



Disabled Persons in armed conflicts

Despite a number of international legal instruments, such as the art. 11 UN CRPD and UN Resolution 2475, persons with disabilities remain the forgotten victims of armed conflicts. War undermines the life, health and safety of all people, but the situation is much more dramatic for disabled civilians and their families. As a matter of fact, they do not have opportunities to access the emergency shelters as these are either inaccessible or the information about emergency evacuation, the location of emergency shelters, and ways to seek help is not provided in an accessible manner.

As a result, many civilians who are blind, partially sighted, deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind or physically disabled do not know how to take advantage of the limited safety measures. The level of stigma and ignorance towards persons with learning disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities increases during conflicts, putting them at greater risk of being abandoned during evacuations and experiencing violence and abuse.

Determined to bring attention to the devastating impact armed conflicts have on disabled civilians, the Academy of European Human Rights Protection at the University of Cologne cordially invites you to participate in an online discussion on "Disabled persons in Armed Conflicts". The discussion will take place on first of April at 10:00 German time.

The event offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the human rights protection of disabled civilians within the framework of the international and national law and discuss the pathways for ensuring their access to justice in the context of armed conflicts.

The virtual event will be chaired by the director of the academy of European Human Rights Protection, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Angelika Nußberger together with the Disability rights researcher Lilit Grigoryan. Among the invited speakers are the ombudspersons of Ukraine and Armenia.

For registration, please send an email to:

Lilit Grigoryan by indicating your full name and institutional affiliation

To: l.grigoryan@uni-koeln.de

Preview of the online discussion

When?	1st of April
Where?	online
10:00- 10:05:	Virtual arrival
10:05 - 10:20:	Welcoming words and introductory remarks Angelika Nußberger Lilit Grigoryan
10:15 - 10:45	Disabled Persons in Armed conflicts: International obligations and their practical implementation by the SPs Magdalena Kun- Buczko
11:15 - 11:35	Ombudsperson of Ukraine Liudmyla Lioniivna Denisova
11:35 - 12:00	Head of the Unit for Protection of Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the office of Ombudsperson of Armenia Monika Sargsyan
11:40 - 12:00	Q and A
12:00 - 12:30	Break
12:30 - 13:00	Round Table Discussion: How to ensure access of disabled civilians to justice in case of armed conflicts
13:00	Farewell and closing words
Moderation:	Angelika Nußberger
Participants:	Magdalena. Kun- Buczko Liudmyla Lioniivna Denisova Monika Sargsyan