Disability Debrief: November 2020 Update

This is the November 2020 edition of Disability Debrief, a newsletter from Peter Torres Fremlin. Subscribe there for further updates.

Welcome to another round-up of disability news from around the world. We catch-up on non-COVID disability-related news since our mid-June edition and also connect with the COVID-related news since the update in September.

If you missed it, definitely see the last newsletter, which was a wide-ranging interview with Catalina Devandas. I'm still reflecting on what that conversation means for me and work on disability. Many thanks to Samaneh Shabani who kindly translated the interview with Catalina Devandas into Persian.

Disability Debrief is made by me, Peter Torres Fremlin, a freelance consultant. This edition is produced with support from Center for Inclusive Policy.

Introduction

If you're new here, get ready for disability news! This is a collection of links to what's happened around the world in disability since the last update. I group the links by topics so you can navigate easily; if you're interested in specific countries, then you can search for those. Sorry to those who wanted highlights in the email itself. There is so much disability news that the Substack newsletter platform doesn't let me.

Do keep in mind that this is a collection of hundreds of links and so they are presented for reference rather than endorsement.

Highlights

Well, it's been a year, hasn't it. Here we catch-up on general news from the past six months and also a bit of infection of COVID-19 news as well.

With the exceptions of a few reports, like the Disability Rights Monitor Global Report (link to pdf), there is less **COVID-19 and disability news** than before. This is definitely for better and worse. As that report urges, we need to "raise the alarm globally" on the catastrophic impact on persons with disabilities. As our last virus-update highlighted, many of the challenges have not been resolved. At the same time, we are living in the new normal and you can see COVID-19 related updates scattered through the sections in each topic.

Of course it hasn't just been a big year for the virus. Some of you might have followed **elections in the United States**, and there's a lot of material here on the participation and platforms relating to disability in that election – and many other countries political moves. The USA also saw the **Black Lives Matter** movement and there are many updates from the USA and other countries on the intersections between Black Lives Matter and disability. It

certainly raises questions for our sector, and some disability organizations have made statements about this.

Culture is changing quickly, and disability is part of that. There is an extensive section on entertainment news, including a whole section on television and movies featuring persons with disabilities. Many of these are in English, and they show how quickly different ways of representing persons with disabilities are developing. The section on Culture and Entertainment also features the barriers that persons with disabilities still face to get into these industries.

While popular culture changes, there is also more attention to disability history. As well as memorials of persons with disabilities, there is more documentation of disability history – in this year, especially from the US and UK, which saw anniversaries of the American with Disabilities Act (1990) and Disability Discrimination Act (1995). As a disabled person from Britain I hadn't known the stories of these "wheelchair warriors" that fought for the rights I had growing up. There's also plenty on the Paralympics and the documentary on it, *Rising Phoenix*.

There's plenty of technical work too. Whether you're into accessibility, data on disability, education, employment, or international cooperation, there are further resources and developments in these and many other areas. In education there was UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report, which is pretty massive, and moves to "widen the understanding of inclusive education".

The year hasn't ended, of course. There are plenty of events this week celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Among them is the UN Conference of State Parties *happening right now*, and a really extensive set of side events to it. **If you want to follow this week more closely**, you can keep up with disability news the way I do, on twitter. I've compiled an international list of people that tweet on disability news and you can browse what's going whether you have a twitter account or not. (Thanks to everyone who shares updates!) Health warning though: there's an awful lot of news!

Either way I will send you another Debrief soon to capture what goes down these weeks. Enjoy and until then!

Acknowledgements

As ever, this is a compilation of work that people have done around the world on disability. It continues at an impressive and daunting pace. Congratulations to all of you who have done so much, and thanks to those of you who share updates on social media and elsewhere. I get most of these links from social media.

Thanks also to all of those who write or comment or share these newsletters. That gives me the energy to carry on these deep-dives into disability links.

These newsletters are produced by me, Peter Torres Fremlin. Any opinions or mistakes are mine. Many thanks for Center for Inclusive Policy's support to this edition.

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Topics

Accessibility and Design

New Books

- [Making Disability Modern](#): Design Histories. Edited by Bess Williamson, Elizabeth Guffey (July, Bloomsbury) "Brings together leading scholars from a range of disciplinary and national perspectives to examine how designed objects and spaces contributes to the meanings of ability and disability from the late 18th century to the present day"
- [What Can a Body Do? How we meet the built world](#) is out by Sara Hendren. See the New Yorker review of it, [When the World Isn't Designed for Our Bodies](#) (September). See also a chapter from the book: The [tyranny of chairs: why we need better design](#) (August, the Guardian)

Guides

- A comprehensive new guide: [Accessibility Go! A guide to action](#). From **World Blind Union** and **CBM Global**. A useful reference with detailed guidelines on delivering accessibility commitments and the processes organizations need to ensure accessibility.
- [Inclusive Design](#) from Microsoft (coming from digital environments). Sets out principles for inclusive design: Recognize exclusion; Solve for one, extend to many; Learn from diversity. An intriguing and useful set of resources. See also [Accessibility Evolution Model](#) a blog from Microsoft on "creating clarity in your accessibility journey" (July)

Internationally

- [Inclusive Design 24](#) was a "a free 24-hour online event for the global community". See the [playlist of talks on youtube](#). (September)
- See the [Microsoft Ability Summit 2020](#) sessions on Youtube (June, Microsoft)
- [Let's make Accessibility sustainable at scale](#) (September, Atos). "We need to treat inaccessibility just like we treat pollution, taking frameworks designed to address pollution and climate change and applying them to technology and services designed for humans."

In **Canada**, [Accessibility Measure or Exclusive Architecture](#)? (Azure)

In **Greece**, [AccessLab](#) Mapping services for disability (AccessLab IT Services)

In **Europe**,

- [Time to Act for the European Accessibility Act](#) (September, EDF)
- Webinar on [Advocating for strong national adoption of the European Accessibility Act](#) (October, EDF)

In **Spain,** [Cognitive Accessibility](#): the right to understand (in Spanish, June, Público)

In the **United Arab Emirates**, *[Building the Inclusive City](#)*, a book by Victor Santiago Pineda. "Governance, Access, and the Urban Transformation of Dubai". (Open Access, Palgrave Pivot)

From the **United Kingdom**,

- a campaign on [making online public services accessible](#) as per regulations. See related blog on lessons-learned [from making DBS services accessible](#) (October, Accessibility in Government).
- [Renting while disabled:](#) 'Being in a wheelchair means I pay double the rent' (October, BBC)

From the **United States**,

- Increasing participation: [Using the principles of universal design to create accessible conferences](#) (August, Journal of Convention & Event Tourism)
- ProPublica experiments with [ultra-accessible plain language in stories about people with disabilities](#) - the reporting that this article refers to concerns Arizona and is in the social protection section below. (November, Nieman Lab)

Anniversaries of laws in the UK and US

Americans with Disabilities Act

The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act celebrated 30 years since its passing. It was pioneering civil rights legislation on disability that still remains a crucial reference.

The **New York Times** had many articles relating to the anniversary, including:

- [The ADA at 30: Beyond the Law's Promise](#).
- ['Nothing About Us Without Us': 16 Moments in the Fight for Disability Rights](#) (July)
- [What the ADA Means to Me](#) - testimonials from disability activists. (July)

Lessons and reflections:

- [ADA 30 In Color](#) essays from disabled BIPOC writers (Disability Visibility Project)
- Coronavirus Made Accessibility A Priority. [Disability Activists Have Been Fighting For It For Decades.](#) (July, Huffington Post). A [twitter thread collecting other Huffington Post](#) articles in the month of the ADA.
- [What the Americans With Disabilities Act Has to Teach Today's Protesters](#): The forgotten intersectionality of disabilities activism. (July, New Republic)
- [The Forgotten History of How Accessible Design Reshaped the Streets](#) (August, Bloomberg)

- The story of the [Americans with Disabilities Act is all about bridges](#) (July, CNN)
- [Celebrating 30 years of ADA—and its impact on the home industry](#) (September, Business of Home)
- Apple, creatives, and disability rights activists [reflect on 30 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (July, Apple)

Where we are now:

- [30 Years After a Landmark Disability Law, the Fight for Access and Equality Continues](#) (Time)
- [30 Years Later, The American Dream Is Still Not ADA-Compliant](#) (Refinery29)
- More work needs to be done for disability rights after 30 years of ADA, [bill author, former senator Tom Harkin says](#) (July, USA Today)
- [The ADA Has Fallen Short for Black Students. It's Past Time to Fix That](#) (July, Education Week)
- [Hands Off the ADA](#): How a Landmark Law To Protect the Rights of Disabled People Is Being Twisted To Oppress Others (American Progress)

Going forward:

- 30 Years after the ADA, [It's Time to Imagine a More Accessible Future](#) (July, Bitch Media)
- [The ADA is turning 30. It's time that it included digital accessibility.](#) (NBC News)
- [The ADA as a Work in Progress](#) (July, The Progressive)
- [ADA Turns 30](#) Time to End the Institutionalization of People With Disabilities (Law.com)

Some events or discussions:

- Series of events from [Respect Ability](#) for an ADA 30 Summit.
- [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) podcast episode from Disability Visibility Project.
- Webinar on "[Disability and the Media](#)" (July, Disability Rights Center – NH)

Related Resources:

- Simple things Count: [Seven ways to be more inclusive of people with disabilities](#) from Microsoft.

