



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

# CREATING NEW FUTURES FOR ALL: CHILDREN, YOUTH, DISABILITY AND SITUATIONS OF FORCED MIGRATION

◇ RESPECT ◇ PROTECT ◇ PROMOTE ◇ BEST INTERESTS ◇ BEST PRACTICE ◇

## SAVE THE DATE & CALL FOR PAPERS 28 - 30 November 2012

A Research Symposium initiative of **The University of Sydney** and  
*One Billion Strong*

This international symposium explores the intersection of three seminal instruments which set out a clear agenda for promoting and pursuing the inherent dignity and worth of all members of society. Children's right to provision, protection, and participation are critical aspects of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC), which aims to promote and protect the dignity, identity, safety and welfare of children. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) and the Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (Refugee Convention and Protocol) provide frameworks for the protection, recognition and respect of two other groups widely recognised as being on the 'margins': persons with disabilities and refugees.

Children in situations of displacement face a heightened risk of discrimination, disadvantage, exclusion and even physical and psychological abuse. This risk is magnified greatly by disability and exacerbated further by other factors such as age and gender, as well as by socio-economic and citizenship status. Even where resources are available to support displaced groups and/or those with disabilities, children and young people are more likely to be isolated and excluded and thus deprived of important services and facilities aimed at ensuring provision of their basic rights. Rarely are such children consulted on issues that affect them, and have few opportunities to contribute to community processes or the improvement of programs and services aimed at supporting them.

The development of and support for human rights law in these areas has been a positive step towards improving the situation. However, there remains a very evident need to continue national and international dialogue around the most appropriate, respectful and effective ways to support and empower those children and young people most at risk of not realising their full human potential.

Creating New Futures for All will bring together leading academics and organisations specialising in children's rights, refugee protection and disability. The conference goal is to promote the sharing of knowledge, experience and good practice around inclusion of children and young persons with disabilities and those displaced by war, conflict or disaster. With a target audience that includes both service professionals and policy makers, the initiative is designed to progress international dialogue around children's rights, including in relation to initiatives such as UNICEF's Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities and I am a Child Too campaign. The event also builds on the Shafallah Declaration on Crisis, Conflict and Disability undertaken at Qatar.

### Confirmed speakers include:

**Professor Yang Hee Lee**, Immediate past Chair, Committee on the Rights of the Child

**Professor Ron McCallum AO**, Chair, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**DEADLINE FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: 1 AUGUST 2012**

**SUBMISSION DATE FOR PAPERS: 1 NOVEMBER 2012**



# CREATING NEW FUTURES FOR ALL

SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL



THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

## THE CONFERENCE AIMS TO:

Explore the potential of the UN CRC, the UN CRPD and the Refugee Convention and Protocol for improving the dignity, identity, safety and welfare of children internationally;

- Define principles of best practice for working with children, including children with disabilities, in situations of forced migration and/or those with disabilities
- Identify challenges facing refugee children, including children with disabilities and examine gaps in the existing evidence base about the best ways of addressing these challenges;
- Formulate advocacy strategies to raise awareness of issues for children, including children with disabilities, in displacement at national, regional and international levels of policy development; and
- Make recommendations on mechanisms for coordination and collaboration to address gaps, share lessons and advocate.

The Research Symposium will comprise of one day workshops followed by a two day conference. The workshops will focus on training and practice guidelines for:

- persons interacting with children and young people in refugee status processing and other immigration selection (i.e. resettlement) programs; and
- disabled people's organizations on disability inclusion in programs for refugees and displaced persons

The two day conference will feature keynote addresses, plenary sessions and break-out panel discussions considering issues concerning children's rights; disability inclusion and three facets of refugee law, policy and practice: the selection of refugees for resettlement; the asylum process; and settlement (including citizenship).

The conference organizers invite papers on the following range of topics:

- Implementation of the UN CRC; the UN CRPD; and Refugee Convention and Protocol
- Vulnerability factors among children and young people, including those with disabilities, in situations of forced migration
- Protection concerns of children and young persons, including those with disabilities, and appropriate responses
- Asylum, resettlement and integration processes for children and young people, including those with disabilities
- Inclusion of refugee children and young people, including those with disabilities, in policy and program development
- Inclusive education in refugee and displaced persons settings
- Creating opportunities for youth with disabilities and supporting parents and caregivers
- Protecting and empowering adolescent girls in situations of forced migration
- Children and statelessness
- Role of Disabled People's Organization and other civil society groups in promoting the rights of children and young people in refugee contexts
- Ethical considerations in research and practice with vulnerable groups

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

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