

UN Expert Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: UK candidature

Following an open selection process, Diane Mulligan OBE, has been selected by the Minister for Disabled People, Maria Miller, as the UK candidate to run for election to become a member of the Expert Committee on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Diane and the Minister agreed that given the number of strong candidates already in the field for the Committee elections in September 2010, they would work towards a UK candidacy in the next election round, which will be in 2012.

Diane is currently Programme Development Advisor at Sightsavers International with a global disability and human rights remit. Her work has a particular emphasis on implementation of the UN Convention. In the UK she is a member of Equality 2025 and the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Disability Committee, where she leads on human rights issues and the Convention. Diane has extensive domestic and international experience of disability, social inclusion and human rights issues.

Commenting on her decision, Maria Miller said

“We had a very strong field to choose from, which reflects the depth of experience and expertise that we have in the UK on disability and human rights issues.

I am delighted that Diane Mulligan has agreed to be the UK candidate. UN Committee elections are highly competitive and given the number of candidates that have already entered for September this year, I have agreed with Diane that we will work towards her candidature for the next election round in 2012.

Working with disabled people's organisations and others over the next 2 years will give us the opportunity to strengthen our alliances and maximise the chances of her success. That is part and parcel of our long-term commitment to working with disabled people on the Convention in order to make their rights a reality both domestically and internationally”.

Diane Mulligan commented "I am delighted that the new Minister for Disabled People is supporting a positive and strategic approach to my potential election in 2012. As a disabled woman I am personally committed to working with disabled people and their organisations in the planning the election campaign and activities over the next few years."