

DRPI Co-Directors

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Dr. Lindqvist and Dr. Rioux draw on the expertise and guidance of
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from around the world.



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About DRPI

Disability Rights Promotion International (DRPI) is a *collaborative* project working to build global capacity to monitor the human rights of persons with disabilities. Using a human rights approach to disability, DRPI seeks to establish a sustainable, holistic monitoring system to address disability-based discrimination throughout the world.

- **Working with Persons with Disabilities:** DRPI monitoring is led by persons with disabilities themselves. Persons with disabilities and their organizations play leading roles in project governance and implementation.
- **Human Rights Approach:** DRPI is grounded in a human rights approach to disability that recognizes that persons with disabilities have the same rights as all other people. It highlights the ways that disability discrimination increases vulnerability to abuse, poverty, and other unjust social conditions.
- **Sustainable:** By creating strong partnerships, capacity-building, developing an online course on monitoring the rights of people with disabilities and disseminating results widely in an online database, DRPI creates sustainable networks of individuals and organizations that will continue to call attention to disability rights in their communities beyond the life of the project. The monitoring reports are a solid basis for shadow reports for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and for disability advocacy.

Collaborations

DRPI has Regional Centres in Africa (Ethiopia), Asia-Pacific (India), Eastern Europe (Serbia), Latin America (Argentina), and North America (Canada) and is monitoring disability rights in each region. We are partnered with disabled peoples organizations, human rights organizations, universities, government agencies and the United Nations.

Holistic Disability Rights Monitoring

Disability rights monitoring is important for raising awareness about disability-based discrimination and the negative impact it has on the lives of persons with disabilities. Knowing this encourages positive action to combat disability discrimination. DRPI uses a holistic approach to monitoring disability rights, focusing on finding the facts in three key areas:

1. **individual experiences** of persons with disabilities;
2. **systemic measures** taken to protect and promote disability rights (laws, policies, programs)
3. **societal attitudes** toward disability (measured through media coverage of disability).

The facts in each of these three key areas tell us one piece of the story and, when combined, they provide a more complete picture of disability discrimination. By building capacity to collect and report on information in each of the three areas, DRPI is ensuring that a holistic view of the human rights situation of persons with disabilities is presented and that measures taken by disability organizations, governments and other actors to improve this situation are fully informed.

History of DRPI

In November 2000, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Disability, Dr. Bengt Lindqvist, hosted an international seminar in Stockholm, Sweden. Twenty-seven experts from around the world discussed measures to strengthen the protection and monitoring of the human rights of persons with disabilities. Among the seminar participants were representatives of all the major international disability organizations, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Secretariat, disability rights activists, and experts on human rights.

Seminar participants recommended the creation of a global system to monitor the human rights situation of persons with disabilities. The DRPI project was developed to meet this need.