Disability Discrimination Act (UK)

The Disability Discrimination Act was passed in 1995 and so saw its 25th anniversary.

Profiles and footage of [wheelchair warriors: Their rebellious protests to change the law](#) (BBC)

[The YouGov Disability Study](#) - 25 years of the Disability Discrimination Act (November, YouGov)

Viewpoint: [Disability laws are 25 years old, what next?](#) (November, BBC)

BBC marks the 25th anniversary of the Disability Discrimination Act with dedicated content and new commissions. (October)

Assistive Technology

A report on "Market Landscape and Strategic Approach" to Increasing Access to Eyeglasses in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (July, AT2030) See a twitter thread that summarises key points.

- Webinar on Product Narratives: the challenges of supply and demand-side barriers for priority AT (September)

A further Product Narrative: Digital Assistive Technology (November, AT2030)

Assistive Technology at a glance (September, Rhys Williams)

Developments in technology

- Haptic technology uses ultrasound waves to create Braille out of thin air (June, Science Focus)
- A $1 hearing aid could treat millions with hearing loss (September, Science). Blueprints freely available.

In **Cameroon and India**, Estimating assistive product need: results of population-based surveys and comparison of self-report and clinical impairment assessment approaches. (November, Tropical Medicine and International Health)

In **Kenya**, project gives disabled people a fair shot at life (September, Nation)

In the **United Kingdom**, For Disabled People, Access To Assistive Tech Is A Human Right Not An Employment Perk (November, Forbes)

Black Lives Matter (and police violence)

If you didn't already, see also the resources on this topic in the June Disability Debrief.

Internationally,

- Statement from Disability Rights Fund on the internal and external changes they are making: "Justice Demands We Live a Different Set of Values" (June)
- International Disability Alliance statement in solidarity with the anti-racism movement (June)
- An international database of Black Disabled Creatives.
- Webinar on Intersectionality Between Disability and Black Lives Matter (November, ILO)
- Not disability focussed, but the statement of solidarity from leadership of Save the Children UK is impressive in its own right and has a leadership programme that will include people with disabilities (June)

In **Canada,** 'Navigating through disability while Black' can be a disheartening challenge, says mom and advocate (June, CBC News)

In **Nigeria**, pictures of persons with disabilities who joined the protests against policy brutality. (October, The Cable)

In **South Africa**, A message from the International Disability Alliance, on the killing of Nathaniel Julius (September)

In the **United Kingdom**,

- How good leadership can make Black Disabled Lives Matter, too (video, July, Global Disability Innovation Hub)
- 5 Organisations Supporting Black People Living With Disabilities In The UK (July, Bustle UK)
- Voices of Disabled Black Campaigners video series and solidarity statement from ALLFIE. (June)
- The hidden figures of Black History Month and how you can help your organisation become more inclusive (October, Business and Disability Forum)
- Women of colour with disabilities are always left out of the conversation about diversity (July, Stylist)
- Black, disabled and female "You get racism, sexism and ableism." (July, BBC)
- This is why true inclusion is intersectional (June, Shani Dhanda)
- The deportation of an autistic black man is an indictment of the UK's racist justice system (September, the Guardian).

In the **United States**,

- Disability Justice Is an Essential Part of Abolishing Police and Prisons (October, Kaepernick Publishing)
- Black Girls With Disabilities Are Disproportionately Criminalized (September, Teen Vogue)
- Police Violence Against Black Disabled People Can't Be Ignored Anymore (July, Huffington Post)
- Disabled, Black and searching for justice (July, NBC News)
- Black Disabled Men Talk Episode 8: Black Disabled Agenda. (November) See also Episode 7 on COVID, State Abuse and Police Brutality (June)
- White Deaf Supremacy: A Legacy of Racism and Antisemitism (July, White Deaf Privilege) Translation in ASL.
- My Joy Is My Freedom On the revolutionary act of choosing happiness as a Black, disabled woman. (June, Elle)
- Meet the Black woman advocating for greater disability visibility, on Andraéa LaVant. (October, NBC News)
- Jillian Mercado: "You Want To Talk About Race And Inclusion? You Can't Leave Out The Disability Community"(September, Vogue)
- A Black woman with a disability fights back against racism and ableism in the doctor's office (July, Today)
- As a Black Disabled Woman I'm Tired of Seeing Mental Health Issues in My Community Stigmatized (July, Rooted in Rights)

- See Black Disabled Lives Matter Protest Best Practices from Detroit Disability Power. Also Black Disabled Lives Matter March & Protest in Detroit (youtube video, ASL with captions, June, the Daily Moth)
- Unspeakable, a powerful 60-second video featuring the Deaf community (July, Next Pittsburgh)
- A Conversation on Systemic Racism and Ableism with D'Arcee Charington Neal from the podcast Accessible Stall (June)
- In Memphis, Deaf Black lives matter group honors Black deaf sanitation workers who marched before them (June, Commercial Appeal)
- In Utah, Mother of autistic boy shot by police speaks out: 'Why didn't you just tackle him?' (September, WJLA) Also on the Guardian, Sept 8 and Sept 21.
- In Louisiana, A Disabled Black Man Was Shot and Killed While Asking for Money Outside Trader Joe's (August, Vice)

Civil Society

In **India**, The Lack Of Focus On The Intersection Of LGBTQI+ & Disability Rights Movement (November, Feminism India)

In **South Sudan**, A first for South Sudan's disability movement (LFTW)

From the **United States**,

- Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy: A Working Paper for Grantmakers and the Consultants Who Support Their Work (October, National Network of Consultants to Grantmakers)
- Participatory grantmaking matters now more than ever learning reflections from Ford Foundation.
- Beyond Inclusion and Toward Justice reflections from Ford Foundation President on inclusion of persons with disabilities after having "failed to acknowledge" us. (July, Ford Foundation)
- Inclusive Philanthropy: How to welcome and respect people with disabilities (September, Peak Grantmaking)

Climate Change

The **Human Rights Council** held a panel discussion on the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change (July, Relief Web) See more from IDA and a summary of IDA's participation in the 44th session of the Human Rights Council (July)

From **New Zealand** and the **United States** an episode on Climate Action from the Disability Visibility Project podcast. (September)

In the **United Kingdom**, consultation with disabled artists and arts organisations on the environmental problems of the present, and sustainable futures. (July, Unlimited)

COVID-19 Crisis and response

There are further COVID-related links in other sections, according to topic.

See the **Disability Rights Monitor** global report [Disability rights during the pandemic](#) (October). See the [launch event](#) (October) and [easy-to-read executive summary](#) (link to Word document). Some extracts from the report summary:

> "This report has one central purpose: To raise the alarm globally as to the catastrophic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities worldwide and to catalyse urgent action in the weeks and months to come."

> "Perhaps most troubling of all, it highlights that some states have actively pursued policies which result in wide-scale violations of the rights to life and health of persons with disabilities"

> "One of the most common faults has been the failure to genuinely include persons with disabilities in the collective response – both at national and global levels.

International resources:

- [Action on COVID-19](#) Evidence on the Response of Disabled People's Organizations during Pandemic (October, Inclusive Futures)
- [The Hidden Impact of COVID-19](#) on children and families with disabilities (link to pdf, October, Save the Children)
- [COVID-19 and persons deprived of liberty information hub](#) (Co:Lab)

Further international perspectives:

- [Affirming Radical Equality in the Context of COVID-19](#) Human Rights of Older People and People with Disabilities (October, Journal of Human Rights Practice)
- [How the WASH initiative adapted to respond to COVID-19](#) (November, Sightsavers)

In **Australia**, [The long tail of COVID-19: implications for disability policy](#) (September, The Power to Persuade)

In **Bangladesh**, [COVID-19: Double Jeopardy for Persons with Disabilities](#) (link to pdf, ADD)

From **Bangladesh** and **Kenya**, [Disability and COVID-19 Influencer Pack](#) (October, i2i)

In **Cambodia**, [COVID-19: Violence Risk and Income Loss Among Persons with Disabilities](#) (link to pdf, ADD)

In **Europe**, a webinar series [Tackling Torture Against Persons with Disabilities in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (Validity NGO)

In **Uganda**, [Let's Talk about COVID-19 and disability](#) (LFTW)

In **Spain**, [CERMI Women raises the loneliness suffered by women with disabilities](#) (in Spanish, November, Discapnet)

In the **United Kingdom,**

- [COVID-19: deaths of people with learning disabilities](#) (November, UK)
- [Rights at Risk](#) Covid-19, disabled people and emergency planning in Scotland – a baseline report from Inclusion Scotland (October, Inclusion Scotland)
- [Coronavirus restrictions have robbed disabled people of their independence](#) (October, Guardian)
- [Employees and face coverings](#) (October, Business and Disability Forum)
- [Pandemic recession likely to have 'disproportionate' impact on disabled people](#) (October, Disability News Service)

