



Media Release
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Call on Federal Government to sign UN Disability Rights Convention

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights (ALHR) today called on the Federal Government to become a foundation signatory to the new United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

The Convention will be opened for signature at an historic ceremony today at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

"The Convention is a watershed in the recognition of the rights of people with disabilities", said Simeon Beckett, President of ALHR. "People with Disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in society and existing human rights mechanisms do not adequately consider or protect their rights."

"The making of the Convention signals a shift in the way people with disabilities are being viewed throughout the world. They are now seen as citizens with equal rights and the Convention provides clear guidance on how those rights are to be made real for people with disabilities."

"The Convention is informed by the real life experiences of people with disabilities in housing, access to all aspects of the community, mobility, education, health, employment, participation in public life, discrimination and equality."

"Australia has an opportunity to take a leading role in this process by becoming one of the first countries to sign the Convention."

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