

NSW
YOUNG LAWYERS
A Fresh Perspective

Kelvin Thomson MP
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

1 July 2008

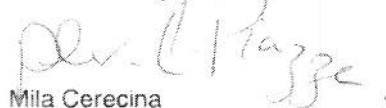
Dear Mr Thomson,

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities represents a landmark in human rights protection. It is the first major human rights convention of the 21st century and, as the United Nations explains, promotes human rights from a "*disability perspective*" by moving away from treating the disabled as an object of protection to empowering the disabled as subjects and human rights holders.

The Human Rights Committee of the New South Wales Young Lawyers applauds the Australian Government for its recognition and support for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as one of its earliest signatories and strongly recommends that the Government now move to ratify the Convention. Ratification of the Convention is a unique opportunity for Australia to demonstrate its leadership in the protection of the human rights of the disabled. Ratification by July 2008, moreover, will enable Australia to participate in the Convention's Conference of States Parties in November this year, when the first members to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be elected.

Accordingly, the Human Rights Committee of the New South Wales Young Lawyers respectfully urges the Australian Government to further its commitment to the protection of the rights of the disabled by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a matter of urgency.

Your Sincerely,



Mila Cerecina
Chair, Human Rights Committee
NSW Young Lawyers