



*Co-winner of Nobel Peace Prize*

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Dear Senator Menendez,

Handicap International strongly supports the the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

With projects in more than 60 low-income countries, our teams rely heavily on the legal framework provided by this human rights treaty to ensure that countries do not discriminate against people with disabilities, but instead include people with disabilities. In practice, this treaty is opening doors for more people to learn, to stay healthy, to work, to vote, and to live fuller, happier lives.

Every day, we witness the power of this treaty. While the opposition sometimes says that the treaty isn't strong enough, we see it as vital to removing barriers. In eastern Ethiopia, our inclusive education project, with is part-funded by USAID, has allowed children with disabilities to attend school for the first time—and they are thriving! In Tunisia, Handicap International supports disabled persons organizations that have worked hard to see disability rights included in Tunisia's newest draft constitution. In Bangladesh, it gives us another way to encourage villages to prepare inclusive plans for disasters—warning systems that alert the Deaf community, storm shelters that everyone can reach, and plans to ensure that people who cannot flee on their own are helped when danger approaches.

This treaty works, Senator Menendez. This treaty would become stronger still with the U.S. stamp of approval — ratification.

Thank you, Senator Menendez, for your leadership in supporting this life-saving, rights-protecting treaty. While it doesn't impact the laws on our own soil, it certainly adds heft to the good work the CRPD is starting to enable in other countries.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth MacNairn  
Executive Director  
Handicap International US

