

# Ana Peláez Narváez

SPANISH CANDIDATE TO THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION  
OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

A voice for disability in CEDAW



Endorsed by:



*“An estimated one in five women live with disabilities and the prevalence of disability is actually higher among women than men (19.2 versus 12 per cent). Contributing factors include the lower economic and social status of women and girls, gender-based violence and harmful or gender-discriminatory practices.”*

## UN Women

*“...laws and policies addressing women have traditionally ignored disability. This invisibility has perpetuated the situation of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities.”*

## General comment No 3, UNCRPD Committee

### Biographical data

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Ana Peláez Narváez, blind from birth, was born in Spain in 1966.

She holds degrees in Science of Education and Psychology from Seville University, and a Master's Degree in Special Needs for People with Disabilities and PhD courses at Salamanca University.

She is currently Executive Councillor for International Relations and External Development in the Spanish National Organisation of the Blind (ONCE), Executive Vice-President of the CERMI Women's Foundation, and European Disability Forum Vice-President and Chairperson of its Women's Committee.

She served as a member of the UNCRPD Committee from 2009 to 2016 and as Board member of the European Women's Lobby from 2010 to 2014.

Ana's working languages are Spanish, English and French.

### Championing the rights of women and girls with disabilities in Spain, in Europe and worldwide

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Ana acted as Spanish Government delegate for the drafting of the CRPD, focusing on mainstreaming gender issues in a crosscutting and specific manner. She was a member of the UNCRPD Committee for two consecutive mandates and its focal point on gender issues, leading the half-day of general discussion on women and girls with disabilities and co-chairing the working group in charge of drafting a general comment on this issue.

For almost twenty years now and based on an intersectional approach to human rights, she has led and advised governments, civil society and other stakeholders to ensure the full inclusion of all women and girls with disabilities in their initiatives and policies.

To this end, she appears regularly before various United Nations bodies (Human Rights Council, committees and specialised agencies), as well as regional and national bodies (European Parliament, European Commission, Council of Europe, Congress of Deputies and Senate of Spain). Since 2010 she has participated as a representative of women with disabilities from Spain and Europe in the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

In Spain, she sits as an expert on the Royal Board on Disability, the State Observatory against Gender Violence, and the Council for Women's Participation.

## Advocate for the intersectionally discriminated

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In addition to many articles in specialist publications and presentations delivered worldwide to promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls with disabilities, Ana has also edited or published a wide range of reports and other works, including the following:

*Guide to including the gender and disability perspective in programming European Social Funds*

*Report on gender-based violence against women with disabilities in the light of the 2015 large-scale survey*

*General Discussion on Women and Girls with Disabilities*

*2nd comprehensive action plan for women with disabilities 2013-2016*

*Mainstreaming gender in public disability policies*

## Help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

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Almost one fifth of all women has a disability, yet they are ignored and marginalised far too often. Only by recognising and addressing the needs and demands of women and girls with disabilities will it be possible to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, and more specifically SDG No 5 to achieve gender equality and empower ALL women and girls.

Ana has attended the two meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development held to date, and addressed the 2017 forum on SDG No 5 on behalf of civil society.

## Breaking the cycle of invisibility in CEDAW

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Women and girls with disabilities are still at the margins of decision-making and work on gender equality, and their needs and voices often go unheard. The time has come to include disability in CEDAW and put an end to the invisibility they face.

This nomination by the Spanish Government is in response to requests from disability organisations through the Spanish Committee of Representatives of People with Disabilities (CERMI), and is endorsed by the International Disability Alliance (IDA).

Ana has a proven and strong personal commitment to women's and girls' rights and the expertise and experience to make a real difference on the CEDAW Committee.

## Why does Ana want to serve on the CEDAW Committee?

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*"I believe there is a need to mainstream women and girls with disabilities systematically in the work of CEDAW. We are 20% of the total population of women in the world, but we are among the poorest and we are constantly subjected to aggravated forms of discrimination.*

*I also want to focus on strengthening the work of the CEDAW Committee in relation to the multiple discrimination many invisible women face, and this means making progress on drawing up guidelines for States Parties to address intersectional discrimination and ensure we leave no one behind.*

*I hope to play an active role in the process to foster co-operation among UN treaty bodies so that they can learn from each other and adopt a consistent approach, moving forward in the same direction when addressing the same issues.*

*Finally, I believe we need to do more to reflect the dimensions of human diversity in the CEDAW Committee and, in particular, include people from invisible and ignored population groups, such as women with disabilities.*

**NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!"**

Ana Peláez Narváez



*Leave no one behind*

*Achieving gender equality and empowering  
all women and girls,  
including those with disabilities*