

Announcement: Event & Bilateral and Multilateral Expert Consultations on Trafficking in Persons and Disabilities

New York, NY (March 19-20, 2025) and Online (Spring 2025)

Note that accessibility requests will be accommodated for all who wish to participate

Please join the Duke University School of Law [International Human Rights Clinic](#) for an event and consultations to support the work of the [U.N. Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and girls](#), and the [U.N. Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities](#) in their ongoing work on the connections between trafficking and the rights of persons with disabilities.

Who?

We invite civil society organizations, social movements, affected persons, and other stakeholders who work on and/or are impacted by **the rights of persons with disabilities and/or trafficking in persons**, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, servitude, slavery and slavery-like practices, forced marriage, forced begging, and other similar practices to attend the event and meet with us.

When?

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 10:30–11:30am; United Nations Secretariat Building, located at 405 East 42nd Street, New York, NY, 10017, in Room S-1522 (on the 15th Floor) and [online via MS Teams](#)

- Event with the [U.N. Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and girls](#), Professor [Siobhán Mullaly](#) and the Duke University School of Law [International Human Rights Clinic](#)

Wednesday, March 19 and Thursday, March 20, 2025 in New York, NY

- Consultations with civil society organizations, social movements, affected persons, and other stakeholders, alongside the Commission on the Status of Women.
- For those who will not be in New York in March, we will organize online conversations throughout Spring 2025.

Why?

Persons with disabilities are [disproportionately affected](#) by trafficking, with women and girls with disabilities especially at risk. Also, victims of trafficking may acquire new and/or additional disabilities

because of being trafficked. Despite this, there is little documentation of the connections between trafficking and the rights of persons with disabilities. As a result, measures to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and provide effective remedies are lacking and there is impunity for traffickers. These meetings will seek to better understand, especially from those with lived experience, some of the following issues:

- What patterns of trafficking do persons with disabilities experience?
- How does trafficking in persons lead to disabilities?
- What factors prevent trafficking victims with disabilities from accessing support and remedies?
- How can we ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are respected, protected, and fulfilled in the context of anti-trafficking approaches?
- What efforts are civil society organizations—especially organizations of persons with disabilities and organizations that work to address the connections between trafficking and the rights of persons with disabilities—engaged in currently?

Format

The event with the [U.N. Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and girls](#), Professor [Siobhán Mullaly](#) and the Duke University School of Law [International Human Rights Clinic](#) will include brief presentations on current and ongoing work on the connections between trafficking and the rights of persons with disabilities.

These consultations will be carried out by Duke University School of Law [International Human Rights Clinic](#) faculty and students in bilateral or multilateral formats. The consultations will be held “on background”: our team will use the information we gather, but we will not identify the sources of that information. Likewise, we will not make public who participated in the consultations.

We will accommodate accessibility requests for both the event and the consultations.

Outcomes

The event, consultations, and additional research will inform the work of the [U.N. Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and girls](#) and the [U.N. Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities](#). This work will also contribute to a briefing paper and event, to be held in June 2025 at the 18th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ([COSP 18](#)).

Next steps

If you plan to attend the **event** with the [U.N. Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and girls](#) and the Duke University School of Law [International Human Rights Clinic](#), an RSVP is **required** [using our online form](#). You can also access the form by typing the following URL into your internet browser: <https://forms.office.com/r/NQnxfh3Skc>. *Please note that a United Nations grounds*

pass is required to attend this event. When prompted, please indicate on the RSVP form whether you need the event organizers to acquire a grounds pass (special event ticket) for you and ensure that you provide your full name as printed in an government-issued ID. A valid and original ID will be required to enter the United Nations, and the ticket can be used solely for the purpose of the event.

To participate in the **consultations**, please contact us in one of the three following ways:

1. Reach out to us via email at ihrc@law.duke.edu. In the email, please include: (1) your name, (2) if you are part of a particular organization, (3) a brief note about your interest in meeting with us, and (4) any accommodations we can make to ensure the meetings are fully accessible to you.
2. Reach out to us by SMS at +1-919-229-5656. In your SMS, please include: (1) your name, (2) if you are part of a particular organization, (3) a brief note about your interest in meeting with us, and (4) any accommodations we can make to ensure the meetings are fully accessible to you. Please note that this phone number only works for SMS, not for WhatsApp, Signal, or other messaging applications.
3. Fill out our [online form](#). It will ask you to input similar information. You can also access the form by typing the following URL into your internet browser: <https://forms.office.com/r/wruKGF9X49>.