**Concept Note**

**The most active advocates, the last to be included:**

**Women with disabilities affected by armed conflict**

**Suggested date and time: Thursday June 17, 8:30am-9:45am**

**Main applicant:** Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN

**Sponsoring organizations:** International Disability Alliance, CBM-Ireland, Human Rights Watch, Women Enabled International

*“Being a woman and having a disability makes it doubly more difficult. For example, a man can ask for help from a male friend to flee. But in a society like Syria, a woman cannot. If you don’t have an immediate male relative, you cannot just call on your friend to carry you.”*

* Nujeen Mustafa, Disability Rights Activist, at UN Security Council briefing on the humanitarian situation in Syria, April 24, 2019.

**Summary:** Women and girls with disabilities account for nearly one-fifth of all women and girls worldwide and face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on their gender, their disability, and their age [this is relevant for girls as well as older women]. Sustainable peace, recovery and inclusive humanitarian action requires the full, equal and meaningful participation of diverse women, including women, older women, and girls with disabilities.

[Nujeen Mustafa](https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/24/un-landmark-security-council-disability-rights-briefing), a Syrian activist who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair,  who [described](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_H9WJC_xAY0)  her life in war-torn Syria in 2019 during a UNSC briefing, was the first woman with a disability to brief the Security Council.

This side event will bring together up to three women with disabilities who have experienced or are currently experiencing armed conflicts, representatives of the UN, humanitarian organizations, and government officials.

**Objectives:**

* To hear from women with disabilities on their unique experiences in armed conflicts, and their participation in peace and security processes;
* To discuss challenges in ensuring protection of women with disabilities in armed conflicts, in particular against gender-based violence, and the right to participation in peace processes.
* To provide an open and interactive platform for the UN agencies to exchange and define some concrete measures they are developing or implementing, within their respective mandate or in collaboration with others, to ensure protection and participation of women with disabilities in humanitarian assistance, peace-building and peace-keeping processes.

**Outline of the session:**

**Main facilitator of the event:** CBM-Global/CBM-Ireland

**Part 1:**

* Remarks by the Ambassador of Ireland (5 mins)
* Pre-recorded videos from women with disabilities in two conflict countries, *on their lived experiences (3 mins each).* We aim to have one of the women be an older woman with a disability to capture both the experience of being a woman, having a disability, and belonging to older people.

**Part 2: Interactive panel**

Moderated by IDA

Format: The panel will start with one round of pre-identified questions. The moderator then will ask follow-up questions based on the discussion and any questions shared in the chat-box.

(50 minutes max).

* Nujeen Mustafa, Disability Rights Activist, *on her experience of participating in security and peace processes. TBD*
* Gerard Quinn, The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, *on the intersectionality between IHL, women’s rights and disability rights*
* Representative from the Department of Political and Peace-building Affairs and Peace Operations (DPPA-DPO), *on concrete challenges to ensure protection of women with disabilities and on building capacity and knowledge on the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities.*
* Representative from OCHA, *on ensuring protection and humanitarian aid reaches and is inclusive of women with disabilities*
* Representative from the Secretary General’s office, *on monitoring and reporting on the experiences, rights and needs of women with disabilities in armed conflicts.*
* Representative from Sened.org, a local humanitarian organization in Syria, *on the particular experiences women with disabilities in Syria*
* Human Rights Watch, *on the specifics of conducting research and including women with disabilities in human rights reporting.*
* Women Enabled International, tbd.

**Part 3: Conclusions**

* Either Gerard Quinn or Mexico Mission to the UN in case they would like to join and co-sponsor this event.