1. **Introduction & Purpose**

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) seeks to procure the services of a researcher to undertake a comprehensive study on "Truth-Telling Institutions & the Investigation of suspicious deaths of persons with disabilities: International Standards and Best Practices." This research will provide critical insights into the global alignment of medico-legal investigative services with evolving international standards, particularly in relation to the investigation of suspicious deaths and truth-telling mechanisms, with a focus on disability rights as outlined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the CRPD Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization.

2. **Objectives of the Research**

1. **Global overview:** Provide an overview of truth-telling institutions and medico-legal investigative services worldwide, focusing on their evolution and key legislative milestones.

2. **International standards review:** Examine the evolution of international standards on truth-telling institutions, with an emphasis on relevant UN and regional frameworks, including the CRPD.

3. **Comparative analysis:** Analyze how various countries have implemented these international standards, identifying best practices and challenges, particularly in the context of investigating suspicious deaths and ensuring compliance with the CRPD.

4. **Emergency situations:** Assess the application of these standards during emergency situations

5. **Policy recommendations:** Provide recommendations on how countries can align their medico-legal investigative services with international standards, with specific consideration for the rights of persons with disabilities, as articulated in the CRPD and its Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization.

3. **Scope of Work**

The researcher will be responsible for:
• Conducting an in-depth review of the history and current status of truth-telling institutions and medico-legal investigative services globally, with particular attention the gender-dimension of the failure to appropriately conduct such investigations, and CRPD standards.

• Mapping and analyzing the evolution of international standards related to truth-telling institutions, particularly focusing on the UN system, regional bodies (e.g., Council of Europe, African Union, Organization of American States), medico-legal associations, and the CRPD.

• Evaluating how these standards have been implemented in various national contexts, identifying best practices, challenges, and areas for improvement, especially in the context of investigating suspicious deaths and ensuring the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

• Investigating the adjustment of these standards during emergencies and the implications for different jurisdictions, with attention to the impact on persons with disabilities.

• Developing a comprehensive report that includes a summary of key international benchmarks, policy recommendations, and action points to guide the reform and enhancement of medico-legal investigative services globally, with a focus on compliance with the CRPD and its Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization.

4. Methodology

• **Literature Review**: Conduct a thorough review of relevant legal texts, international treaties, and guidelines, including the ICCPR, the European Convention on Human Rights, the CRPD, the Minnesota Protocol, and relevant thematic reports.

• **Comparative Analysis**: Compare the standards and practices across different jurisdictions worldwide, with an emphasis on compliance with the CRPD.

• **Case Study Analysis**: Analyze specific cases from various countries that highlight the strengths and weaknesses of current truth-telling institutions and medico-legal investigative services, particularly in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities, including historical instances and recent developments.

5. Deliverables

1. **Inception Report**: A detailed research plan, including methodology, timeline, and initial findings.

2. **Draft Report**: A comprehensive draft report for review by IDA, including all key sections outlined in the scope of work.

3. **Final Report**: A final, polished report incorporating feedback from IDA and stakeholders, with actionable recommendations.
4. **Presentation**: A final presentation of findings and recommendations to IDA and relevant stakeholders.

6. **Timeline**

The research is expected to take place over a period of three months from the date of contract signing.

7. **Budget**

A detailed budget proposal should be submitted, outlining the costs associated with the research, including personnel, travel (if applicable), and any other relevant expenses.

8. **Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- **Expertise and experience**: Demonstrated experience in legal research, particularly in international human rights law, medico-legal investigations, and disability rights as outlined in the CRPD.
- **Methodology**: Clarity and feasibility of the proposed methodology.
- **Budget**: Cost-effectiveness and alignment with project goals.
- **Relevance**: Value-add to international standards and discourse, and demonstrated understanding of global contexts and the specific challenges related to truth-telling institutions, medico-legal investigations, and disability rights under the CRPD.

9. **Submission Guidelines and Contracting**

Interested researchers should submit:

- A proposal detailing their approach, methodology, timeline, and budget.
- A CV or cover letter summarizing relevant experience.
- A consultancy contract (as per Swiss law) will be signed between the selected consultant and IDA.
- Applicants are invited to submit a copy of their passport and commercial/consultant registration/tax numbers. Only applicants with valid commercial and/or consultant registration and/or tax numbers will be considered.

10. **Deadline**

All submissions should be sent to IDA Consultancy Applications at consultancy@ida-secretariat.org by 01 September 2024.