



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

CENTRE FOR DISABILITY STUDIES

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CALL FOR PAPERS FOR UWI CENTRE FOR DISABILITY STUDIES REGIONAL DISABILITY STUDIES CONFERENCE 2024

Work and employment are entrenched rights under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, established in 2006,¹ yet, these rights of persons with disabilities are consistently violated in society. Inaccessible workplaces; negative attitudes towards the employment of persons with disabilities; unavailability of modern technologies for persons with disabilities and ignorance on the part of employers are a number of the manifestations of the violations of the work and employment rights of persons with disabilities.²

These societal factors have contributed to a significant portion of the population of persons with disabilities being unemployed. Data on work and employment of persons with disabilities in the Caribbean is pointing to between 80-90 per cent of this population being unemployed.³ Such high levels of unemployment of persons with disabilities contribute to these individuals being among the poorest in the region.

Modern assistive technologies have been developed to facilitate the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in the workplace. The advancement and development of these technologies have increased exponentially due to the process of globalization. It is what has been postulated as 'glabilitization' by Floyd Morris in an article titled "Prospects for Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the Post-Covid 19 Era."⁴

Undoubtedly, persons with disabilities can make significant contributions to the labour market. What is required is a greater understanding of their needs and what must be done to facilitate their participation and inclusion. It is within this context that the Sixth Regional Disability Studies Conference of the Centre for Disability Studies will focus on the employment of persons with disabilities.

¹ United Nations. 2006. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Retrieved from www.un.org

² Morris, F. 2017. *By Faith, Not by Sight*. I-Published Jamaica. Kingston.

³ ECLAC. 2017. *Disability, Human Rights and Public Policy*. Port of Spain, Trinidad, and Tobago: United Nations.

⁴ Morris, F. 2021. *Prospects for the Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the Post-COVID-19 Era in Developing Countries*. *Disability and Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2021.1932757>

The theme for the conference is *“Employment Creation: The Path to Sustainable Development of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean.”* Indeed, for persons with disabilities to be meaningfully included in Caribbean society, employment creation must play a foundational role. This Call therefore, is for individuals to submit papers on the various topics on employment below, for presentation at the conference to be held on **April 16-17, 2024** at The UWI Regional Headquarters.

The topics for discussion will include:

- Current Trends in Legislation and the Employment of Persons with Disabilities
- Employment and Persons with Disabilities in the Public Sector
- Employment and Persons with Disabilities in the Private Sector
- Sheltered Workshops and Persons with Disabilities
- Preparing Persons with Disabilities for Employment in the Labour Market
- Incentivizing the Public and Private Sectors for Employing Persons with Disabilities
- Self-Employment: Is it the Perfect Response for the Employment of Persons with Disabilities
- Reasonable Accommodation and the Employment of Persons with Disabilities
- Medical Redundancy: Is it the Best Response to a Person who has Developed a Disability at the Workplace?
- Assistive Technologies and the Employment of Persons with Disabilities
- Remote Work: Is it the Future of Employment for Persons with Disabilities?

Individuals from academia, the community of persons with disabilities, civil society, government, or the private sector are invited to submit papers for this conference. Interested individuals should submit a 300 words abstract on the selected topic by **January 31, 2024**. Individuals will be notified by the end of February 2024 if their abstract were selected for the conference. Individuals whose abstract have been selected, are expected to submit the complete paper by the end of **March 2024**. The Chicago Style Manual should be used in referencing all works in the document.

Presenters will have 15-minutes to present at the conference. The best papers presented at the conference, will be selected for a peer-reviewed book that will emanate from the conference and this book will be published in 2025. Presenters, who are selected to have their papers published in the peer-reviewed book, will have no more than two months to finalize and resubmit to the editor of the manuscript, so that the document can be formatted and submitted to the publisher.

All documents should be sent to morrisfloyd@gmail.com and copied to uwicdsconference@gmail.com. For any further questions, please email to the above-mentioned addresses or WhatsApp 876 322 0301 or visit the website of the Centre for Disability Studies at <http://cds.mona.uwi.edu/> .