Promoting Human Rights through Sport: Can It Make a Difference?

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UN efforts to protect and promote human rights

- Observations of countries denying human rights through
  - Specific practices or activities
  - Use of specific classifications of people
- Creation of Committees
- Drafting and Adoption of Conventions and Treaties
  - Sport, Recreation, Leisure are often included among the criteria for determining whether human rights are protected and fully enjoyed

- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) (CEDAW)

- Advocates convened several times a year, for five years

25 August 2006, the Ad-Hoc Committee approved the draft text of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The text was adopted during the 61st session of the 192 nation General Assembly in December 2006.

It opened for ratification and signing 30 March 2007.

So far, 117 member states have signed and 7 have ratified

Needs 20 member states to ratify for the Convention to enter into force

Article 30.5

“With a view to enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities, States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to participate in recreational, leisure and sporting activities…”
Article 30.5

To encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels;

To ensure that persons with disabilities have an opportunity to organize, develop and participate in disability-specific sporting and recreational activities, and to this end, encourage the provision, on an equal basis with others, of appropriate instruction, training and resources;
Article 30.5

• To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to sporting and recreational and tourism venues;

To ensure that children with disabilities have equal access to participation in play, recreation, and leisure and sporting activities, including those activities in the school system;

To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to services from those involved in the organization of recreational, tourism, leisure and sporting activities.
Advocacy Groups

Handicap International – Bangladesh, Morocco, Afghanistan, Mozambique

Rehabilitation International – Commission on Leisure, Recreation, and Physical Activities

• Landmine Survivors Network

• Disabled People International
According to UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro

- Of course, ratification has to be followed by vigorous implementation and oversight at the national and local levels. Only then will the real benefits of this legislation be felt by millions of persons with disabilities through the world. Only then will our own high expectations prove truly justified.
Activities Since the Convention – Education

Special Olympic Forum Sport and Human Policy Forum in Shanghai

IPC Training on Article 30 in Korea

IFAPA workshop on Article 30

DPI conference in Korea

Toronto Sport and Social Change - Disability section on Article 30

Sport and Disability Conference in Doha

UN Sport for Development and Peace Working Group Literature Review
Activities Since the Convention - Programming

Special Olympics Bulgaria - Changing Attitudes - Changing Schools

IPC African programs – Organizational Development Initiatives (ODI)

Landmine Survivors Network – country offices

Handicap International – similar to LSN
Activities Since the Convention - Research

Technical Report - *Sport in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability*


Numerous presentations at NASSM, NASSS, SRLA

Activities Since the Convention - Policy

IPC Position Statement on Spot and Human Rights

IPC recommendation to IOC to change Sport For All mission statement

UN Office for Sport and Development is including disability as part of its priority areas
Questions?

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