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Shedding Light on Disability Rights in the UNESCO's Global Anti-discrimination Agenda

UNESCO Side Event (**ONLINE**)

17 February 2022, 5h30-6h45 pm Central Europe (Geneva time)

International Sign Language Interpretation, Simultaneous English/French Interpretation, and Simultaneous captioning will be available

[Link for Registration](#)

(Or browse: https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_y2NQAk8tR9mpZ2I2-FmpEA)

Various forms of direct and indirect discrimination, targeting individuals and populations based on their ethnicity, origin, identity (including cultural and religious), gender, age, socioeconomic status, disability, inter alia, have continued to proliferate in societies, normalized these social ills, and exacerbated inequalities and exclusion.

Such transversal discriminations have affected more particularly persons with disabilities around the globe, especially since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many reports have shown that these groups of the populations have been disproportionately impacted by the related restriction measures, and have been excluded from many basic services including education and healthcare, denied access to information, and marginalized with stigma and harmful beliefs.¹ In particular, evidence shows that women and girls with disabilities face higher risks of sexual and physical violence than those without disabilities, in addition to poorer access to quality healthcare and family planning, higher rates of illiteracy and lack of access to the Internet – all of which was further exacerbated by the pandemic.² Moving forward, it is essential to ensure that the COVID-19 Recovery packages worldwide address the transversal discriminations in which persons with disabilities have been entangled for many years.

In 2020, UNESCO Member States launched a “[Global Call against Racism](#)” and UNESCO is developing a Global Roadmap to fight against racism and discrimination across its fields of competence, which include Inclusive Education, Sciences for development and mutual understanding, Culture, and Communication and Universal access to information. This global initiative has placed at its core the concepts of inclusion, and equality – thereby raising a broader question: **How should the principle of inclusion as advanced by**

¹ UNESCO, [Rapid Assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on Persons with disabilities in Zimbabwe](#), and [in Malawi](#), February 2021; UNESCO, [When Schools Shut](#), October 2021.

² [UN/DESA Policy Brief #69](#): “Leaving no one behind: the COVID-19 crisis through the disability and gender lens”

the disability movements for many years be further enacted in global endeavors to achieve the 2030 Agenda?

This Panel will seek to discuss why and how it is essential to integrate the disability rights in the Global Roadmap on Anti-Racism and Non-Discrimination that UNESCO is elaborating. More specifically, how can Education, Sciences, Arts, Culture, and Communication advance disability inclusion and fight transversal discriminations?

Some key questions the speakers will reflect on include:

- Why has UNESCO taken the lead to elaborate an Anti-Discrimination Roadmap? What is new, what are the constants?
- How disability inclusion should be addressed in connection with transversal discriminations (gender, race, AI, COVID-19, poverty, etc.)?
- What is being done on the ground to ensure anti-discrimination in global and plural settings?

Programme

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| 5h15-5h30 pm | <i>Registration and Log-in</i> |
| 5h30-5h35 pm | Welcoming Remarks , by Ms Lidia Arthur Brito, UNESCO Regional Director for Southern Africa |
| 5h35-5h50 pm | Advancing Disability Rights in UNESCO’s Global Roadmap on Anti-racism and Anti-discrimination , by Ms Gabriela Ramos, UNESCO Assistant-Director General for Social and Human Sciences |
| 5h50-6h15 pm | Examining the Different Types of Discriminations: A Dialogue between the UN Special Rapporteurs (UNSR) – Ms Tendayi Achiume, UNSR on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; and Mr Gerard Quinn, UNSR on the rights of persons with disabilities. <i>Facilitator: Mr Phinith Chanthalangsy, UNESCO220</i> |
| 6h15-6h35 pm | A Case Study : Disability Inclusion in Global and Plural Events – Mr Jacques Galvani, Deputy Mayor of Paris (France) ; and Mr Ryadh Sallem, Paralympic Champion, Head of the 2024 Paralympics Games. <i>Facilitator: Ms Linda Tinio, UNESCO</i> |
| 6h35-6h40 pm | <i>Discussions</i> |
| 6h40-6h45 pm | Conclusive Remarks , by Ms Anna Maria Majlöf, UNESCO |

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Our Guests



Prof. Lidia Arthur Brito (Mozambique)

Prof. Lidia Arthur is the UNESCO Regional Director for Southern Africa and Representative to SADC. She is the Former Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology of Mozambique (2000-2005) and Advisor for Strategic Planning and External Relations of the Mayor of Maputo city (2005-2008).



Ms. Gabriella Ramos (Mexico)

Ms. Gabriela Ramos is the Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences sector of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). She formally served as the Chief of staff and Sherpa to the G20 at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).



Prof. Tendayi Achiume (Zambia)

Prof. Tendayi Achiume is a Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the promise institute for Human Rights at University of California Los Angeles. In 2017, she was appointed as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racial Intolerance.



Prof. Gerard Quinn (Ireland)

Prof. Gerard Quinn is a Professor of Law at the University of Leeds and at the Wallenberg Institute in the University of Lund, Sweden. In October 2020, he was appointed as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He is the former Director of the Centre for Disability and policy at the University of Lund.



Mr. Jacques Galvani (France)

Mr. Jacques Galvani is Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of universal accessibility and persons with disabilities, and Delegate to the Mayor of the Paris 18th District in charge of the territory's attractiveness. He also has a long experience in the private sector, occupying leading positions in McKinsey, Lagardère Active Group, Publicis Group, and Alvia.



Mr. Ryadh Sallem (Tunisia)

Mr. Ryadh Sallem is a Member of the French wheelchair rugby team, SSE entrepreneur and community activist. He is the former triple European champion and represented France in the Paralympics in Atlanta. Mr. Sallem co-founded the sporting Entente of France at L'Institut National des Invalides (National Institute of the Disabled).