

<b>FORUM:</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>ISSUE:</b>	Measures to Mitigate the Aggravated Discrimination of Disabled Groups in the Midst of Crisis Situations
<b>STUDENT OFFICER:</b>	JinMan Kim
<b>POSITION:</b>	Deputy President of Human Rights Council

---

## Introduction

An unexpected outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) became a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, and rapidly spread across the globe causing a drastic change in the course of our lives. With over 650 million people around our globe, people living with disabilities are often living on the



*Citizens fighting for the removal of discrimination against people with disabilities in South Korea, Sejong.*

edge of our society. The World Health Organization (WHO) and many other United Nations (UN) agencies disclosed that people with disabilities are being unfairly affected by Covid-19. Correspondingly, people with disabilities are more likely to experience unfavorable socioeconomic outcomes like having a low employment rate, less education, and discriminative stigma and prejudice. Moreover, a survey of 200 families with children and young people with disabilities conducted by Children and Young People with Disability Australia and the Australian Coalition for Inclusive Education reveals that people with disabilities are not receiving proper social services. To list a few results of the survey, 34% had their support services canceled, and 15% was unable to buy the medication they needed for their children.

## Background

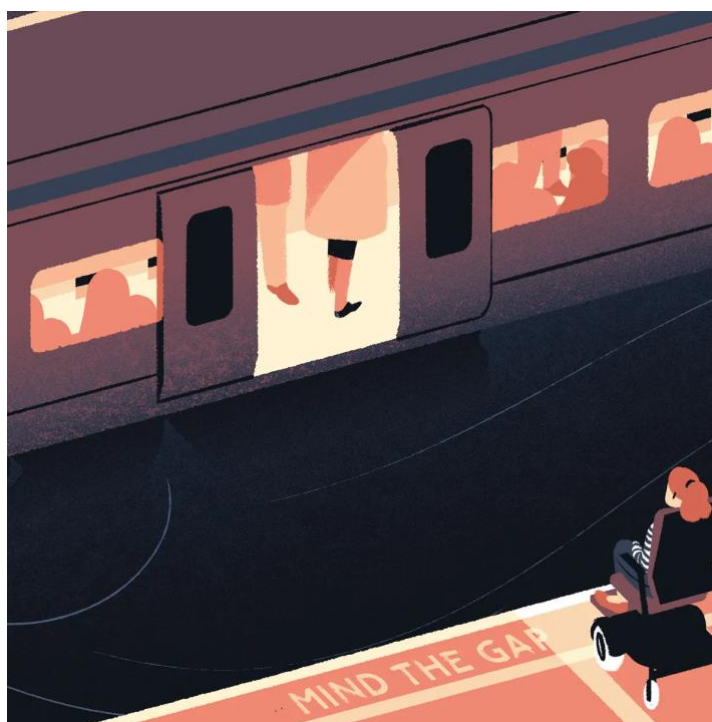
### *Disability*

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a disability refers to any physical or mental condition that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to perform a certain action and participate in the society. During the 1800s, people with disabilities were considered abnormal and were forced to enter asylums, which they spent their entire lives isolated from society. More recently, because vaccines are still short in supply, high priority groups such as people with disabilities are not prioritized for early vaccination. Furthermore, one of the many worries people with disabilities are facing is the possibility of being refused to Covid-19 treatment due to pre-existing conditions. The outbreak of the global pandemic exposed our deeply discriminative society.

## Problems Raised

### *Exclusion Criteria*

Triage protocols, a process involving specific inclusion and exclusion criteria, selectively choose who to include and exclude during the provision of resources during urgent times of need. For instance, a GP surgery, treating all common medical conditions, asked patients with life-limiting illnesses to complete a ‘Do Not Resuscitate’ form, which allows emergency services to not be proceeded. In the letter, doctors included benefits about completing a DNACPR (do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation) by saying, “scare ambulance resources can be targeted to the young and fit who have a greater chance of living.” When deciding who to exclude during provision of health care services, many US states, including Tennessee exclude individuals with developmental disabilities and chronic illnesses. Also, the province of Ontario in Canada disqualified certain disabilities and individuals who demand assistance.



