

Module 1 – Activity 2. Objectives and expectations.

Handout 1 - Safak Pavey’s perspective on the importance of working with persons with disabilities in forced displacement

Link to the video statement: <https://youtu.be/npYMeQaHX3g>

Transcript of the video statement

Hi, my name is Safak Pavey, and it’s a great pleasure to get together with you through this e-learning video on working with persons with disabilities in forced displacement.

The challenging contexts within which you all work is familiar to me as a former staff member of UNHCR, and a member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is a United Nations monitoring body of independent experts to monitor implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the state parties which ratified it.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force in 2008, reinforces that persons with disabilities are rights holders capable of claiming their rights, of making decisions in their own lives, and of playing an active role--- independently and fully--- in their own communities. UNHCR’s work with persons with disabilities is guided by the principles of this Convention, which is respecting the dignity and autonomy of persons with disabilities, ensuring non-discrimination, full participation and inclusion in society, and promoting accessibility and equality of opportunity.

UNHCR has committed to ensuring that the rights of persons with disabilities are met without discrimination in all aspects of operations. The UNHCR Executive Committee Conclusion on persons with disabilities requires UNHCR and its partners to “protect and assist refugees and other persons with disabilities against all forms of discrimination and provide sustainable and appropriate support in addressing all their needs”. This learning programme will help all staff to meet their responsibilities in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in their work with refugees and other persons of concern.

Refugee girls, boys, women and men, and other persons of concern with disabilities can be agents of change in their own communities. UNHCR and partners have an important role to play in ensuring that these opportunities are realized.

I would like to thank you once again for all your humanitarian efforts and contributions in realizing human rights for all. [END OF VIDEO TRANSCRIPT]