

**CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

Regional Seminar for the 12+ Group

*The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House
Palace of Westminster,
London, United Kingdom
27-28 April 2009*



BRITISH GROUP
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
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Tuesday 3 March 2009

Dear «12+ Member»,

Following the launch in 2007 of the IPU's Handbook entitled "*From exclusion to equality: Realizing the rights of persons with disabilities*" the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union together with the IPU is arranging a regional seminar to inform parliamentarians about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and how they can encourage their Governments to ratify and implement this important human rights treaty.

The Convention is the response of the international community to the long history of discrimination, exclusion and dehumanisation of persons with disabilities, who make up the world's largest - over 650 million persons - and most disadvantaged minority. The purpose of the Convention is to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy the same rights and opportunities as everyone else and are able to lead their lives as full citizens who can make valuable contributions to society if given the same opportunities as others.

This regional seminar will be open to members of the 12+ Group. The topics on the agenda will be introduced by Members of Parliament, experts and representatives of international and regional human rights bodies. The emphasis will be on discussion, with a view to allowing ample time for a free exchange of views. English and French interpretation will be provided.

Please find enclosed a registration form, which we invite your Parliament to return to the BGIPU Secretariat no later than **20 March 2009**. In this regard, we should inform you that the conference room in the House of Commons has limited seating capacity, which is why we kindly request your Parliament to limit its delegation to a maximum of three people, including advisers and secretaries.

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Lastly, we would like to point out that participants should handle all matters relating to their visas, hotel accommodation and transportation. To facilitate hotel bookings, we enclose a reservation form which participants may wish to use. Please note that both forms, along with the provisional programme of the seminar and other relevant documents, will be posted on the IPU website shortly.

We look forward to the participation of your Parliament in the Seminar.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Roger Berry MP
Chair, IPU British Group

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General

Encl.: Provisional Programme
Registration form
Hotel reservation form