*Social barrier segregating people with disabilities*

### *Dehumanization and Stigma*

A recorded conversation between Mr. Hickson’s wife and a physician shocked the disability community. Spouse: “What do you mean? Because he’s paralyzed with a brain injury, he doesn’t have a quality of life?” Physician: “Correct.” In this conversation, the physician dehumanizes a patient just because he was paralyzed with a brain injury. In addition, because of dehumanization and stigma, people with disabilities face an impediment to equal health care. The reason behind this is partly because of our society, in which the media depicts people with disabilities into two prevailing narratives—misfortune and overcoming. In a misfortune narrative, people with disabilities are portrayed as miserable because of their disability. On the other hand, in an overcoming narrative, people with disabilities are portrayed as triumphant people who are successful despite their disabilities. Unfortunately, these portrayals may lead to two different perceptions of people with disabilities: Victim/Helplessness and Inspirational/Heroic. First, since the media often treat people with disabilities as people who need medical treatments in order to become ‘happy’, it is often assumed that people with disabilities are ‘unhappy’ because of their disabilities. Second, exaggerated language depicting people with disabilities as inspirational/heroic is a problem because it leads to people viewing people with disabilities as heroic for even doing ordinary things like playing a musical instrument.



*Society viewing people with disabilities as abnormal*



TIANMUN

## International Actions

### *The United Nations (UN).*



*Access to healthcare services by people with disability under age 65*

professional resources are scarce, to support childhood disability. Collected data are then used in surveys and censuses to support social participation of people with disabilities.

The main tenet of the World Programme of Action (WPA) and the guiding principle is the theme “Equalization of opportunities.” Their main aim toward the issue of discrimination against people with disabilities is to encourage the participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of social and economic life. The purpose of this theme is to not treat people with disabilities into segregation, but to treat people to actively participate in social activities. As one of the leading agencies of the UN, The United Nations Children Funding (UNICEF) contrived Ten Questions Screen (TQ), which is an apparatus for identifying children who have disabilities in areas where

### *EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with disabilities*

Based upon the work done by the Disability Strategy 2010-2020, EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 aims to improve the life of persons with disabilities. The Strategy asks for member states to cooperate between the EU and the national UNCRPD frameworks to protect discrimination from all aspects of life. In addition, 60,000 people with disabilities were excluded from suffrage because of their disabilities. Therefore, the Commission is working with the Member States in the European Cooperation Network on Elections to support universal suffrage.

## Key Players

### *International Disability Alliance (IDA)*

IDA is an alliance of networks based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to advance the inclusion of people with disabilities across the globe to promote human rights. IDA works with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and state governments to create legislation



and advocate the human rights of people with disabilities. The main objective of IDA is to promote the implementation of the UN CRPD, which is an international human rights treaty adopted in 2006, worldwide. IDA cooperates with other organizations to strengthen the global voice of people with disabilities.

### *The United States of America*

ADA was initiated due to the societal barriers that excluded people with disabilities from their communities. Parents of children with disabilities fought against the discrimination and segregation of their children, and it began the establishment of local groups to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. The disability rights movement raised awareness about the discrimination people with disabilities face to the

American public, who were not aware of this marginalized group—people with disabilities. Before the establishment of the ADA, people assumed that the problems faced by people with disabilities were an inevitable consequence of their physical or mental impairments.



*People with disabilities around the world wanting to learn more about disability laws in the U.S.A*



TIANMUN

## Possible Solutions

### *Education*

WHO reports that about 15% of the world's population lives with some form of disability. Despite this fact, the number of experienced health care professionals dealing with patients with disabilities is not high. However, health care professionals are obliged to provide an equitable service to improve the health conditions of patients with disabilities, so that they receive accessible and high-quality care. Since the healthcare industry is rapidly evolving, healthcare professionals should frequently keep up with new technologies so that they can provide more effective care. In reality, there have been multiple cases where inexperienced and unskilled workers discriminated against people with disabilities. Therefore, healthcare professionals should be well educated so that they can comprehend with people with disabilities.