In the **United States**,

- [3 Principles For Including Disabled People In This Year's Pandemic Holidays](#) (November, Forbes)
- [How COVID-19 exposes a disability reporting gap](#) (October, Poynter)
- [Covid-19 long-haulers and the experience of 'hidden' disabilities](#) (October, Stat News)

Culture, Entertainment and Media

In **Esports**,

- Luminosity Gaming [Signs Number One Quadriplegic Gamer In The World](#) (August, Checkpoint XP) See also [Quadriplegic Record-Breaking Esports Gamer RockyNoHands Signs with Luminosity](#) (August, Spinal Cord Injury Zone)
- [Last of Us Part II: Is this the most accessible game ever?](#) (June, BBC)

From the **United Kingdom**,

- a talent agency that represents models and actors with physical and learning disabilities: the [women behind one of Gucci's most-liked Insta posts](#) (September, BBC)
- Collection of disability resources from the [Future is Loading](#) exhibition (Shape Arts)
- [Publishing must make room for disabled authors - for its own good](#) (September, The Guardian)

From the **United States**,

- 28 Movies, Books and TV shows (and more) that explore disability culture. (July, New York Times)
- The Ford Foundation has given grants to [Disability Futures Fellows](#), "to spotlight the work of disabled creatives across disciplines and geography". See [coverage on NPR](#). (October)
- [Break The Story Volume IV: Disability Visibility](#) - an issue that's a "snapshot of current disability culture" (September, Pop Culture Collab)
- Trauma or Tragedy: [Disability Representation in Children's Books Has a Long Way to Go](#) (July, Bitch Media)

- Oscars Announce [New Inclusion Requirements for Best Picture Eligibility](#), including through participation of persons with disabilities. (September, Variety)
- Chadwick Boseman's Untimely Death [Sparks Global Conversation About Ableism](#) (August, Forbes)
- I'm A Black, Disabled Actor. [This Is How I'm Making My Place In Hollywood](#). (September, Refinery29)
- The [Actors With Disabilities Redefining Representation](#) (August, New York Times Style Magazine)
- Long Road To Hollywood: [Why Actors With Disabilities Have Yet To Be Recognized](#) (July, Huffington Post)
- [Disabled Talent 'Shut Out' And 'Invisible' In TV Industry And Hollywood](#) (June, Forbes)
- Words Matter, And [It's Time To Explore The Meaning Of "Ableism."](#) (October, Forbes)
- Maysoon Zayid on disability-related language: [Say The Word: Disabled](#) (July, Refinery29)
- [Sia's Trailer For 'Music' Struck A Nerve With The Disabled Community.](#) "Her Tweets Only Made Things Worse." (November, Forbes)

Television shows and films

[The Evolution of Disability in Film](#) (July, Independent Lens)

[11 TV Shows for Kids Featuring Characters With Disabilities](#) (Yahoo, June)

Away on Netflix. The [series "Away" Is About Much More Than A Mission To Mars](#) - an exploration of its disability-related themes. (October, Forbes)

City Girls, **on Deaf TV in Kenya**, [Deaf TV show 'City Girl' sparks conversation on taboo subjects](#) (July, The Star)

Crip Tales from the BBC. [Crip Tales](#), a collection of six short monologues created by disabled people. [A positive review on Forbes](#) (October). [BBC 4's series of monologues Criptales gives us the real deal](#) (November, Disability Arts Online) See also interview with [Mat Fraser On Curating Authentic Disabled Stories](#) (October, BBC America)

Deaf U on Netflix. [Deaf U](#) is a reality television programme featuring deaf and hard-of-hearing students at Gallaudet University in the United States. ['The goal was to break the mold'](#) (October, Guardian) Netflix published a descriptive transcript alongside the show, adding [accessibility for deafblind people](#). (Haben Girma on twitter) There were, however, mixed or negative reactions to the show:

- [How Netflix's Deaf U Failed Deaf People – 'We Are More Than Sign Language'](#) (October, Huffington Post). See also reviews from [Ahmed Khalifa](#) (youtube video) and [Liam O'Dell](#).

Feel the Beat on Netflix. Deaf Actress [Shaylee Mansfield Showcases Authenticity on Screen](#). (June, Respect Ability) See more on [Shaylee Mansfield](#) (June, Distractify) and how a [viral video led to her breakthrough](#) (July, Forbes). Also, the [Deaf Community's 'Beautiful'](#)

Response (June, Style Caster). An ASL version of Always, from the soundtrack. (June, Meaww)

- I enjoyed Feel the Beat: a feel-good movie with a Deaf character organically part of it, shaping the narrative and the title.

Rising Phoenix. Documentary on the Paralympics: see a dedicated section below.

Run. Kiera Allen on Headlining 'Run,' the First Major Thriller in 70 Years to Star a Wheelchair User (November, Variety) Also on New York Times.

Witches. Warner Bros. Apologizes After 'The Witches' Sparks Backlash From People With Disabilities (November, Variety) See also on New York Times.

Data and Research

The **Washington Group on Disability Statistics** develops tools to measure disability in a comparable way. See the relaunch of their website for more information.

- An article on validation of their Child Functioning Module in Uganda. (September, BMC Public Health)
- When does disability begin? Identifying the age of onset.
- Using the Washington Group Tools to Assess the Impact of COVID-19 on Persons with Disability

In terms of **COVID-19**, How can we measure disability in research related to the COVID-19 response? (Disability Evidence Portal)

From the **International Labour Organization,** in their labour force survey resources see the new module on Functional Difficulties and Barriers to Employment (link to zip, July)

Background report on Generating disability statistics: Models of disability measurement, history of disability statistics and the Washington Group Questions (September, Development Initiatives)

The Disability Data Advocacy Toolkit was launched by CBM and others.

A new collection: The Aging–Disability Nexus: Disability Culture and Politics, edited by Katie Aubrecht, Christine Kelly and Carla Rice (July, UBC Press).

Identifying children at risk of intellectual disability in UNICEF's multiple indicator cluster surveys: Cross-sectional survey (August, Disability and Health Journal)

Intra-Rater Test-Retest Reliability of Self-Reported Child Functioning Module (August, Preprint)

From **UNICEF**

- A brief: Exploring Critical Issues in the [Ethical Involvement of Children with Disabilities in Evidence Generation and Use](#). See a related blog on [how to ethically involve children with disabilities in research](#) (August, IDS)
- [Producing disability-inclusive data](#): Why it matters and what it takes (July)

The **Disability Data Advocacy Working Group** highlights a [series of recent events on its website](#). (September to October, IDA)

[Celebrating the Inclusive Data Charter's second birthday](#) (July, Sightsavers)

[Community-Driven Data for Persons with Disabilities](#) Fosters Inclusion and Representation (October, SDG Knowledge Hub)

CitizEMPOWER: The [importance of supporting inclusive citizen-generated data initiatives](#) (October, Leonard Cheshire)

Some comments on the [Disability Data Portal](#), a [Goldmine for Advocacy](#) (October, Leonard Cheshire).

Disability And Diversity Indices - [You Can't Manage What You Don't Measure](#) (November, Forbes)

[Inclusion in research and evaluation: the missing 15%](#) (July, Dev Policy)

From **Australia,** [Guidelines for Co-Producing Research with People with Disability](#) (UNSW)

In **Uganda**, report on Uganda's [disability data landscape and the economic inclusion of persons with disabilities](#) (September, Development Initiatives)

Digital accessibility, internet and social media

On **access to the internet**, data from several countries on the [digital divide at the intersection of gender and disability](#) (July, GSMA): "women with disabilities are disproportionately digitally excluded and are at risk of being left behind in our ever more digital societies."

