

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FamiliesCommunities Committee](#)
Subject: Join the Conversation on Mental Health - Involuntary Admissions or Community Treatment Orders
Date: Sunday, February 7, 2016 12:14:07 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I have already written an email letter to join this conversation.

I want to draw attention to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (CRPD)
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/ConventionRightsPersonsWithDisabilities.aspx>

I quote from this article: <https://absoluteprohibition.wordpress.com/>

Violent medical practices like forced electroshock, forced drugging, restraint and solitary confinement do not constitute help or care, nor does it have any legitimate purpose. It constitutes discriminatory and harmful practices that can cause severe pain and suffering, as well as deep fear and trauma, in its victims. ...

What makes it (CRPD) so significant? For one thing, because this landmark convention puts forward nothing less than a total ban on both involuntary treatment and the involuntary confinement of people who have broken no laws.

To highlight a couple of relevant passages, article 12 of the CRPD states, "State parties shall recognize that persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life." Correspondingly, article 14 states:

State parties shall ensure that people with disabilities, on an equal basis with others:

1. Enjoy the right to liberty and security of the person
2. Are not deprived of their liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily ... and that the existence of a disability shall in no way justify a deprivation of liberty.

...

A very important move has been taken by the United Nations in the passing of the CRPD. For the first time in history, there is an international legal clarification that psychiatric survivors must enjoy the same rights as everyone else—that is, force is absolutely prohibited. This is not just "any" organization taking this position, additionally—this is a mammoth mainstream organization which wields both moral and legal clout.

END EXCERPT

I do see your challenge in addressing legislation that defies Human Rights as stated by the United Nations.

I do offer my sincere assistance should it be required in any way.

I am collectively a trained Family Physician, a survivor of involuntary care in the Psychiatric System in Alberta ... and also the daughter of a Retired Lawyer. It is a unique blend.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]