



On the occasion of the 14th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD

**Disabled Peoples' International
&
Sasakawa Health Foundation**

In partnership with
**Permanent Mission of Japan, Permanent Mission of India, Permanent Mission of Portugal,
Permanent Mission of Brazil and Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy**

invite you to attend the side-event on

“Work and Employment Situation of Persons Affected by Leprosy amid the Coronavirus Pandemic and Efforts to Resolve the Challenges They Face”

**Date: Friday, 18th June, 2021
Time: 8:30 to 9:45 AM (EST-New York)**

Register here to get the link to the side-event (webinar): <https://webinar.virtualmnc.com/dpi-shf>

The objective of the side-event is to deepen the discussion among various actors on Article 27 of the CRPD with particular reference to the estimated 3-4 million people living with visible impairments or disabilities due to Leprosy. Through this side-event, we aim to ensure the inclusion of socio-economic concerns of people affected by Leprosy in the larger disability agenda for ‘Building Back Better’ amid the ‘COVID-19 response and recovery’ and the need for States to provide equal work, employment and livelihood opportunities for them to ‘live independently’ and be ‘included into the community’. Specifically, the side-event seeks to share the current situation and experiences of persons affected by Leprosy who have lost their livelihoods and face difficulties during the current pandemic and to also, come up with practical approaches (programme and policy level) on how supporting organizations and governments can work together to promote the financial independence of persons affected by Leprosy to ensure that ‘No One is Left Behind’!

Moderator: Mr. Brent Morgan, International Director, The Leprosy Mission International

Opening Remarks: Representatives of Permanent Mission of Brazil, India and Portugal (tbc)

Key Note Address: Ms. Alice Cruz, UN Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by Leprosy and their families

Panel Discussion:

- *Testimonies from persons affected by Leprosy:*
 - Mr. Sachin Vasant Kambale, Saksham Kushthantey Swabhimani Sansthan, India
 - Mr. Francisco Faustino Pinto, Movement for the Reintegration of Persons Affected by Hansen’s Disease, Brazil
- *Perspective from the disability sector:* Advocate Pankaj Sinha, Member Core Group on Leprosy, Disabled Peoples’ International
- *Perspective from supporting organizations:*
 - Dr. Nanri Takahiro, Executive Director, Sasakawa Health Foundation and Vice Chair, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy
 - Mr. Geoff Warne, CEO, International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations

Closing Remarks: H.E. Ambassador Mr. Kimura Tetsuya, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations
(Event will be hosted in English. Captioning, International Sign and simultaneous interpretation in Portuguese, Spanish & Hindi will be provided.)