



# ***Legal Safeguards for Disability and Our Responsibilities***

A Workshop Organized by

**Centre for Research in Policy, Communication and Society (CRPCS), Kolkata,**

**Sruti Disability Rights Centre, Kolkata**

And

**Centre for Persons with Disabilities**

**Jadavpur University**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2025 (Friday and Saturday)**

**Venue: I.R. Seminar Room, PG Arts Building, Ground Floor, Jadavpur University, Kolkata**

## ***Concept Note:***

Over the past few decades, Disability Studies has gained popularity in several countries around the world. While initially dominated by sociology and pedagogy, over time disciplines such as theology, psychology, political science, international relations, anthropology, history, and most importantly, thoughts regarding legalities have become part of the discourse.

Rooted in Western ideologies, Disability Studies began gaining importance in India over the past two decades, beyond the sporadic interests observed earlier in policy documents, directories and statistical compilations. In the last two decades of the 20th century, institutional and policy-driven initiatives at the international level — such as the UN's observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the International Year and Decade of Disabled Persons, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities — have led to a significant shift in how people with disabilities were perceived globally.

Social, political, and intellectual movements in the last two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century led to transformation of the traditionally marginalized status of the disabled and influenced disability discourse in countries like India, ushering in a new awareness. The first major outcome of this shift in India was the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act of 1995. Questions surrounding its implementation and effectiveness in securing rights sparked further activism, eventually necessitating the formulation of a rights-based law. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) added momentum to this effort. As a signatory to the convention, the Indian government took on the responsibility of framing a comprehensive rights-based law. This led to the formation of a separate Ministry for Disability

Affairs in 2012, followed four years later by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act in 2016, which emphasizes accessibility, empowerment, social dignity, protection of rights, and inclusion.

For the first time, this Act allowed people with disabilities in India to enter a rights-based social framework. It gives separate and specific emphasis to education, rehabilitation, employment (both public and private), and the rights of women and children with disabilities. Thus, the significance of this law is immense. Along with reviewing this law with a critical look, the workshop will focus on how to successfully use the law for securing specific rights and goals for the disabled. A major focus will be on clarifying the terms and definitions in the disability discourse, about which there is substantial debate. The first day of this two-day workshop will be devoted to a broader understanding of the legal framework of life and activism around disability in India and the world. The second day would largely focus on the social and political aspects and the corresponding issues in ethics, rights, responsibilities, empowerment and entitlement. The workshop will benefit students and teachers of disability studies, lawyers, activists, policy-makers, administrators, artists and anybody interested to protect and promote the rights of the disabled.

For registering your participation, please fill up this Google form:

<https://forms.gle/HtYMc72r3QvZZ2oQA>

Last date of application: **20<sup>th</sup> August, 2025**

Participation fees:

For students: **Rs. 300/- for two days**

For others: **Rs. 800/- for two days**

(Includes seminar kit, lunch, tea and the certificates)

Please transfer the fees to:

CRPCS

A/c no. 110228656760

Canara Bank, Jadavpur branch

IFSC: CNRB0000980

For any queries, please contact:

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## **Workshop Schedule**

### **Day I (22.08.2025)**

10:00-10:30 am – Registration/ Tea

10:30-11:45 am

**Understanding Disability**, *Shampa Sengupta, Director, Sruti Disability Rights Centre*

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

**Disability Terminology & Media**, *Dr. Bubai Bag, Bagnan College*

1:00 - 1:45 pm: **Lunch**

1:45- 3:00 pm

**Concept of Universal Design**, *Professor Mainak Ghosh, Jadavpur University*

3:00- 4:15 pm

**Woman with Disabilities: Tales of Double Marginalization**, *Dr. Alefiya Tundawala, Savitri Girls College*

4:15- 4:30 pm: **Tea**

4:30-5:45 pm

**Navigating Society with hearing disabilities**, *Mr. Arnab Bhattacharya, Anwesha Kolkata*

### **Day II (23.08.2025)**

10:00-10:30 am- Registration/Tea

10:30- 11:45 am

**Disability, Gender & Sexuality: the Intersections**, *Professor Sayan Bhattacharya, University of Maryland.*

11:45 am-1:00 am

**Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act**, *Jhuma Sen, Advocate, Kolkata High Court*

1:00- 1:45 pm: **Lunch**

1:45- 3:00 pm

**National Trust Act**, *Mrs. Chaitali Gami, Vice President, Parivaar, National Parents Organization*

3:00-3:15 pm:

**Vote of Thanks**, *Professor Rajyeswar Sinha, Centre for Persons with Disabilities, Jadavpur University*