*WHO disability statistics for equal treatment*

### *Raising Awareness*

As the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) requires States to raise awareness and fight against stereotypes of people with disabilities, the CRPD suggests all media to depict people with disabilities with a respect for human rights. In South Korea, while working in the military, one soldier was diagnosed with a rare disease called complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS). CRPS is a neuroinflammatory condition where a person consistently experiences severe pain. Despite this fact, because this disease was invisible and scientists weren't able to find out what the cause was, the soldier was unable to be recognized as having a disability. Therefore, the soldier was unable to get disability payments, which he needed to support his high medical fee. As a result, the European Commission encourages nations to raise awareness on the presence of rare diseases through education, so that people would recognize the marginalized group in our society. Raising awareness can promote healthcare services and encourage participation of people with disabilities in our society.

## **Glossary**

### *Impairment*

Unusual physical or mental conditions that hinders a function or ability

### *Ableism*

Discrimination and social prejudice among people with disabilities in which individuals consider themselves superior because of their abilities

### *Rehabilitation*

Process of retruning back to a healthy condition

## Sources

- “Are Intensive Care Triage Protocols Harming the Disabled?” *The BMJ*, 21 May 2020, [blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2020/05/21/are-intensive-care-triage-protocols-harming-the-disabled/](https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2020/05/21/are-intensive-care-triage-protocols-harming-the-disabled/).
- “Article 2 – Definitions Enable.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-2-definitions.html](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-2-definitions.html).
- “Australians with Disabilities Missing out on Essential Services as Covid-19 Crisis Escalates.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 17 Mar. 2020, [www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/17/australians-with-disabilities-missing-out-on-essential-services-as-covid-19-crisis-escalates](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/17/australians-with-disabilities-missing-out-on-essential-services-as-covid-19-crisis-escalates).
- Author: Gregory W Ruhnke, MD, et al. “Ableism and Quality of Life During the Coronavirus Pandemic.” *Journal of Hospital Medicine*, 27 Apr. 2021, [www.journalofhospitalmedicine.com/jhospmed/article/238682/hospital-medicine/ableism-and-quality-life-during-coronavirus-pandemic](https://www.journalofhospitalmedicine.com/jhospmed/article/238682/hospital-medicine/ableism-and-quality-life-during-coronavirus-pandemic).
- “Child Disability Overview.” UNICEF DATA, 3 Dec. 2020, [data.unicef.org/topic/child-disability/overview/](https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-disability/overview/).
- “Combating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.” *OHCHR*, [www.ohchr.org/en/issues/discrimination/pages/discrimination\\_disabilities.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/discrimination/pages/discrimination_disabilities.aspx).
- “Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Enable.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html).
- “Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Impact on Disabled People.” *GOV.WALES*, [gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-and-impact-disabled-people-html](https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-and-impact-disabled-people-html).
- “Coronavirus: GP Surgery Apology over 'Do Not Resuscitate' Form.” *BBC News*, BBC, 1 Apr. 2020, [www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-52117814](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-52117814).
- “Day Against Racial Discrimination: Impact of COVID-19 on Racialised People with Disabilities.” *European Disability Forum*, 19 Mar. 2021, [www.edf-feph.org/day-against-racial-discrimination-impact-of-covid-19-on-racialised-people-with-disabilities/](https://www.edf-feph.org/day-against-racial-discrimination-impact-of-covid-19-on-racialised-people-with-disabilities/).
- “Disability and the Media Enable.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/disability-and-the-media.html](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/disability-and-the-media.html).
- “Disability Discrimination.” *Disability Discrimination / Equality and Human Rights Commission*, [www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/disability-discrimination](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/disability-discrimination).
- “Disability Inclusion in COVID-19 Preparedness and Response.” *CBM Australia*, 29 Apr. 2020, [www.cbm.org.au/disability-inclusion-covid-19-preparedness-response/](https://www.cbm.org.au/disability-inclusion-covid-19-preparedness-response/).