- [Towards digital inclusion of refugees and Kenyans with disabilities in Nairobi](#) (July, GSMA)

Artificial Intelligence:

- How Automated Test Proctoring Software [Discriminates Against Disabled Students](#) (November, CDT)
- Shrinking the 'data desert': [Inside efforts to make AI systems more inclusive of people with disabilities](#) (October, Microsoft)
- Microsoft's new [image-captioning AI will help accessibility](#) in Word, Outlook, and beyond (October, The Verge)
- Powering Inclusion: [Artificial Intelligence and Assistive Technology](#) (November, Felipe Ramos-Barajas)

Standards:

- A new draft of the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2](#) for wide review (August, Accessibility Guidelines Working Group W3C)

Technology:

- iPhones [can now tell blind users where and how far away people are](#) (October, TechCrunch)

Content:

- Is The Social Media Generation [Transforming Disability Representation](#)? (September, Forbes)
- [How & Why Accessibility Matters for SEO](#) describes links between accessibility for users and for search engines (September, Search Engine Journal) Article links to the Deque survey on [how is COVID-19 Impacting Digital Accessibility](#)? which maybe I didn't catch before.
- [Inclusion 101: The How-To of Inclusive and Accessible Communications](#) webinar series (Disability Rights Fund)
- Inclusive communication: [Skipton Building Society and creating accessible emails](#) - with useful points on how they did it. (July, Business and Disability Forum)
- Disability Activist Melissa Blake [Speaks Out After TikTok Challenge Mocks People With Disabilities](#) (September, Wbur)
- This Woman With Down Syndrome Went [Viral For Explaining Things About Her Life That Don't Make Sense](#) (August, Buzzfeed)

Meetings:

- [Are Your Virtual Meetings Accessible for People with Disabilities?](#) Start with This Checklist (July, Internet Society)
- Zoom's latest accessibility [features let you pin and spotlight multiple videos during calls](#) (September, The Verge).
- [Auto Captions and Deaf Students](#): Why Automatic Speech Recognition Technology Is Not the Answer (Yet) (October, NDC)

Digital Accessibility:

- [Digital Accessibility Rights Evaluation Index](#) - "DARE Index comprehensively documents the advances made by 137 countries" (G3ict)
- A [Digital Accessibility Digest](#), including, for example, notes on [understanding digital accessibility in the procurement process](#) (Microassist).
- Best Practice Guide – [Promoting digital accessibility across your organisation](#) (Business and Disability Forum)
- New Publication Shares Ways for [Museums To Be Accessible and Inclusive](#) (October, Web Wire)
- From Europe, a discussion on the [web accessibility directive](#). (September, EDF)
- [Website Accessibility Made Easy: Your 2020 Ultimate Guide](#) (Website Planet)
- How thousands of people with disabilities [shape the technology you probably use every day](#) (October, Microsoft)

- [How Captions Benefit More Than the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) (June, Rev)
- ASSETS 2020 was an online event for the [International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility](#). "The premier forum for presenting research on the design, evaluation, use, and education related to computing for people with disabilities and older adults."
- Not sure if I'd seen this before, but a great resource on web accessibility: [a11yresources](#) a "growing list of accessibility tools and resources" by [@humbleuidesigns](#).

On **Streaming Services**: a league table of [accessibility and video on-demand streaming services](#) (Big Hack). "Disabled viewers are being left behind by the video on-demand streaming revolution." Disney+ comes top.

About **Youtube**,

- #DontRemoveYoutubeCCs: [Community captions 'benefit everyone'](#). (September, BBC) People are [asking YouTube not to remove closed caption tool](#) (September, NJ).

- Revealed: YouTube Spoke To Three Deaf Creators [About Community Captions Deprecation](#) (September, Liam O'Dell). Discussing youtube's process.

Education, children and young people

To stay up-to-date on education, the [Inclusive Education Initiative](#) newsletter and their [LinkedIn Group](#) are great sources. See for example, the [November edition](#) of the newsletter. The Initiative is a "a multi-donor trust fund overseen by the World Bank".

UNESCO launched its 2020 [Global Education Monitoring Report](#), Inclusion and Education: All means All. A quarter of a billion children, adolescents and youth are not in school. In terms of inclusive education, "while some countries are transitioning towards inclusion, segregation is still prevalent.".

The report's first recommendation is to "widen the understanding of inclusive education" and the [report summary](#) has a worthwhile discussion of inclusion, part of which I quote here:

> **Inclusion is a process**. Inclusive education is a process contributing to achievement of the goal of social inclusion. Defining equitable education requires a distinction between 'equality' and 'equity'. Equality is a state of affairs (what): a result that can be observed in inputs, outputs or outcomes. Equity is a process (how): actions aimed at ensuring equality. Defining inclusive education is more complicated because process and result are conflated. This Report argues for thinking of inclusion as a process: actions that embrace diversity and build a sense of belonging, rooted in the belief that every person has value and potential, and should be respected, regardless of their background, ability or identity. Yet inclusion is also a state of affairs, a result, which the CRPD and General Comment No. 4 stopped short of defining with precision, likely because of differing views of what the result should be.

Responding to the UNESCO report:

- [#AllmeansALL: Fulfilling everybody's potential - A World Bank and GEM Report webinar](#) (June)
- [Global Education Monitoring Report 2020: Education for all](#) (November, World Education Blog)
- I wasn't left behind, [but most learners with disabilities still are](#) (September, African Arguments)
- Singing from the same song sheet – Growing momentum across the disability movement to [adopt a comprehensive definition of inclusive education to achieve SDG 4](#) (September, World Education Blog)
- [Launch of Global Education Monitoring Report 2020](#) (June, CBM)
- [ALERT – The Global Education Monitoring Report shows that inclusion cannot wait](#) (June, HI)
- [Disability inclusive education only happens when all really means all](#) (LFTW)
- [Education Strategies Adopted During COVID-19 Are Not Inclusive: UNESCO Report](#) (June, NDTV Education)

See the **IDA** report on Inclusive Education: "[What an inclusive, equitable, quality education means to us](#)" (June)

In terms of **COVID-19**, [Emerging from COVID-19 pandemic](#) A social inclusion approach to educating learners with disabilities (October, GEM Report)

From **Down Syndrome International,** International Guidelines [for the Education of Learners with Down Syndrome.](#) (July)

[Include Me](#) - a publication to support children with multiple disabilities and vision impairment or deafblindness to participate in home, community and educational activities (ICEVI).

[Five innovations to support inclusive education](#) for children with disabilities in low-resource contexts (October, All Children Reading).

[Three ways you can support the development and use of accessible books](#) for children with disabilities (August, All Children Reading)

On World Teacher's Day, [Achieving quality learning for all](#) (October, Light for the World).

On International Day of Deafblindness, [A historic day to acknowledge the rights of persons with deafblindness.](#) (June, WFDB)

Webinar on Disability [Inclusive Education Successes and Lessons Learned](#) (August, USAID Global Education Learning Series)

LFTW on [Re-set the starting line so no child is left behind](#), "Early childhood education is a smart investment".

In **Sub-Saharan Africa**, [Are We Fulfilling Our Promises? Inclusive Education](#) a literature review (September, Data and Evidence in Education (DEEP), EnCompass LLC)

In **Brazil**,

- [No segregation of people with disabilities in schools](#) (October, Human Rights Watch) Further discussion in Portuguese in the [place of children with disabilities is in school](#) (October, Folha de São Paulo) and [Inclusion or disinclusion? An analysis of decree 10.502/2020](#) (October, Revista Reação).

In **India**,

- [Rhetoric versus reality of Indian education policies](#) for children with disabilities (November, World Education Blog).
- [Barrier-free access to education for all children with disabilities in NEP: SJ&E minister](#) (July, Outlook India)
- [Disabled candidates excluded from RCI's admission list](#), NPRD seeks DEPwD intervention (November, Newz Hook)

In **Kenya**, Youth with disabilities [are more likely than their peers to engage in hazardous child labour](#) (October, Child: Care, Health and Development) "Responses to eradicate hazardous child labour need to take account of the situation of children and youth with disability."

In **Malawi**, Long-term [outcomes for children with disability and severe acute malnutrition](#). (October, BMJ Global Health) "Disability is common among children affected by Severe Acute Malnutrition."

From **Nepal**, [Educator Knowledge of Early Childhood Development](#) : Evidence from Eastern Nepal (September, World Bank)

In **Philippines,** [barriers and challenges of obtaining quality education for students with disabilities](#). (September, Ruh Global)

In **South Africa**,

- Education [still a pipe dream for many disabled South Africans](#) (October, IOL)
- [Heterogeneity in Disability and the Quality of Life of South African Children](#) (October, Child Indicators Research)

Spain [violated inclusive education right of child with disabilities](#) according to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (September, OHCHR). See also [UN News](#).

In **Tanzania**, [Parental Disability and Children's Educational Outcomes](#): Evidence from Tanzania (August, Journal of Human Development and Capabilities)

In **Uganda**, '[It takes a village to kill a child](#)' Uganda's hidden children. A feature by Aljazeera.

In the **United States**,

- A new book, [Allies and Obstacles](#): Disability Activism and Parents of Children with Disabilities, by Allison C. Carey, Pamela Block and Richard Scotch (June, Temple University Press).

In the **United Kingdom**,

- Avoidable [death in children and young people with intellectual disabilities in Scotland](#) (briefing, University of Glasgow) and [full paper](#) (August, BMJ Open)
- [Interventions in Disabled Childhood Studies](#) - papers from a symposium (June, iHuman)

Higher Education

A new book, [*Ablism in Academia*](#), available for free download. "Theorising experiences of disabilities and chronic illnesses in higher education", edited by Nicole Brown and Jennifer Leigh. "Academics with chronic illness, disabilities or neurodiversity are practically unseen and starkly under-represented in comparison to students with disabilities or disabled people in the general public".

- Webinar on [Ablism in Academia](#) (November, Center for Global Higher Education)

[Reporting from the Margins](#): Disabled Academics Reflections on Higher Education (September, Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research) "If the doors to academia were closed to disabled people in the past, neoliberalism has surely locked them."

