

From: [Kimberley Meagher](#)
To: [Disability Equity](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Submissions: new International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy
Date: Friday, 15 December 2023 3:46:14 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Branch
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
RG Casey Building, John McEwen Crescent
Barton, ACT 0221
Australia

To whom it concerns

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a submission paper as part of your consultation on a new International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy.

I am a full tax paying Australian citizen who lives with a congenital syndrome that includes multi-sensory disability. I participate fully in society through employment, recreation, sport and community despite inaccessible public environments or impediments caused by my disability.

I have been bearing witness to the continuing and currently unfolding trauma and decimation of Palestine and have watched with absolute despair at the maiming and disabling of Palestinians by the colony of Israel's military assault, which as of day 49 had resulted in 20,000 deaths, 36,350 injuries, 266 damaged schools and 124 health facilities according to the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor. This is only one international situation of military inflicted life long trauma and disability of many others occurring around the world.

What should Australia prioritise to advance disability equity and rights internationally?

First and foremost, Australia should be prioritising existing frameworks it is a signatory to such as United Nations declaration of human rights, and United Nations convention on the rights of persons with Disabilities.

Secondly it should be prioritising and championing a Social Model of Disability rather than pursuing a medical model of disability.

Australia should also be prioritising the highest and strongest diplomacy against any forms of warfare that results in medical conditions that last longer than 12 months. Advocacy against long term impacts of war such as physical impairment, maiming, PTSD, mental health conditions etc.

Australia should not have one department pursuing agendas that conflict with other agendas. For example DFAT pursuing a International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy on one hand, yet clearly endorsing an ethnostate's pursuit of war crimes, ethnic cleansing and genocide. The cognitive dissonance is beyond logic, and renders

really good work such as the underlying intentions of equity utterly meaningless.

What are the most effective approaches to progress these priorities?

If Australia was serious about this strategy, and serious about being a strong and consistent leader in advancing equity and rights for persons with disabilities globally, it would stop endorsing warfare or other practices that contravene human rights. It would make sure all human rights charters are actioned in actuality rather than in theory. The approaches have all been outlined by experts, it is a case of mandating them.

How can DFAT support the role of, and partner with, organisations of persons with disabilities?

The Australian Government should be making sure that all of its agencies such as DFAT are heeding and demonstrating exemplary best practice in relation to human rights in order to achieve and advance equity and rights for persons with disabilities globally. DFAT can not do this if the Australian Government is not calling for a ceasefire in Palestine for example or aiding and abetting genocide through silence or complicity.

What are the biggest challenges to and opportunities for advancing disability equity and rights?

The biggest challenge is the Australian Government signing or ratifying United Nation conventions and resolutions and then failing to heed , implement or action them.

With thanks for considering my submission,
Kimberley Meagher.