



A report from the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities



**Easy
Read**

Easy Read



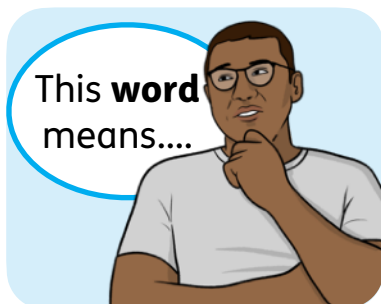
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.

What is in this booklet

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About this booklet



The **United Nations** (UN) is an organisation made up of many countries from all over the world. It works to make the world a safer and better place.



A **Special Rapporteur** writes reports for the United Nations.



This booklet is an Easy Read copy of a report from Heba Hagrass. She is the new **Special Rapporteur** on the rights of persons with disabilities.



Every year Heba Hagrass will write reports about the rights of persons with disabilities.

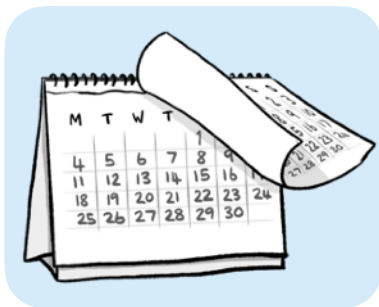


Heba Hagrass will also help countries understand how to make sure the rights of persons with disabilities are respected.

This report is about:



- What the last Special Rapporteurs on the rights of persons with disabilities have done.



- What Heba Hagrass would like to do in the future as the new Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.



In this booklet, whenever we say Special Rapporteurs, we only mean Special Rapporteurs on the rights of persons with disabilities.

The last 10 years

2



The Special Rapporteurs began their work 10 years ago. There have been 2 Special Rapporteurs since:

- Catalina Devandas.
- Gerard Quinn.

Mandate



The Human Rights Council wrote a **mandate** for the Special Rapporteurs.

A **mandate** is like a set of instructions on how to do a job or task.

Rights



The mandate explains what the Special Rapporteurs should do to:

- Support and protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

Rules



- Help governments understand rules and laws about treating persons with disabilities fairly.

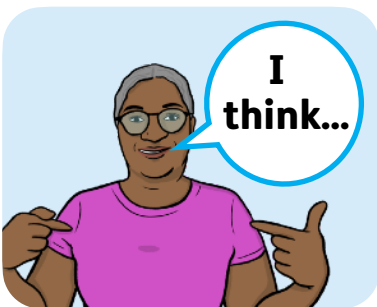
Special Rapporteurs also work to make sure:



- Governments know how to make sure persons with disabilities are being treated fairly.



- Governments think about the rights of persons with disabilities when they make important decisions.



- Persons with disabilities can have their voices heard.

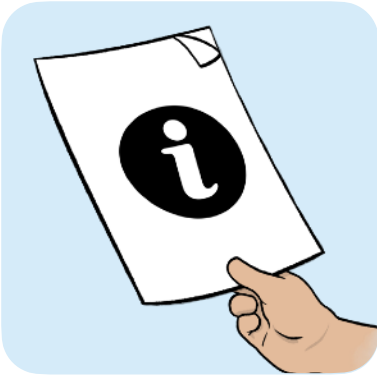


- Different services and organisations understand how persons with disabilities can be treated unfairly.



- All parts of the United Nations are thinking about and including persons with disabilities in their work.

To help make sure these things happen, the mandate explains that the Special Rapporteurs have 3 main tasks:



1. Collect information about how persons with disabilities do not get their rights and send letters to governments about this - so far there have been more than 200 letters.



2. Write and share reports that are about the work they are doing and important topics about the rights of persons with disabilities - so far there have been 18 reports.



3. Visit countries to check whether the governments there are respecting the rights of persons with disabilities - so far there have been 12 visits.

Over the last 10 years, special rapporteurs have:



- Shared reports that explain how to respect the United Nations **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

The **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is an agreement to protect and respect the rights of persons with disabilities.



- Wrote these reports with the help of organisations led by persons with disabilities. All of these reports are available in Easy Read here:

www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-disability/annual-thematic-reports



- Spoken up about world issues and how they affect persons with disabilities.



- Gone to lots of important meetings to discuss how to treat persons with disabilities fairly. They had meetings with:



- Persons with disabilities and organisations that are led by persons with disabilities.



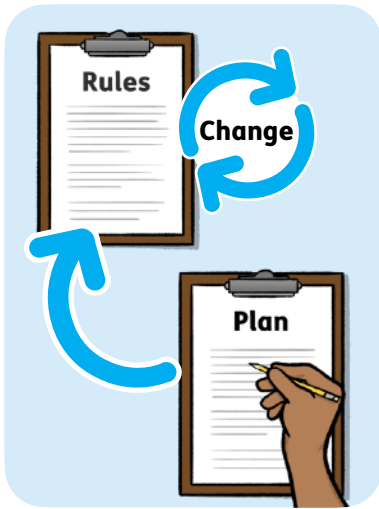
- Experts on the rights of persons with disabilities.



- Governments.



- Other offices within the United Nations.



Special Rapporteur Catalina Devandas also supported the writing of the **United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy**.

