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Submission to:

Committee Secretary

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

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Submitted by:

Coral Arnold

I write to urge the Australian Government to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty so as to remove the discrimination suffered by me and blind and low vision associates.

My vision loss began at age 3 and for me further education has been a very difficult process, largely caused by a lack of accessible material.

While the digital age has greatly improved my access to print, still today much material is sadly unavailable and I am left out of many areas of normal society - such as book groups and other social bodies that use material that is not available to me in this country. I spend a lot of time attempting to find material I need in a format useful to me, only to find that access in this country is denied.

After 66 years, it is intolerable that this treatment of my disability group still persists. The sharing of global resources needed by the blind and low vision community is a MUST for today's world.

Coral Arnold