



CENTRE for DISABILITY  
LAW & POLICY



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF IRELAND TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS



## SIDE EVENT

*The Utility of Human Rights Treaties in Driving the Process of Domestic Change*

**Fourth Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing, United Nations,  
New York**

**13 August 2013**

**Conference Room 7**

**1-2.30pm**

**Chair:** Ken Bluestone, Age UK and co-chair, Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People

### **Speakers**

- Richard Morgan, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- JoAnn Kamuf Ward, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School
- Eilionóir Flynn, Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUIG

**Rapporteur:** John Gilroy, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations

This interactive discussion will discuss the usefulness of international human rights conventions in bringing about change at a grassroots level throughout the world. It will consider the impact of various treaties, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the most recent Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in shaping and driving reform of domestic law, policy and practice. Treaty body monitoring processes and the Universal Periodic Review will be considered in terms of their effectiveness in bringing about change at a national level in order to respect, protect, and fulfill the human rights of all citizens. The purpose of this discussion will be to inform current efforts to strengthen human rights protection for older persons at an international level – through analyzing how human rights treaties can best be used to bring about real change in the lives of individuals.

**Please RSVP to [eilionoir.flynn@nuigalway.ie](mailto:eilionoir.flynn@nuigalway.ie) by 12 August if you wish to attend. A light lunch will be provided for attendees on a first come first served basis. A hearing loop will be available for those who use hearing aids.**