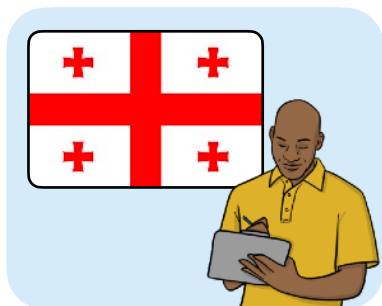
The **United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy** is a plan about how the Office of the United Nations can include persons with disabilities more.

Activities in 2023



The last Special Rapporteur was Gerard Quinn.

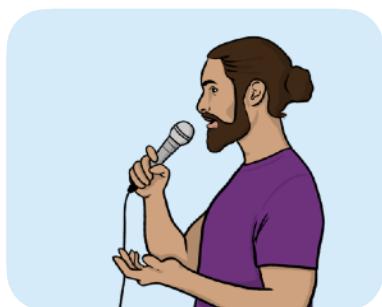
In 2023 Gerard Quinn:



- Visited a country called Georgia in September and wrote a report about the visit.



- Wrote reports about different topics like peace and security, and persons with disabilities. You can read these reports in Easy Read.



- Went to lots of events to speak about the rights of persons with disabilities.

Heba Hagrass



Heba Hagrass became the new Special Rapporteur in November 2023.

Since November 2023, Heba Hagrass has:



- Taken part in events about the rights of persons with disabilities.



- Spoken up about the rights of persons with disabilities, including on the day of persons with disabilities.

The future



In her years as Special Rapporteur Heba Hagrass wants to make sure persons with disabilities have their rights respected.

Including everyone

Heba Hagrass will:



- Make sure she includes **all** persons with disabilities in her work. This means she wants to include:

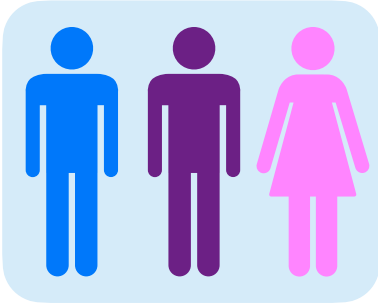


- People with all different kinds of disabilities.



- Persons with disabilities of all ages.

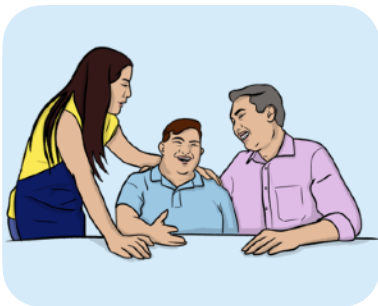
Heba Hagrass will also:



- Include persons with disabilities of all genders in her work.



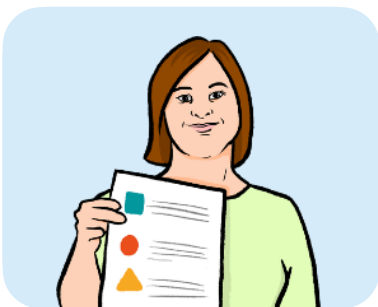
- Focus on how women and girls with disabilities experience more problems when dealing with some issues.



- Include the families of persons with disabilities in her work.



- Make sure that her work is accessible to persons with disabilities. This includes things like:
 - Having events and meetings that are accessible to persons with disabilities.



- Having Easy Read copies of the reports she writes.

Working with others

Heba Hagrass will work with:



- Persons with disabilities and organisations that are led by persons with disabilities.



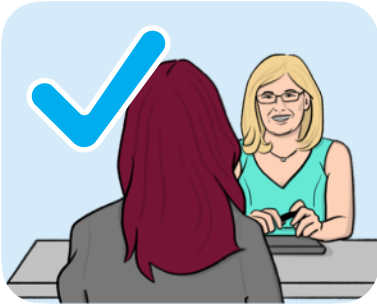
- Groups and people who speak up about the rights of persons with disabilities.



- Offices within the United Nations.



- All countries and their organisations.



Heba Hagrass will also work to set up an easy and accessible way for her to talk to and work with all these groups.

Meeting goals

Heba Hagrass will:



- Help countries follow rules and laws about treating persons with disabilities fairly.



- Make sure that the goals set out in the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** are being worked on in a way that includes persons with disabilities.

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** is a plan about how governments can work for a better future for everyone.



- Work to make sure governments are including persons with disabilities in the work that they do.

Heba Hagrass will also:



- Go to and take part in events.



- Help governments to work with organisations led by persons with disabilities.



- Continue to support the goals that are set out in the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy.



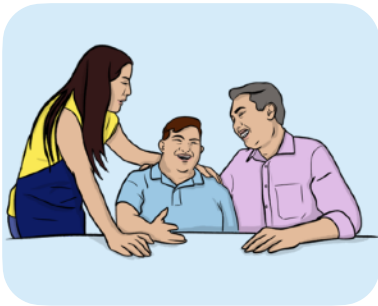
- Focus on three world issues and how they affect persons with disabilities, like:



1. **Climate change** - this is all about big changes in the weather. Climate change can cause serious weather emergencies, like earthquakes.



2. The good and bad things about **digital technology** - digital technology is things like phones, laptops and tablets.



3. How families provide care and support to persons with disabilities.