CRPD Committee 15th Session side event

**Independent Living and Inclusive Communities  
for Persons with Intellectual and Psychosocial Disabilities:  
Solutions and Challenges from Europe and Africa**

**Date:**  Wednesday 6 April 2016  
**Time:** 9am - 9:45am  
**Venue:**  Ground Floor Conference Room, Palais Wilson, Geneva  
**Organiser:** Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (MDAC)

**Partners:** Mental Health Uganda (MHU)  
FORUM for Human Rights  
Mental Disability Rights Initiative of Serbia (MDRI-S)  
Human Rights Watch

*How can Governments ensure that persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities are fully included and can participate in the life of their communities? What does it mean for States to “recognize” their equal right to live in the community? How can the problems of long-term institutionalisation, trans-institutionalisation, abandonment and social isolation be tackled?*

**You are warmly invited to this side event which will draw on the combined knowledge and expertise of DPOs and NGOs operating in Moldova, Serbia, Slovakia, Uganda and internationally.**

Speakers:

* **Catalina Devandas**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Chair
* **Oana Gîrlescu**, Lawyer, MDAC. “Moldova: Successes and challenges in deinstitutionalisation”
* **Derrick Kizza**, Executive Director, MHU. “Uganda: Peer support, micro-finance and preventing abuse”
* **Miroslav Cangár**, FORUM: “Slovakia: Measuring quality in community-based services”
* **Dragana Ciric Milovanovic**, Director, MDRI-S. “Tackling the problem of trans-institutionalisation”
* **Emina Ćerimović**, Researcher, Human Rights Watch. “Deinstitutionalisation of children with disabilities”
* **Steven Allen**, Campaigns Director, MDAC. “Minimum State obligations under Article 19 – law, policy, practice”

Presentations will last for 20mins in total, following which discussion is warmly invited.

*The event will have live captioning and sign language interpretation. Light refreshments will be provided.*