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# The emergence of the public problems of invalidity and blindness at international scale (1918-1939).

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## Abstract

This statement aims to explain how the questions related to infirmity in general (disability related to the war, blindness, deafness, etc) are built as public problems at international scale during the interwar period. I want to analyze the role of many protagonists who contribute to the appearance of these public problems on the international public stage : intergovernmental organizations (League of Nations, International Labour Organization, Health Organization), ONGs, representatives employers', trade-union representatives. We will study the transnational advocacy networks specialized on the questions related to infirmity, the rights which they defend. We will also study the negotiations and the conflicts which emerge between all the concerned people. How do the transnational advocacy networks manage to impose some questions related to infirmity on the agenda of the international organizations ? With wich arguments ?

To answer these questions, we carried out research in the archives of the League of Nations, and the International Labour Organization, but also in the associative press and the acts of international congresses.

This research enabled us to note that only the questions related to disabled ex-serviceman, victims of work and blinds are truly studied in-depth by the international organizations (League of Nations, ILO) during this period. Only the rights of some categories of disabled people (disabled ex-serviceman, victims of work, blinds) are legitimated by international recommendations during the 1920's and 1930's. Other questions (deafness, mental deficiency) are not studied in-depth, in spite of the mobilization of some ONG and governmental representatives. Some factors slow down the internationalization of the rights of the various categories of disabled people: the weak legitimation of the rights of these categories of disabled person on the national scale; the weak support of ONG; the opposition of the representative employers'; the weak support of the governments.

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