Elections and Politics

In **Afghanistan**, Disabled soldiers [said they have been sidelined from the ongoing peace process in the country](#). (Tolo News)

In **Belarus**, persons with disabilities in Belarus [must have their human rights respected.](#) (September, EDF)

In **Chile**, Plebiscite and new Constitution: [will there be seats reserved for persons with disabilities?](#) (September, Telsalud)

In **Europe**, [Voting is every EU citizen's right, regardless of disability](#). (September, Euroactiv). "Persons with intellectual disabilities were disenfranchised in the 2019 EU elections. The European Commission should ensure this does not happen again."

In **India**, [the right of disabled persons to actively participate in politics](#) (in Bengali, November, GroundXero)

In **New Zealand**, All these new queer MPs are fantastic news. [But where are their disabled peers?](#) (October, The Spinoff)

In **Pakistan**, [an online training to engage Pakistani women with disabilities in public policy reform](#) (IFES)

In **Tunisia**, [Walid Al-Zaidi: The First Arab Blind Person to Hold a Ministerial Role Since Taha Hussein](#) (September, Majalla)

United States Election

Results and Reflection

- Disability Advocates Express Joy [After Biden Name-Checks Them With Important Word](#) in his victory speech (November, Huffington Post)
- Joe Biden [Bet Big on Disability Issues and Won](#) (November, The Respectability Report)
- [What Went Right, What Went Wrong With 2020 Voting Accessibility](#) (November, Forbes)

Voters with Disabilities

- [Voters With Disabilities Face Barriers in 2020 From COVID-19](#) (September, Teen Vogue) "The world is on fire and I'm choking on fear and rage. In 2020, two aspects of my life have been politicized and thrust into the spotlight: ventilators and voting by mail."
- [#CripTheVote](#) hashtag was used on twitter, and there is a [#CripTheVote blog](#).
- People with Disabilities' [Voices Should be Heard in US Elections](#) (October, Human Rights Watch). "Inaccessible Polls, Ballots May Disenfranchise Millions in Upcoming Elections"
- Disability Vote [Grows to 38.3 Million, a 19.8% Jump Since 2008](#) (September, Rutgers)
- [Voters With Disabilities Face Barriers in 2020 From COVID-19](#) (September, Teen Vogue). "The world is on fire and I'm choking on fear and rage."
- Further articles from [American Progress](#), [Pew trusts](#), [Policy Map](#), [Wbur](#)

Political platforms

- Regardless of party, [the next Congress must prioritize disability issues](#) (The Hill)
- The Biden plan for [full participation and equality of persons with disabilities](#). (Joe Biden). Includes a plan for support for persons with disabilities [during COVID-19](#).
- Biden Completes [Disability Candidate Questionnaire](#) (September, the RespectAbility Report)
- Biden's Disability Plan [Could Close the Equal-Pay Loophole](#) (August, The Atlantic)
- [Episode on Policy](#) from the Disability Visibility Project podcast (October)

The Politicians and Parties

- Joe Biden has a stutter. [Our Stutter: Joe Biden, Brayden Harrington—and Me](#) (September, The Nation)
- [Calling Trump unwell doesn't hurt Trump. It hurts disabled people](#) (June, Washington Post)
- 14 Candidates for Governor and Senate [Complete Disability Questionnaire](#) (September, RespectAbility Report)
- Interview with [Tammy Duckworth, Senator of Illinois](#) and [part two](#) (youtube, October, Traipsin' Global on Wheels)

Employment, Business and Work

Towards a Disability-Smart World: [Global Disability Inclusion Strategy](#) from Business and Disability Forum (July). "Whilst a minority of global organisations are resourcing a global disability inclusion strategy, a majority estimated it
would happen in the next few years."

- [Multinationals Must Ensure Policy, Not Geography Drives Disability Inclusion](#) (July, Forbes)
- See also reflections on [global best practice](#) (October, BDF) and a blog on [insights towards a disability-smart world](#) (October, Brendan Rogers)

From **Inclusive Futures**, [Disability-confident employers' toolkit](#) "Start your journey towards fostering more inclusive workspaces."

In terms of **COVID-19**, [Jobseekers with disabilities and COVID-19](#) - case studies from around the world (September, Inclusive Futures)

From the **World Economic Forum,** A [New Business Agenda for Disability Inclusion](#) webinar session at the Jobs Reset summit. (October)

From the **ILO**,

- Blog and interview on [Persons with disabilities – An untapped resource](#) (November)
- Webinar on [Disability Inclusion in Economic Empowerment Strategies](#) (October).
- Webinar on [Making the Future of Work Inclusive of Persons with Disabilities](#) (July)

From **Debra Ruh Global** the [Human Potential at Work](#) has been putting out a tremendous range of interviews on inclusion and disability from around the world, with a focus on employment.

In **Australia**, Women With Disabilities Australia [Response to Employment Issues Paper](#) (link to pdf, August, WWDA)

In **Brazil**,

- [Challenges of accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities](#) - an article reflecting on 29 years since the first quota legislation (in Portuguese, July, Gama)
- [Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market](#). (In Portuguese, November, DIEESE, Inter-Union Department of Statistics and Socio-Economic Studies). Employment of persons with disabilities decreased by 4% from January to September in 2020, versus 1.7% for all workers.
- [The pandemic takes employment from more than 21,000 professionals with disabilities by the 3rd trimester](#) (in Portuguese, Globo, November)
- [Work, labor inclusion, independence and autonomy](#), com Romeu Sassaki. (youtube, in Portuguese, September)

In **Europe**, a guide on [How to Put Reasonable Accommodation into Practice: Promising Examples](#) (August European Commission), from the EU [Campaign on Discrimination at work](#).

In **India and Norway**, [Turning a blind eye to employers' discrimination](#)? Attitudinal barrier perceptions of vision impaired youth from Oslo and Delhi (August, Disability and Society) "This article demonstrates unanticipated similarities associated with the perception of employers' discrimination in two dissimilar labour markets."

In **India,** Since 2015, [Modi govt has kept no data on persons with disability seeking jobs](#) (October, The Print)

In **Myanmar**, [Mainstreaming Disability in the Workplace in Myanmar: Preliminary Study Findings](#) (Social Sciences and Humanities)

In **New Zealand,** Ableism [pervades the job market while good talent goes to waste](#) (August, The Spinoff)

In **Pakistan,** [Landmark Ruling Bolsters Disability Rights in Pakistan](#) (August, Human Rights Watch). "The court held that the 2 percent employment figure must be implemented at every tier of an establishment."

In **Uganda**,

- [How Do Legal and Policy Frameworks Support Employment](#) of People With Disabilities in Uganda? Findings From a Qualitative Policy Analysis Study (August, Journal of International Development).

In the **United Kingdom,**

- [The Great Big Workplace Adjustments Report](#) (June, Business and Disability Forum)
- [Can flexible work close the disability employment gap](#)? (September, CMI)
- [Disabled doctors struggle with inclusivity](#), finds survey. (August, BMA)

In the **United States**,

- Workers With Disabilities [Can Earn Just $3.34 An Hour. Agency Says Law Needs Change](#) (September, NPR)
- Microsoft Reveals [6.1% Disability Representation For The First Time](#) (October, Forbes). "6.1 % of the company's U.S. employees self-identify as disabled".
- [Disability and identity in the workplace and beyond](#) (October, Bloomberg)
- Celebration of [National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2020](#) (June, Department of Labour)
- Drive [innovation with accessible product design](#) (McKinsey)
- [Disability Rights Gain Traction Among Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Investors](#) (July, Bloomberg)

Health and bioethics

From **WHO,** [Disability-inclusive health services toolkit](#): a resource for health facilities in the Western Pacific Region.

Sexual and Reproductive health

- Systematic review of interventions to [promote sexual and reproductive health](#) of persons with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries (October, BMJ Global Health)
- [Sexual health education for adolescents and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities](#): recommendations for accessible sexual and reproductive health information (September, The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health)
- [Access to SRH services for persons with disabilities](#) - mapping the evidence (June, ITAD)

Early intervention for children [with developmental disabilities in low and middle-income countries](#) – the case for action (August, International Health)

[Inclusion & accessibility for disabled doctors](#): a public health issue (November, BMJ Global)

In **Burundi**, The multidimensional vulnerability of [people with disability to HIV infection](#): Results from the handiSSR study in Bujumbura, Burundi (August, EClinicalMedicine)

In **Canada**,

- Assisted dying legislation [puts equality for people with disabilities at risk](#) (November, Globe and Mail)
- [Progress Against Medical Aid in Dying (MAid)](#), (November, Convivium)

In **Denmark**, [The Last Children of Down Syndrome](#): "Prenatal testing is changing who gets born and who doesn't. This is just the beginning." (December, the Atlantic)

In **Europe**, [Healthcare status: when you belong to nowhere](#) (EDF)

In **India**, [COVID-19: Insurers Are Denying Policies To Disabled Despite Govt Strictures](#) (November, IndiaSpend)

In **New Zealand**, [Health and Disability System review fundamentally fails disabled people](#) (July, Including All People)

In **Uganda**, [Disability inclusion in sexual reproductive health and rights](#) (August, Make 12.4% Work)

In the **United Kingdom,** [Disability in the NHS – an opportunity or a threat?](#) (August, BMJ Leader)

