

Title: Valuing diversity and disability: why representation matters

Abstract.

The UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) affirms the right of disabled people to participate in society on an equal basis to others. However most countries are a long way from providing equal opportunities for people with disabilities, with many deaf and disabled people lagging behind others on key socio-economic indicators of well-being.

Mojo Mathers will draw on her experiences as NZ's first deaf member of parliament and her journey into politics to illustrate the impact disability representation in politics can have and its potential for transformative change.

She will discuss how valuing and embracing diversity and disability representation in decision making, particularly in politics, can lead not only to better outcomes for deaf and disabled people but to changes that benefit everyone.