INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY ALLIANCE (IDA)
Member Organisations:
Disabled Peoples' International, Down Syndrome International, Inclusion International,
International Federation of Hard of Hearing People,
World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf,
World Federation of the DeafBlind,
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry,
Arab Organization of Disabled People, European Disability Forum,
Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with
Disabilities and their Families, Pacific Disability Forum

IDA submission to the Human Rights Committee on the right to vote
of persons with disabilities in Belize, 107th session

BELIZE
Belize ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 2 June 2011
but has not signed nor ratified its Optional Protocol.

Articles 2, 16, 25, 26 ICCPR
There is an exclusion from the right to vote and stand for election inscribed in Belize's
Constitution and electoral law which is directed at persons with psychosocial
disabilities.


- Article 58, section (1) states, “No person shall be qualified to be elected as a
Member of the House of Representatives who...(c) is a person certified to be
insane or otherwise adjudged to be of unsound mind under any law.”
- Article 63, section (1) states, “No person shall be qualified to be appointed as a
Senator who...(d) is a person certified to be insane or otherwise adjudged to
be of unsound mind under any law.”

Representation of the People Act (1980, last revised 2000)

- Article 7 states, “A person shall be disqualified to be registered, or being
registered, to vote at an election and shall not be registered if such person
is...(c) certified to be insane or otherwise adjudged to be of unsound mind or is
a patient in any establishment maintained wholly or mainly for reception and
treatment of persons suffering from mental illness of mental defectiveness
by virtue of or under any law in force in Belize.”
Proposed Recommendations to the Government:

- Take steps to remove provisions from the Constitution and electoral law that exclude from the right to vote and to stand for election: persons "certified to be insane or otherwise adjudged to be of unsound mind under any law" (Articles 58(1)(c), 63(1)(d)), Constitution; Article 7, Representation of People Act) which is violation of Article 25, ICCPR and Article 29, CRPD and contrary to the latest international standards on political participation.

- Take steps to remove derogatory language to refer to persons with disabilities in the law and government policies and programmes, and eliminate the medical/welfare model of disability, and introduce a human rights based approach to disability.

- Take steps to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.