**Annex II**

Biographical data form of candidates to the Committee on the Rights of Persons

with Disabilities

Family name and first name: Prof. Dr. Toplak Jurij

Date and place of birth: 13 April 1977, Maribor, Slovenia

Place of residence: Maribor, Slovenia

Nationality: Slovenian

Email address: jurij.toplak@um.si, jtoplak@law.fordham.edu

United Nations working languages: English

Current position/function:

- Internationally recognized disability rights advocate and lawyer since 2007

- Visiting Professor, Fordham University School of Law, New York

- Head of Public Law Department and Professor, University of Maribor

* Disability law, human rights, elections, or constitutional law consultant with the international organizations OSCE/ODIHR, Council of Europe/Greco, UNDP, EU, etc.

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:

* led more than 30 CRPD-related judicial proceedings (2007–2020)
* led successful impact litigation and wrote Constitutional Court appeals, relying on CRPD, which resulted in the annulment of discriminatory and segregative laws, made thousands of buildings accessible, and improved thousands of lives
* wrote appeals to the European Court of Human Rights ([Toplak and Mrak v. Slovenia](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/spa?i=001-200412)) and the European Union for wheelchair users and persons with intellectual disabilities, aiming at European top courts recognizing the Committee’s Views as Europe’s law.
* worked on international expert missions in 15 countries worldwide
* spoke at 80 international conferences worldwide, including at the universities of Harvard, Columbia, Valencia, Vienna, Pecs, Zagreb, Beograd, Curitiba, Prague, Washington and Lee, and Fordham, researched at Oxford, Georgetown, etc.
* more than 800 documented media statements
* more activities listed on [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jurij_Toplak) and the [university-based website](https://www.pf.um.si/en/about/employees/teachers-and-researchers/full-professors/jurij-toplak/)

Educational background, in particular on the rights of persons with disabilities

* Ph.D. in Law, University of Maribor, 2007
* Fulbright Researcher, UCLA Law School, 2003–2004
* LL.M., Comparative Constitutional Law, Central European U, Budapest, 2001
* Law degree, [University of Maribor](http://www.uni-mb.si), Maribor, 1999

Elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities.

* five of my family members have muscular dystrophy
* disability rights advocate, and served as a counsel to disability organizations since 2007
* worked closely with PWDs, friends, family members, and was dedicated to the protection and promotion of their rights

Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities;

* internationally recognized expert on impact litigation and court access for PWDs, on Articles 5 (non-discrimination), 9 (accessibility), 13 (access to justice), 17 (integrity), 21 (freedom of expression, opinion and access to information), 22 (privacy), 24 (education), 29 (political participation), etc.
* extensive experience with judicial proceedings involving CRPD (more than 30 cases)

List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:

Toplak, J. (2020). “[Voting is every EU citizen’s right, regardless of disability](https://www.euractiv.com/section/eu-elections-2019/opinion/voting-is-every-eu-citizens-right-regardless-of-disability/)” Euractiv.

Toplak, J. (2018). “Expert opinion on intellectual disabilities and CRPD”

Toplak, J. (2018). “Voting by persons with disabilities in elections and discrimination” PiD, 44 (2), 317–335.

Toplak, J. (2012) “My polling place is here, but yours is 20 miles away because you have a disability” *PP* 31 (39/40), 19.