

The **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is an **international human rights treaty** of the **United Nations** intended to protect the rights and dignity of persons with **disabilities**. Parties to the Convention are required to promote, protect, and ensure the full enjoyment of **human rights** by persons with disabilities and ensure that they enjoy full **equality under the law**. The Convention has served as the major catalyst in the global movement from viewing persons with disabilities as objects of charity, medical treatment and social protection towards viewing them as full and equal members of society, with human rights. It is also the only UN human rights instrument with an explicit **sustainable development** dimension. The Convention was the first human rights treaty of the third millennium.

The text was adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly** on 13 December 2006, and opened for signature on 30 March 2007. Following ratification by the 20th party, it came into force on 3 May 2008. As of July 2016, it has 116 signatories and 116 parties, including 115 states and the **European Union** (which ratified it on 23 December 2010 to the extent responsibilities of the member states were transferred to the European Union). In December 2012, a vote in the United States Senate fell six votes short of the two-thirds majority required for ratification. The Convention is monitored by the **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.