each)

“*How has understanding of Independent Living changed during COVID in my region?”*

# **Asia** (Shafiq Ur-Rehman, Pakistan and Mitsutoshi Oyabu, Japan),

* **North America** (Jessica Jimenez, USA and Laura Hockman, Canada),

# **Central America** (Wendy Barrantes Jiménez and Carlos Barrantes Ulloa, Costa Rica)

* **Europe** (Jamie Bolling, Sweden)

10:28 – 10:48

* **Prof. Gerard Quinn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (video message)**: “Time for national legislation on Independent Living” (5 mins)
* **Chano Park, Seoul CIL:** “Advocating for Independent Living in South Korea and the potential of draft Deinstitutionalisation Law” (5 mins)
* **Amalia Gamio, member of the working group on deinstitutionalisation, CRPD Committee:** “Towards guidelines on Independent Living and Deinstitutionalization – the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (5 mins)
* **Judith Heumann**: “Global perspective on Independent Living & key messages for the future” (5 mins)

10:48 – 10:10 Discussion (moderated by Nadia Hadad, ENIL)

10:10 – 10:15 Closing Statement by WIN representatives