“Disability Inclusion Overview.” *World Bank*, [www.worldbank.org/en/topic/disability](http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/disability).

“Disabled People Left behind in Government's COVID-19 Support Measures.” *Koreatimes*, 22 Apr. 2021, [www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/04/119\\_307586.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/04/119_307586.html).

Elizondo-Urrestarazu, Jone. “#UnionOfEquality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 A view from Equality Bodies.”

<https://equineteurope.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/03/Disability-Strategy-Summary-1.pdf>

“End-Discrimination Campaign - COVID19.” *International Disability Alliance*, [www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/discrimination-covid19](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/discrimination-covid19).

“Guidelines for Writing About People With Disabilities.” *ADA National Network*, 26 July 2021, [adata.org/factsheet/ADANN-writing](http://adata.org/factsheet/ADANN-writing).

HealthManagement.org. “The Importance of Continuous Education in Healthcare.” *HealthManagement*, 20 July 2021, [healthmanagement.org/c/healthmanagement/issuearticle/the-importance-of-continuous-education-in-healthcare](http://healthmanagement.org/c/healthmanagement/issuearticle/the-importance-of-continuous-education-in-healthcare).

“International Disability Alliance (IDA).” CBM, [www.cbm.org/about-cbm/partnerships-and-alliances/international-disability-alliance-ida/](http://www.cbm.org/about-cbm/partnerships-and-alliances/international-disability-alliance-ida/).

“Log In.” *Improving Accessibility and Quality of Care for Patients with Disabilities*, [www.chausa.org/publications/health-progress/article/march-april-2019/improving-accessibility-and-quality-of-care-for-patients-with-disabilities](http://www.chausa.org/publications/health-progress/article/march-april-2019/improving-accessibility-and-quality-of-care-for-patients-with-disabilities).

Martineau-Searle, Laura. “Why people with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.” <https://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1910/covid-19-and-disability-impact-blog.pdf>

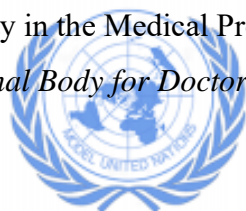
“Media and People With Disabilities: Are We Represented Accurately?” *The Chicago Lighthouse*, 22 Jan. 2016, [chicagolighthouse.org/sandys-view/media-and-people-with-disabilities/](http://chicagolighthouse.org/sandys-view/media-and-people-with-disabilities/).

Pearce, Emma. “Disability Considerations in GBV Programming during the COVID-19 Pandemic” GBV AoR Helpdesk, [https://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1889/gbv-aor-research-query\\_covid-19-disability-gbv\\_final-version.pdf](https://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1889/gbv-aor-research-query_covid-19-disability-gbv_final-version.pdf).

Pulrang, Andrew. “What Disabled People Are Thinking and Feeling about The Pandemic, One Year Later.” *Forbes*, *Forbes Magazine*, 21 Mar. 2021, [www.forbes.com/sites/andrewpulrang/2021/03/21/what-disabled-people-are-thinking-and-feeling-about-the-pandemic-one-year-later/?sh=7de00dad3277](http://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewpulrang/2021/03/21/what-disabled-people-are-thinking-and-feeling-about-the-pandemic-one-year-later/?sh=7de00dad3277).

Shapiro, Joseph. “How A Law To Protect Disabled Americans Became Imitated Around The World.” *NPR*, *NPR*, 24 July 2015, [www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/07/24/425607389/how-a-law-to-protect-disabled-americans-became-imitated-around-the-world](http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/07/24/425607389/how-a-law-to-protect-disabled-americans-became-imitated-around-the-world).

TheBMA. “Disability in the Medical Profession.” *The British Medical Association Is the Trade Union and Professional Body for Doctors in the UK.*, British Medical Association, 1 Dec. 2020,



[www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/nhs-delivery-and-workforce/workforce/disability-in-the-medical-profession](http://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/nhs-delivery-and-workforce/workforce/disability-in-the-medical-profession).

“World Report on Disability.” *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, [www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/world-report-on-disability](http://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/world-report-on-disability).

