

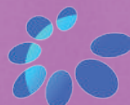
Ana Peláez Narváez

**SPANISH CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION TO THE
UN COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION
OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

A voice for disability in CEDAW



Endorsed by the



**International
Disability
Alliance**



CEDAW

“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

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

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

She is currently one of the United Nations CEDAW Committee Vice-Chairs, Vice-President of the European Disability Forum and Chair of its Women's Committee, Executive Vice-President of CERMI Women's Foundation (Spanish platform of women and girls with disabilities) and ONCE Social Group High Commissioner for Solidarity and International Co-operation.

Ms. Peláez 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.

She was elected to serve as an expert on the CEDAW Committee in 2018 and was the first person with a disability on the Committee. She has been Vice-Chair of this treaty body since 2021.

Ms. Peláez's working languages are Spanish, English and French.

CHAMPIONING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES IN SPAIN, IN EUROPE AND WORLDWIDE

Ms. Peláez acted as Spanish Government delegate for the drafting of the CRPD, focusing on mainstreaming women's rights and gender 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, co-chairing the working group which drafted its General Comment on women and girls with disabilities.

For more than twenty years she has advised governments, civil society and other stakeholders on the full inclusion of all women and girls with disabilities in legislation and public policies based on an intersectional approach to human rights.

To this end, Ms. Peláez appears regularly before various United Nations bodies (such as the Human Rights Council, committees and specialised agencies, the Commission on the Status of Women and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, among others) as well as regional and national bodies (European Parliament, European Commission, Council of Europe, Congress of Deputies and Senate of Spain).

In Spain, she sits as an expert on the State Observatory on Violence against Women and the National Council on Disability. In the European Union, she is a member of the European Commission Disability Platform.

Ms. PELÁEZ'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE CEDAW COMMITTEE

Upon joining the CEDAW Committee in 2019, she became the first person with a disability to serve on a United Nations human rights treaty body other than the CRPD Committee. As an expert on the CEDAW Committee, she has performed the role of rapporteur during the review process of several countries' periodic reports, she has contributed to the drafting of General Recommendation No. 38 on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, and she is a member of the working group responsible for preparing the upcoming General Recommendation No. 39 on the rights of indigenous women and girls. She is also a member of the Committee's working groups on its working methods and on gender-based violence against women and represents the Committee on the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies Working Group on COVID-19. Since February 2021, Ms. Peláez has served as Vice-Chair of the Committee representing the WEOG regional group and member of the Committee Bureau.

As an expert serving on the CEDAW Committee, Ms. Peláez has provided technical assistance and delivered presentations on the Convention and its Optional Protocol to several States Parties such as Argentina, Guatemala, Uruguay, Colombia, Ecuador and Andorra. She has partnered with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Women, UNICEF and the UN Population Fund on events concerning women with disabilities and to strengthen disability and gender in position papers such as the study on the sexual harassment of women and girls with disabilities and an upcoming declaration on girls with disabilities. Ms. Peláez has also participated in high-level events on gender equality and violence against women organised by the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

PUBLICATIONS

Ms. Peláez is executive editor of the CERMI Women's Foundation Generosity collection of studies and research papers on the social reality faced by women and girls with disabilities. The collection is available at <https://www.fundacioncermimujeres.es/es/coleccion-generosidad>.

Since 2019 the collection has issued the following publications:

- 15 *The impact of the pandemic on women and girls with disabilities: Spain report 2020* (2021).
- 14 *Guide to the right to health of women and girls with disabilities* (2021).
- 13 *Protocol for the care of women with disabilities victims of violence* (2021).
- 12 *The right to health of women and girls with disabilities: Spain report 2019* (2020).
- 11 *Guide to mainstreaming gender and disability in European Social Fund programmes* (2019).
- 10 *The human rights of women and girls with disabilities: Spain report 2018* (2019).
- 9 *Different different women* (2019).

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF INVISIBILITY IN CEDAW

Women and girls with disabilities still find themselves at the margins of decision-making and ignored in public policies on gender equality and the rights of women, and their needs and voices often go unaddressed and unheard. By re-electing Ms. Peláez to the CEDAW Committee, we can continue to strengthen the inclusion of disability in this treaty body to put an end to the invisibility women and girls with disabilities still face worldwide.

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 the International Disability Alliance (IDA).

Ms. Peláez has a proven and strong commitment to women's and girls' rights and the expertise and experience needed to continue making a real difference on the CEDAW Committee.

WHY IS Ms. PELÁEZ SEEKING SUPPORT TO BE RE-ELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE CEDAW COMMITTEE?

"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 continue 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.

As a result of the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women, more than ever it is necessary to address the most disadvantaged groups. Based on the knowledge and experience I have picked up during my first four years on the CEDAW Committee, I am here for all these women to improve their situation through dialogue with CEDAW States Parties.

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!"

Ana Peláez Narvárez



Leave no one behind

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

