
The functional family in the CRPD

Liora Roffman*¹

¹PhD Program (BIU) – Israel

Abstract

On December 13, 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The adoption marked a historical event which symbolized in many ways the acceptance of people with disabilities into the family of the "human being." The intensive involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the drafting process, led to the clear dominance of the social model in the construction of the convention's discourse. The combination between the social model and existing liberal human rights narratives focused on the dominance of accomplishing and stressing the autonomy of persons with disabilities. In my paper I shall examine the effect this conceptual comprehension of autonomy had on the representation of the family within the CRPD. As shall be presented the family's role of care and support was systematically reduced and devalued throughout the drafting process of the convention, because it was seen to represent the comprehension of the dependent and vulnerable person with a disability. The direct outcome of this process is a minimal presentation of the family in the convention and its construction as a functional vessel in the service of persons with disabilities. I shall examine the outcomes of this construction and effect it has on the conception of persons with disabilities within the convention and its outcomes on the process of implementation.

Keywords: family, CRPD, human rights, autonomy

*Speaker