SIDE EVENT

Key Issues in the Rights of Older Persons:
Disability Rights, Access to Palliative Care, and Lessons from the
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities process

1 August 2011
North Lawn Building, Room B
1:15 – 2:30 pm

Moderator: Venus Ilagan, Rehabilitation International

Speakers:
- Representative, Inclusion International
- Dr. Eilionóir Flynn, Lifecourse Institute, National University of Ireland Galway
- Eric Rosenthal, Disability Rights International
- Peter Blanck and Deepti Samant, Burton Blatt Institute
- Mary Callaway, International Palliative Care Initiative, Open Society Foundations

Issues to be addressed:
This interactive discussion will address the intersection among disability rights, the right to palliative care and other rights that impact older persons. Synergies between the rights of persons with disabilities and older people include:
- Legal capacity and decision-making
- The right to live independently and be included in the community
- Freedom from violence, exploitation and abuse

Older persons face a disproportionately large burden of chronic, incurable illnesses and health conditions, such as cancer, congestive heart failure and dementia, which often dramatically reduce their quality of life. Adequate access to palliative care is essential to ensure that these people can live and—ultimately—die with dignity.

One of the key innovations in the CRPD was the high level of involvement of people with disabilities in the drafting process, not just in terms of civil society NGOs and disabled persons' organisations, but also through the meaningful inclusion of people with disabilities on the official delegations of States Parties. Panelists will reflect on the drafting process to share insights which may be useful for those involved in the open-ended working group on ageing.

Organized by:
Human Rights Watch, Lifecourse Institute, National University of Ireland Galway, Mental Disability Advocacy Center, Rehabilitation International