



Women Enabled International Questionnaire for 2018 CEDAW Committee Candidates:
Women and Girls with Disabilities

Name of Candidate: Ana Peláez Narváez

State Party Nominating Candidate: Spain

1. Describe any experience you have with integrating women and girls with disabilities into your broader women's rights work.

Overall, I have been involved in direct advocacy for the rights of women and girls with disabilities for 18 years now. In 2000 I joined the newly-established Women's Committee of the Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities (CERMI, the umbrella body for the disability movement in Spain), and one year later I became a member of the European Disability Forum Women's Committee. I have made every effort possible in both organisations to ensure the voices of women and girls with disabilities are heard not just within the two bodies but also beyond, in other women's organisations.

I was chairwoman of the CERMI Women's Commission between 2004 and 2014, and also CERMI's Commissioner for gender Affairs from 2003 on. This post is directly linked to CERMI Women's Foundation, where I am Executive Vice-President.

Through holding these positions, I sit as an expert on women and disability on the Board of the Royal Board on Disability, which is chaired by the queen, and on the Council for Women's Participation and the State Observatory on Violence against Women, both of which belong to the Spanish Ministry for Health, Social Services and Equality. Furthermore, I have attended every annual session of CSW since 2010, representing women and girls with disabilities in Spain.

I am directly responsible for gender affairs at EDF, where I am also Vice-President and where I continue to chair the Women's Committee. Thanks to my work within EDF, in 2011 I was named as an expert on women and girls with disabilities to sit on the European Co-ordination Forum for the Council of Europe plan of action on disability 2006-2015 (CAHPAH), and for two consecutive terms I was a member of the Board of the European Women's Lobby (EWL). More recently, I have joined the High-Level Forum on the SDGs as part of European civil society, with special expertise on SDG 5.

This work over the past years was further strengthened after I joined the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009. From the very outset and until I left the Committee in December 2016, I focussed on promoting the inclusion of the key issues for women and girls with disabilities. I was also lead member for the Committee's General Comment on CRPD Article 6.

As a result of the above, I have had the opportunity on many occasions to appear at meetings of the Spanish parliament, European Parliament, European Commission, the Council of Europe and

United Nations human rights bodies and specialised agencies to advocate for the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

2. What human rights abuses do you think most often uniquely or disproportionately affect women and girls with disabilities, as distinct from other women and girls?

While all women and girls are subjected to human rights abuses in some shape or form, I believe women and girls with disabilities are victims of human rights breaches which affect them in many areas in a unique way and/or disproportionately.

In particular, in my view women and girls with disabilities are subjected most often to human rights violations which have an impact on them uniquely and/or disproportionately in the following areas; equality and non-discrimination, as a result of multiple and intersectional discrimination; sexual and reproductive rights, including sexual and reproductive health; freedom from violence and abuse; legal capacity and participation in decision-making processes; access to justice; education; employment; and political participation.

3. Sexual and reproductive autonomy is a central issue for all women and girls, but particularly for women and girls with disabilities. What obligations do you think States have under CEDAW and other human rights treaties to ensure sexual and reproductive autonomy, including for women and girls with disabilities? Do you think States should be allowed to place any limitations on that autonomy?

Like all women, women with disabilities have the right to choose the number and spacing of their children, as well as the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. States must face up to their obligations under CEDAW and other human rights treaties and guarantee respect for these rights to ensure all women and girls, including those who have a disability, may enjoy sexual and reproductive autonomy.

In my opinion, states should not be allowed to place any limitations on any woman's sexual and reproductive autonomy.

4. How do you think the CEDAW Committee should be addressing multiple and intersecting discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities?

I believe the CEDAW Committee should tackle the multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities by adopting a two-pronged or twin-track approach.

Such an approach must involve, on the one hand, a systematic mainstreaming of the interests and rights of the most marginalised and invisible women across all the work of the Committee and jointly with other Committees, UN Agencies, Special Rapporteurs and Civil Society, using the existing tools such as concluding observations, holding joint days of general discussion and drafting general comments and general recommendations, among others. On the other hand, it is

necessary to follow up on the implementation of the Convention by and in States Parties with the support of UN Agencies in the field and civil society.

5. Do you think there are any changes (for instance, to procedures, jurisprudence, meeting times and venues, or other practices) the CEDAW Committee needs to make to ensure that it welcomes the participation of women and girls with disabilities?

The CEDAW Committee must adapt with the times and ensure all its procedures, including reporting procedures, lists of issues, concluding observations, consultations, dialogues and rules of procedure, are fully accessible to people with all types of disability. To give just two examples, all documents must be published and widely available in formats which are accessible to people with a visual impairment and also available in easy-to-read versions for persons with intellectual disabilities, and sign language interpretation must be provided at Committee sessions.

The CEDAW Committee must follow the standards set by the CRPD Committee in terms of accessibility and facilitating the participation of women and girls with disabilities. Only by matching the high standards set by the CRPD Committee can the CEDAW Committee ensure the full participation of women and girls with disabilities - estimated by the UN itself to make up 20% of the global population of women and girls - in its work.

These measures are necessary to welcome full participation by both members of the Committee with a disability and organisations of women with disabilities.