From the **United States**,

- [Disabled People's Feelings About Cures Are More Complex Than You May Think](#) (September, Forbes)
- [Autism Is an Identity, Not a Disease](#): Inside the Neurodiversity Movement (July, Katherine Reynolds Lewis)
- Doctors With Disabilities [Push For Culture Change In Medicine](#) (August, NPR)

History and Memorial

In **Ancient Greece**, Ancient Greeks [may have built 'disability ramps' on some temples](#) (July, Live Science)

In **Australia**, Sue Salthouse remembered as a [visionary leader with Women with Disabilities ACT and much more](#) (July, Canberra Times)

In **Ethiopia**, In [memory of Tesfu Equbeyonas](#) (Bridging the Gap)

In **Europe,** [Ivo Vykydal, former president of Inclusion Europe, died aged 56](#) (September, Inclusion Europe)

From **India**, P K Pincha, [India's first disabled commissioner of persons with disabilities passes away](#) (July, Newz Hook)

Internationally, Human Rights Watch created a f[ellowship in memory of Marca Bristo](#) and awarded it to Nigerian Advocate Hauwa Ojeifo (September)

In the **United Kingdom**,

- [United Kingdom Disability History Month](#) website. See also Events celebrating [UK Disability History Month 2020](#) (University of Leeds)
- A [History of Disability: from 1050 to the Present Day](#) (Historic England)
- [Disabled Britain on Film](#) - a great collection from BFI.
- [Depicting Disability](#) from BBC Free Thinking podcast (November, I don't see a transcript).
- [Manchester Histories DigiFest 2020](#), "marked and celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970". (September, Manchester Histories)
- Paralympics 2012 [opening ceremony dancer Dave Toole dies](#) (October, BBC)
- ["Do you Bant?" Diet and Deafness in Victorian England](#) short podcast from 90 Second Narratives, [with transcript](#). (November)
- Ken Robinson, who many of you know from his [Ted Talk on Creativity in Education](#) passed away. Obituary [in the Guardian](#) (August) An older blog on his journey from [special education to academic royalty](#). (2018, Top Hat)
- [Why I do Disability History](#) A disabled historian's perspective (July, All of Us)

In the **United States**,

- A series of [Disability History resources](#) from the National Parks Service.
- [Gaining Access: The New York City Disability Rights Movement](#)(NYC)
- [The 25 day sit-in that changed history](#) (August, BBC Outlook)
- Remembering the 75th Anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), [Increasing Access and Opportunity](#) (October, Microsoft)
- *Golem Girl* is a [memoir from Riva Lehrer](#), an "illustrated memoir of an artist born with disabilities who searches for freedom and connection in a society afraid of strange bodies" (October, Penguin Random House)
- *Hearing Happiness: Deafness Cures in History* is a [new book from Jaipreet Virdi](#) (August, Politics and Prose). See a [Q&A on the book from the author](#). (October, Politics and Prose) Also, [a deaf history series](#) of articles (Jaipreet Virdi)

- The [Rise of Disability Stigma](#) (October, Jstor Daily). Argues that economic transitions to wage work in factories meant that "those who couldn't keep pace became 'burdens.'"
- A [Holiday Light Show In Waltham Obscures A Devastating History](#) (November, Wbur) "Disabled people do not get to have a history, and we are shamed for daring to demand that we deserve one that truly represents our story in this nation."
- [Disability Culture Rap](#) was re-released from 2000 (explicit content), by Cheryl Marie Wade. "I'm the nightmare you flirt with in dreams // I'm here to tell you it's not what it seems". See Cheryl Marie Wade's [obituary at the New York Times.](#) (July)
- Honoring the [Life and Legacy of Deidre Davis-Butler](#) (youtube, September, Judy Heumman). Also an obituary in the [New York Times](#).
- Overlooked no more: [Roland Johnson, Who Fought to Shut Down Institutions for the Disabled](#) (July, New York Times)

Humanitarian and Disaster Risk-Reduction

In terms of **COVID-19**,

- A **Disability Advisory Group** [Tip sheet for monitoring a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19 in humanitarian settings](#) (link to pdf, September)
- [The likely impacts and risks of COVID-19 for people with disabilities in humanitarian contexts, and mitigation measures.](#) (link to pdf, Disability Inclusion Helpdesk)

[Experience of Internally Displaced Persons with Disabilities](#) - report from the Special Rapporteur on the right of internally displaced persons (June, OHCHR)

[Disability inclusion in humanitarian action](#) an edition of Humanitarian Exchange dedicated to the subject. (October, Humanitarian Practice Network)

Gap Analysis: a literature review on [the inclusion of People with Disability and Older People in Humanitarian Response](#) and [part two with further insights](#). (July and November, Elrha)

[An Empirical Exploration of the Capabilities of People with Disabilities in Coping with Disasters](#) (July, International Journal of Disaster Risk Science)

An **MSF** [Webinar "Let's Talk Inclusion: Are We Missing The Most Vulnerable Groups?](#) (October)

Event recording on **Overseas Development Institute** [Strengthening disability inclusion in humanitarian action](#) (October).

In **Haiti,** [Reducing disaster risk for persons with disabilities in Haiti](#) (Prevention Web)

In **Mozambique**,

- an important and well-developed collection of experiences in humanitarian response to the cyclone last year: ["Aid out of Reach": untold stories from people with disabilities](#) (June, LFTW)
- [Getting aid to people with disabilities in times of crisis](#) (June, Devex)

In **Syria**, the [Protection of Civilians and Persons with Disabilities](#) During the Syria Conflict (November, Chavia)

Institutions and deprivation of liberty

[People with Mental Health Conditions Living in Chains](#) a Worldwide Campaign to End Shackling, Shame from Human Rights Watch, based on a study of over a 100 countries. "Around the world, hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children with mental health conditions have been shackled—chained or locked in confined spaces—at least once in their lives"

In the **Czech Republic**, a study on [Adherence to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in Psychiatric Hospitals](#). (link to pdf, June, Health and Human Rights Journal). "We found that none of the CRPD articles as assessed by the QualityRights Toolkit was fully adhered to in Czech psychiatric hospitals."

In **Hungary,** [Institutionalisation and Deprivation of Legal Capacity:](#) This is how Hungary is Violating the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (June, Elij: Talk!)

In the **United States**,

- A new book on [Decarcerating Disability:](#) Deinstitutionalization and Prison Abolition by Liat Ben-Moshe. (June, University of Minnesota Press). "One aim of this book is to construct and activate a genealogy of the largest decarceration movement in US history: deinstitutionalisation".
- [MetFern Cemetery Website](#) A project that tells the stories of 296 people, inmates of Massachusetts state institutions who died between 1947 and 1979. (Gann Academy)

International Cooperation

The first **Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, Catalina Devandas, came to the end of her second mandate, and has been replaced by [Gerard Quinn](#) (see also [congratulations from IDA](#), and [EDF](#)). The [Special Rapporteur](#) is an independent expert appointed by the United Nations to support the international community to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities.

- **Catalina Devandas** did an interview [here on Disability Debrief](#) to reflect on her mandate. (November) She wrote a [farewell on facebook](#) (August, see also [in Spanish](#)), and gives [an overview of her mandate](#). Her work can be seen on the [Embracing Diversity](#) page or the [OHCHR page](#).
- International [Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities](#). A set of 10 principles identified by the Special Rapporteur and endorsed by the International Commission of Jurists, the International Disability Alliance and the United Nations Development Programme. The principles are accompanied by guidelines in each area.
- [Assessment of the mandate](#) - an independent evaluation (OHCHR)

United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy. The UN Secretary General's report on [steps taken by the UN to implement the mainstreaming of disability](#). See also [video for launch](#). (October, UN Web TV)

From the report:

> Historically, very few resources have been invested in disability inclusion in the United Nations. While the first reporting exercise shows that some progress can be achieved within existing resources, it is high time to ensure resource allocations in an inclusive manner, as well as to consider the mobilization of additional resources. A system-wide disability marker to track financial allocations and expenditures for disability inclusion will be considered to enable the United Nations system to identify resource gaps and commit itself to specific targets.

More on or from UNDIS:

- A UN webinar on [Disability Inclusion 101](#).
- [Why the new UN Disability Inclusion Strategy is an opportunity for ITU](#) (July, ITU)

Official Development Assistance:

- [Disability-inclusive ODA](#) Aid data on donors, channels, recipients (July, Development Initiatives). "Aid projects targeting disability inclusion totalled US$3.2 billion between 2014 and 2018, representing less than 0.5% of all international aid". And the amount on disability-inclusive projects is "just under US$1 billion in 2018."
- a guide to [Getting the Data](#), on working with the data generated by the OECD-DAC disability-marker. (September, Centre for Inclusive Policy)
- What Funders [Need to Know About Disability-Inclusive Grantmaking: Disability Rights Fund](#) (Disability Philantrophy)

Sustainable Development Goals.

