



A photograph of a grand, classical building with a prominent clock tower. The building features a portico with several columns and a wide set of steps leading to the entrance. The clock tower is tall and slender, with a clock face visible. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The text "THE IVORY TOWER" is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters at the top. Below it, the text "and the real world" is overlaid in a smaller, bold, yellow font. In the foreground, a person in a red jacket is sitting on a wheelchair on the steps, and another person is walking up the steps. A few other people are visible near the entrance.

THE IVORY TOWER

and the real world

The Ivory Tower and the Real World

**Academia
and the**

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Overview

- Why?
- How?
- Can?

WHY?

Why this topic?

WHY?

Why now?

- Disability studies 1990s
- CRPD
 - Utopia / transformative possibilities
 - Tool for change



WHY?

Why us?

- Disabled people and their organisations
- Expertise
- Neutrality

HOW?

Research

HOW?

Research

Possible contributions

- Ideas and Interpretation
- Data gathering and monitoring
- Critical reflection and analysis
- Emancipation and Social Change

HOW?

Research

Working with Other Academics

- Inter-disciplinarity
- Inter-institutionality
- Inter-nationality
- Organising focus / ideology

HOW?

Research

Relationship with disabled peoples organisations



HOW?

Research

Relationship with disabled peoples organisations

- Ideas and Issues
- Agenda setting, design, methods, analysis
- Dissemination

HOW?

Teaching

Possible contributions

- Raising student awareness,
understanding and interest
- Widening discipline boundaries
- Providing opportunities for specialisation

HOW?

Teaching

Working with other academics

- Inter – disciplinary specialist programmes
- Mainstreaming

HOW?

Teaching

Working with Disabled People and their Organisations

- Perspectives
- Interaction and exchanges

HOW?

Academic Infrastructure

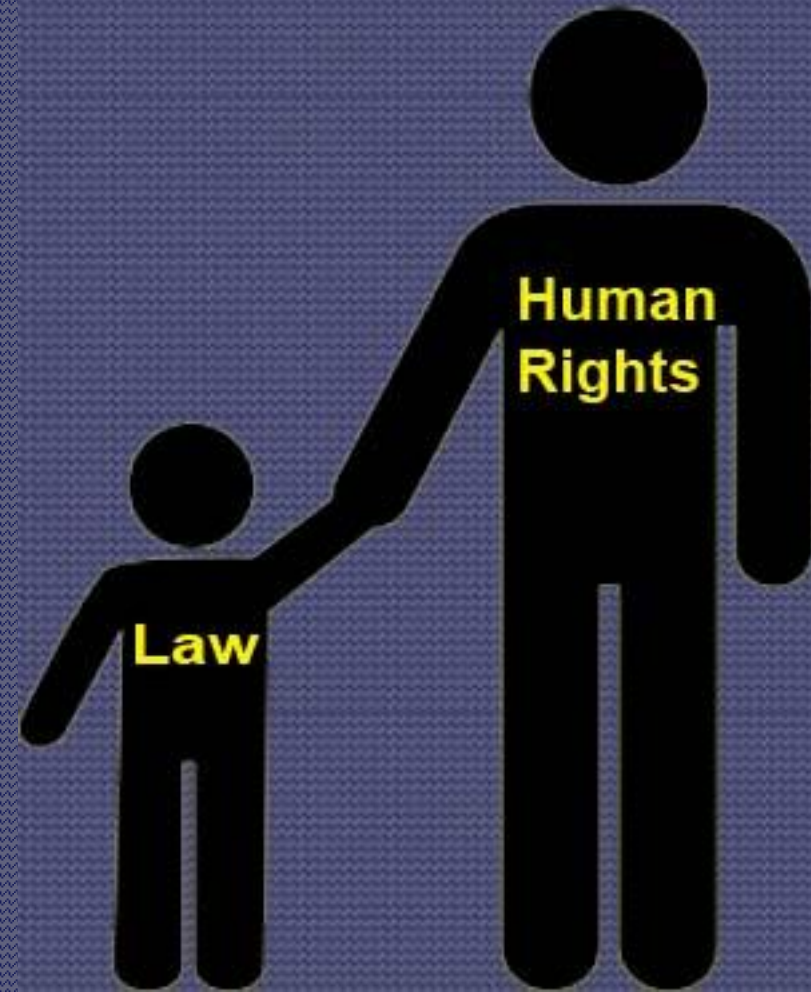
- Addressing internal disabling barriers
- Centralising budgets for support and reasonable accommodation costs
- Enabling inter-disciplinarity
- Valuing activism

CAN?

Can the CRPD work?

Doubts of the sceptics

Reasons to hope



CAN?

Can We Help?

- Recognising our potential
- Practising humility
- Valuing partnership

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