



# Invitation to Conference on May 30, 2018

## USING THE LAW AS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

### Celebrating Independent Living Institute — 25 years for disability rights

Disability activists, legal professionals, law students and instructors, and others working against discrimination on the grounds of disability are invited to share and discuss experiences using legal casework and strategic litigation to implement the rights of persons with disabilities.

**CONFERENCE — May 30, 9 am — 5 pm**

**Venue:** Bolinders Kafé och Konferens, Bolinders plan 1 (close to Stockholm Central Station)

#### **MORNING The role of civil society – strategies for effective legal action**

How can the Independent Living and Disability Rights Movement promote anti-discrimination laws and disability rights? What is the role of civil society in implementing Human Rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the European Convention on Human Rights, and national laws? How can civil society use strategic litigation in this effort in the Nordic countries and elsewhere?

#### **AFTERNOON Lawyering and litigation – how to challenge the system**

Lawyering, international Human Rights, and strategic litigation. Obstacles to access to justice and how to overcome them. How disability organizations can build coalitions with the legal community.

#### **CONNECTED EVENTS**

**Venue:** ILI Conference Room, Storforsplan 36:10th floor (20 min from downtown Stockholm by subway)

#### **MATCH ON THE LAW AS A TOOL**

**May 28 and 29, 10 am — 4 pm**

Extended workshop, lead by ILI's new director Jamie Bolling, for sharing experience in using the law as a tool for social change, in cooperation with International Initiative for Disability Leadership. Read more at: <https://iimhl.se/independent-living-across-borders/>

#### **DISABILITY RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORK**

**May 31, 9 am — 12 pm**

Do we need an international Disability Rights Defenders Network linking anyone interested in using disability laws and rights in court? Discussion about such a network's potential value, activities, target groups, feasibility, financing - led by Adolf Ratzka.

**SIGN UP** E-mail [emil@independentliving.org](mailto:emil@independentliving.org)

- specify your desired event(s) and needs

**READ MORE** [lagensomverktyg.se/lawasatool2018/](http://lagensomverktyg.se/lawasatool2018/)

#### **INVITORS**



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As of 2015 lack of access constitutes discrimination in Sweden

Now the real battle starts!

## Contributors

**Abbass Abbass** — Human Rights lawyer, director at AlManarah Association Nazareth, Israel, working with legal advice and action on multiple discrimination

**Fredrik Bergman** — Head of the Centre for Justice (Centrum för rättvisa), a Swedish pioneering Public interest law firm for individual rights

**Andrea Bondesson** — Human Rights Lawyer, specialised in use of CRPD in Swedish courts, had success in a case in a Swedish administrative court

**Thomas Hammarberg** — Human Rights expert, former European Commissioner for Human Rights

**Annika Jyrwall Åkerberg** — Human Rights Lawyer, educator and author on rights of persons with disability, group leader at Civil Rights Defenders

**Pat Kirkpatrick** — Disability Rights Advocates, co-founder and fundraiser

**Jukka Kumpuvuori** — Disability rights lawyer litigating in Finland with some cases before the CRPD Committee and the Court of Justice of the EU

**Kenneth Lewis** — Lawyer and experienced litigator with success in a ground breaking case on pensions

**Paul Lappalainen** — American and Swedish lawyer and researcher, specialized in discrimination law and civil society involvement

**Katrín Oddsdóttir** — Human Rights lawyer at the Organisation of the Disabled in Iceland

**Kapka Panayotova** — Disability activist, researcher, trainer and consultant. won a case against the City of Sofia concerning lack of accessibility of subway system

**Gerard Quinn** — Professor of Disability law and policy in Galway, Ireland, one of the architects of UN CRPD, now associated with Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Lund

**Adolf Ratzka** — Disability activist, researcher, lecturer on independent living and personal assistance, founded Independent Living Institute, ENIL's founding chairperson

**John Stauffer** — Human Rights Lawyer at Civil Rights Defenders, educator in Human Rights

**Berit Vegheim** — Disability Activist at Stop Diskrimineringen and Menneskerettsalliansen

**Ulrika Westerlund** — Former president of RFSL and working successfully with strategic litigation for rights of transgender people

**Sid Wolinsky** — Co-founder of Disability Rights Advocates where he has been litigation director and won over 400 cases of disability discrimination



**Independent Living Institute** — founded by Adolf Ratzka 1993 to promote disabled people's self-determination. The ILI project "Law as a Tool for Social Change" runs 2016 to 2019 and works in cooperation with the member association **Med lagen som verktyg** taking on members' cases against discrimination.



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