- For the fifth anniversary of the SDGs, a paper on [2030 Agenda, SDGs and Disability](#) (September, Fundación Once and EDF) Gives a summary of current progress on goals in European context.
- Disability inclusion isn't a tick-box exercise. [It's vital to achieving the SDGs](#) (October, WEF)

This year saw the **two-year anniversary of the Global Disability Summit.**

- Marking the [two-year anniversary of the Global Disability Summit](#) (July, Sightsavers)
- [Global Disability Summit: 2 years on](#). Where we are and where we need to go. (ADD)
- A follow-up Global Disability Summit is planned in early 2022, hosted by the Norwegian Government.

The **UK government** department that hosted the summit, **DFID**, has merged into the Foreign Office.

- [Progress against DFID's strategy for Disability Inclusive Development](#) - a one year report (November). "We made great progress […] We learnt a lot […] Inclusion,

diversity and belonging is at the heart of the new department and FCDO will build on the previous approaches to ensure we live our values."

- A discussion of the merger describes implications for UK aid, including spending on disability (June, Development Initiatives)

High-Level Political Forum. A detailed report from the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities. (link to docx, September).

A series of **Disability Inclusive Development Situational Analysis** for Bangladesh, Jordan, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda. (Institute of Development Studies)

From **Inclusion International**, Excluded from the Excluded: People with Intellectual Disabilities in (and out of) Official Development Assistance (link to pdf, October) "People with intellectual disabilities are excluded from nearly all projects funded through official development assistance."

From the **African Union**, AU Disability Inclusion: Guideline for Youth Exchange (link to pdf)

From **Bridging the Gap:**

- Study on the inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in development cooperation in Bridging the Gap II project partners (link to pdf, July)
- The Empowerment of Women and Girls with Disabilities. (link to pdf, Bridging the Gap) "A Compilation of Implemented Activities and Identified Best Practices 2018-2020". See also online workshop it was presented in. (November)
- Bridging the Gap's results an infographic (link to pdf)

The **International Labour Organization** (ILO)

- Launched a website for their Invalid Opinions campaign.
- discussed the ILO disability inclusion policy and strategy at its governing body meeting (link to pdf, September)

From **Global Disability Innovation Hub:**

- Global Disability Innovation Impact Report 2019/20.
- Webinar on Disability, Stigma & the role of Innovation (August)

Good to see this from **Sightsavers**, on their work to practice what they preach within their own organization: Championing Disability Inclusion in the Workplace. (August, iseek). It is a significant gap in our sector that more organizations working on disability have not taken even these steps.

Inclusive Futures brings organizations together to work on disability inclusion in seven countries and, among other things, their website features the stories of the people doing this work.

A Global Disability Directory on organizations providing disability services in the majority world. (Disability Support International)

Reflections on [Disability, Poverty, Society](#) on the Rethinking Development Podcast (October, I don't see a transcript)

Australia cut the budget for [disability inclusion within foreign aid by 25%](#). (October, ADDC on twitter)

In **Burkina Faso**, advances in the development of the [Action Plan for the implementation of the National Disability Strategy](#) (September, Bridging the Gap)

In **Europe**, a session on [why Disability matters to International Cooperation](#) (October, European Commission)

In **Namibia**, "[Disability does not mean inability" – changing mindsets](#) (September, UNV partnering with UNDP)

In **Nigeria**, Coalition [Push for Adoption of African Disability Protocols](#) (October, This Day)

In **Paraguay**, a guide for inclusion of the [disability perspective in plans and projects in development cooperation](#). (October, AECID)

In **Sri Lanka**, [Women's Experiences of Disability and Community-based Rehabilitation in Sri Lanka](#) - a doctoral dissertation (August, University of Connecticut)

In the **Western Balkans**, Disability inclusion in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries (September, Disability Inclusion Helpdesk)

Lived Experience and Opinion

In **Australia**, [Self-portrait exhibition offers new lens for womanhood and the female form](#) (October, UNSW Sydney).

In **Bangladesh**, [Finding my place and learning to assert my rights](#) - growing up disabled in Bangladesh (June, Amplify)

In **Egypt**, [Experiencing the Sounds and Silences of Cairo](#) (October, Platform) Growing up deaf in Cairo, and more: "As the demonstrators look for shelter away from bullets and pellets, I frantically search for lips to read in the deranged crowd."

In **Egypt** and the **UK**, videos [from Mostafa Attia](#) on various aspects of disability and being blind. I particularly enjoyed [how does a blind person dream?](#) (Arabic with English subtitles, July)

In **Germany** and the **UK**, a podcast [why are you calling me 'inspirational'?](#) (November, The Conversation, I don't see a transcript)

In **Rwanda**, a documentary on The [life condition of People with albinism](#). (July, OIPPA)

In the **United Kingdom**,

- a book review of [Made Possible: Stories of Success by People With Learning Disabilities, in Their Own Words](#) (September, Disability Arts Online). Book is edited by Saba Salman.
- [What if Everyone Was Disabled?](#) (August, BBC Radio 4)
- [Walks Like a Duck](#) a radio series on living with a disability (BBC Radio 4)
- [F*ckable podcast episode](#) on "sex, disability, consent, pleasure, autonomy" (Disconsortia, transcript available)
- Stephen Lee Hodgkins [shares his disability journey – and the value of the social model in gaining self-respect](#) (October, Disability Arts Online). I enjoyed, and hadn't heard before, the "clown model of disability".

In the **United States**:

- [We Need To Stop Patrolling The Borders Of Disability](#) (June, Forbes)
- Alice Wong On [Ruckuses, Rage And Medicaid](#) (October, Death Sex Money). One of the key voices on disability in the US on one of my favorite podcasts. Recommended.
- [I've Been Paralyzed Since I Was 3](#). Here's Why Kindness Toward Disabled People Is More Complicated Than You Think. (August, Time) "Like the center of a black hole, my body attracts every good deed from across the universe to the foot of my wheelchair."

Mental Health

WHO launched a guide on [Mental health of people with neglected tropical diseases - towards a person-centred approach](#) (October). Comment from CBM, [who supported the guide](#). Also discussion of emergence [of mental health as a theme in the NTD field – from aspiration to impact](#) (October, RSTMH)

For **World Mental Health Day** (October 10):

- A [toolkit from CBM](#) for World Mental Health Month.
- [COVID-19 disrupting mental health services in most countries, WHO survey](#) (October, WHO)

In **Indonesia**, [Mental Illness and Psychosocial Disabilities in Indonesia](#) (AIDRAN)

Migrants and Refugees

In **Europe**, We call on the European Union to [protect the rights of migrants and asylum seekers with disabilities](#). (October, EDF)

In **Greece**, Collective European Action Needed for Migrants Stranded on Lesbos: [Bring Moria Homeless to Safety](#) (September, Human Rights Watch). "Aid workers estimated that the new site had about 37 toilets, none of them adaptable and accessible for those with disabilities, and no other sanitation facilities."

In **Germany,** Migrant crisis 2015: [What happened to Nujeen Mustafa?](#) (September, BBC News short video). "Since I've been enrolled in school I've found out that I'm absolutely terrible at maths".

In the **Netherlands**, Which Barriers do [Asylum Seekers with Disabilities Face in The Netherlands?](#) (October, DCDD)

In **Ukraine**, [Activist champions rights of people with disabilities](#), and a regional winner for Europe for the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award. (September, UNHCR)

Paralympics

Rising Phoenix is a [Netflix documentary](#) featuring paralympic athletes and the paralympic games.

- Why [Paralympics documentary Rising Phoenix is a must-watch](#). (September, Sightsavers) [Rising Phoenix will change the way you view disability](#) (August, Digital Spy)
- I particularly the [Rising Phoenix song.](#) "My disability is silent // but my bottled up rage // got me running from my dreams 100 miles with one leg"
- [Why I Made Rising Phoenix | The Story Behind The Paralympics Documentary](#) (video, August, Netflix)
- Discussion: [Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex and Rising Phoenix Stars Talk The Power of Sport](#) (September, Netflix)

The **International Paralympic Committee** and the **International Disability Alliance** [to sign Co-operation Agreement](#) (September)

In **Japan**, Leveraging [Disability Sports in Local Communities in Japan](#) (August, Leiden Asia Center)

In the **United Kingdom,**

- Report reveals Channel 4 [revolutionising disability broadcast landscape](#) (September, International Paralympic Committee)
- On the Paralympic legacy: Popular culture can [set stigma alight in seconds but to sustain change the fire must be ready to burn](#) (August, Global Disability Innovation Hub)

In the **United States,** the U.S. [Olympic and Paralympic Museum, All Athletes Are Equal](#) (October, New York Times)

Policy and Rights

Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Had its 23rd session virtually in August-September. See [documentation online](#).
- Is holding [elections for nine members](#) for those whose terms will expire at the end of the year (OHCHR). [Blogs from the European Candidates](#) (EDF) Among the candidates, see, for example, [Sif Holst on gender and disability](#) (November, Sightsavers)

The **OHCHR** has developed [developed human rights indicators on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (CRPD) "as a key tool to facilitate understanding and implementation of the Convention's provisions." See also [presentation of the indicators](#) to Bridging the Gap II partners.

New book on [Recognising Human Rights in Different Cultural Contexts](#) - The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Edited by Emily Julia Kakoullis and Kelley Johnson (Palgrave).

[The social and human rights models of disability](#) (July, The International Journal of Human Rights). "This article aims to reorient thinking about the relationship between the long-standing social model of disability and the rapidly emerging human rights model. […] The result, we argue, is that the two models have different subjects and different functions. In the human rights context, their roles are complementary and supportive."

In **Bangladesh**,

- [Implementation of people with disabilities act demanded](#) (October, New Age)
- recommendations for [disability inclusion in the country's next five year plan.](#) (July, Daily Sun)

In **Chile**, [Disability and gender identity lead the denunciations under the Zamudio Law](#) (in Spanish, July, Latercera)

In **Europe**

- What Does the [Council of Europe Have Against People with Disabilities](#)? (November, Human Rights Watch). See also the campaign to [withdraw the additional protocol to the](#) **Oviedo Convention**, which has a useful summary of what the issue is about (September, EDF).
- European [Disability Rights Agenda post 2020](#). (EDF)
- Position paper on including disability in the [EU Non-Financial Reporting Directive](#), as well as in the future European Reporting Standard. (Disability Hub Europe)

In **India**,

- Formula for [disempowerment of persons with disabilities](#) (November, Telegraph India)
- [The Proposed Amendment To The Disabilities Act Shows The Apathy Of The State](#) (July, Feminism India)

In **Nigeria**, [Africa: Nigeria, Others Urged to Ratify Africa Disability Protocol](#) (July, All Africa)

In **Pakistan**,

- Pakistani parliament [passes landmark law to protect rights of people with disabilities](#) (September, Arab News Pakistan)
- [SC wants rights of disabled people safeguarded](#) (July, Dawn)

In **Uruguay**, [a guide on rights and supports for persons with disabilities](#) (in Spanish, August, Inclusion y Discapacidad)

Sign Languages

The 23rd September is the **International Day of Sign Languages**.

- See the UN page for the [International Day of Sign Languages](#).
- See a [toolkit from the World Federation of the Deaf](#) marking that and International Week of the Deaf, including a Global Leaders Challenge to promote use of sign-languages.

Disability Rights Fund shares videos from advocates around the world on sign-language:

- From **Haiti,** [L'Association des sourds de Lévèque](#) (ASLH)
- From **Indonesia**, [Gerkatin, the Indonesian organization of the Deaf](#)
- From **Malawi**, [Malawi National Association of the Deaf](#) (MANAD).
- From **Nigeria**, [TheseAbilities Women and Youth Empowerment](#) (TAWYE) and [Voice of Disability Initiative](#) (VDI)
- [Deaf Women Aloud Initiative](#)
- [Lionheart Ability Leaders International Foundation](#)

In **India**,

- UNESCO launches [Online Course on Indian Sign Language](#) (September).
- [Indian Sign Language (ISL) to be standardised across the country under National Education Policy 2020](#) (Newz Hook) See also [from Mint](#) (August)

In the **Netherlands**, Sign Language of the Netherlands was [legally recognised as an official language](#). (October, Maartje De Meulder)

Social Protection and poverty

[Are current approaches to poverty measurement disability-inclusive](#)? Considerations for measuring poverty amongst people with disabilities. (link to pdf, August, PENDA)

[Understanding Disability Extra Costs](#) - an explainer video. (September, CIP)

In **Australia**,

- Disability care watchdog [has issued just one fine despite 8000 complaints](#) (September, The Age)
- Hard-to-reach: [the NDIS, disability, and socio-economic disadvantage](#) (June, Disability and Society)

In **Europe**, A [human rights approach to disability assessment](#) (October, Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy) Identifies a set of "12 guiding principles for a CRPD-compatible disability assessment system".

In **India**,

- Bihar government's [move to offer cash incentives to marry disabled persons sparks off debate](#) (Newz Hook)
- [Bureaucratic delays hamper distribution of financial aid for disabled people in Tamil Nadu](#)(Newz Hook)

In **New Zealand**, [Government urged to provide flat, fair disability allowance for all](#) (September, RNZ)

In the **United Kingdom**, [The impact of austerity on disabled, elderly and immigrants in the United Kingdom](#) a literature review (July, Disability And Society)

In the **United States**,

- 110,000 Americans [Died Waiting for Social Security Disability Benefits in Last Decade](#) (August, Nextgov)
- Working paper on the extra costs [associated with living with a disability in the United States.](#) (link to pdf, October) Extra costs of disability are estimated as 28% of income for those with work disabilities. [More on this from the National Disability Institute](#).
- In Arizona, [People with Developmental Disabilities Were Promised Help. Instead, They Face Delays and Denials.](#) (November, ProPublica) Impressively, this report also has a [plain-language version](#) as well as versions in Spanish and audio.

In **West Africa**, [Regional Workshop in West Africa on Disability Inclusive Social Protection Response to COVID-19 Crisis](#) a new path towards inclusion (November, IDA)

Transport

In **Egypt**, a [project for tactile blocks at metro stations](#). (video on facebook, in Arabic, July, Helm)

In **Europe**, European Union [Rail Passenger Rights Negotiations: What's in the Agreement?](#) and this [political deal isn't the breakthrough we had hoped](#) for (October, EDF)

In **Pakistan**, [Why Pakistan needs a disability-inclusive transport for meaningful development?](#) (June, LSE Blog)

In **Spain**, the [suburban train stations of Madrid far from universal design](#) (in Spanish, September, Discapnet)

In the **United States**,

- [Lyft settles with Justice Department over disability lawsuit](#)(June, Yahoo!News)
- [Making Travel More Equitable for People With Disabilities](#) (July, TRB)

Violence

See also the Black Lives Matters section which includes police violence.

Statement on [Ending sexual harassment against women and girls with disabilities](#) from **UN Women** together with Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (October). "We recognize that disability and gender intersect to shape sexual harassment, which might not fit common understandings of this form of gender-based violence."

In **Europe**, [Istanbul Convention](#) a tool to combat gender-based violence (November, EDF)

In **India**, [Data On Violence On Girls & Women With Disabilities](#): Need Of The Hour (October, Feminism India)

In **Mexico**, [Families Abuse, Neglect People with Disabilities](#) (June, Human Rights Watch).

In the **United Kingdom**, [Still Getting Away with Murder](#): Disability Hate Crime in England. (link to pdf, September, Inclusion London) "One in five Disabled people report they have either experienced hostile or threatening behaviour or even been attacked".

In the **United States**, We can't [ignore disabled women when talking about domestic violence](#) (October, Prism)

Going Forward

Opportunities

UNDP UNV Talent Programme [Opportunities for Young Professionals with Disabilities](#). Vacancies in (for nationals) Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Palestine, Pakistan, El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Peru or Ecuador.

[Disability Inclusion Technical Adviser – Global Health](#) UK Based (deadline 13 December, Sightsavers)

[Consultancies and fellowships with the International Disability Alliance](#). Currently two consultancies and two youth fellowships advertised.

[International Women's Institute on Leadership And Disability (WILD)](#) - Openings for 25 women with disabilities around the world (deadline 11 Dec, MIUSA)

Academic

[International Journal of Disability and Social Justice (IJDSJ)](#) open for submissions (first edition Summer 2021)

[Special Issue "Measuring Disability and Disability Inclusive Development"](#) A special issue of International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (deadline for submissions 30 April 2021)

Upcoming

Global Disability: Research and Evidence: a 3 week course from London School of Hygiene and Tropic Medicine. (Starting 30 November).

The **Conference of States Parties (COSP)** is happening right now, the week of 30th November. **See these links for many events taking place this week:**

- See the COSP webpage for full details. And a draft list of side events.
- See the IDA page on registering for COSP.
- Your Guide to the Conference of State Parties 2020 (Inclusion International)

1st December

- Behind the Mission: Inclusion and Disabilities at the World Bank Group. 11am ET, (World Bank Group)

2nd December

- Virtual Civil Society Forum at the COSP (IDA)

International Disability Day, 3rd December:

- #PurpleLightUp "a global movement that celebrates and draws attention to the economic contribution of the 386 million disabled employees around the world" (All Day Event)
- Building a More Disability-Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable Post-COVID-19 World 12pm ET (World Bank)
- Assistive Technology as an innovation leader - a vision for the future a virtual lunch hour lecture, 1pm GMT (Global Disability Innovation Hub)
- Global Careers for Persons with Disabilities an online event (Global Careers)
- Webinar on Building an Accessible Internet for Everyone 7pm UTC. (Internet Society Accessibility SIG)

Other international disability day resources

- Celebrating Australians living with disability for International Day of People with Disability 2020 (November, ABC News)

4th December:

- Inclusion Counts: data-driven advocacy for implementation of the CRPD 08.30am ET (i2i)
- The Missing Billion: Access to health in the time of COVID-19 4 Dec, 10am ET (Missing Billion)

February 2021

- Zero Project Conference 2021 on Inclusive Employment and ICT. Virtual Event. 10th-12th February.