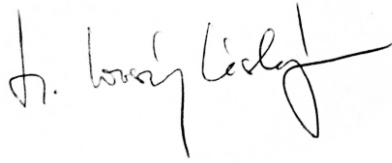


*I am ready to accept this challenge for a better,  
more sustainable world.*

*With the people with disabilities, by the people  
with disabilities and for the people with disabilities.*



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### *Statement of purpose*

## **László Gábor LOVÁSZY, Ph.D (1973)**

**Hungarian candidate for the Committee of CRPD (2012)**



*I'm an idealist without illusions.*

(John F. Kennedy)

I would be honoured to contribute to continuing the excellent work of the Committee of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In recent years, I have worked with the Hungarian delegates on the CRPD Committee and I have been struck by the quality of the work done there.



As a person with an 80% hearing disability (medically considered to be almost deaf), I am fully aware of the difficulties that people with disabilities face on a daily basis. In the past, not enough attention has been paid to people with communication disabilities. This is something, I feel, that should be remedied, especially given that, according to the WHO, the number of hard of hearing people is likely to grow rapidly due to the ageing of the world population.

As a trained lawyer with a Ph.D covering all aspects of disability legislation, I am also aware of the needs and rights of all persons with disabilities. Since completing my Ph.D, I have worked exclusively for disabled people. In my capacity as the professional adviser to Mr Ádám Kósa - the first deaf member of the European Parliament - I have developed close working knowledge of the international disability movement and its work. In this context, I have applied and implemented the notion of "nothing about us without us".

I believe that the main task of the CRPD is to further the achievement and development of all aspects of equal opportunities and anti-discrimination.



## As a Person with Disability

Having lost 80 % of my hearing at only a few days old, I am fully aware of the difficulties that people with disability face. Despite my hearing disability, I have been able to learn English to a high degree of proficiency. However, this has also heightened my sense of the obstacles that the hard of hearing and the deaf endure when communicating in a world in which the oral component of communication has taken on such importance. My disability has helped me to understand the obstacles confronted by people with other forms of disability but also that these difficulties can be surmounted in the appropriate barrier-free environment.



## As a Policy Analyser

In my Ph.D. work and papers published in various reviews and journals, I have compared and contrasted policy in the EU and the USA in general and I have also scrutinised the activities and legislation of the UN and other international bodies that have an influence on the disability movement. I have written in the major economics, law as well as labour market reviews and journals and have had articles accepted in a wide range of domains in Hungary. As a representative of the Committee on Rehabilitation and Integration of People with Disabilities (CD-P-RR) at the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, France) I was fortunate to gain experience in international cooperation and work.



## As a Researcher

In addition to my studies, I published around 20 papers and articles concerning the obstacles that disabled people must overcome in achieving the recognition of their human rights. These were often matters that I had had personal experience of. I enjoy research and the fact that I have published in some of the most respected and prestigious Hungarian reviews and journals has enabled me to enter into contact of a number of leading figures in the field in Hungary.

These include Ottó Czúcz, the judge delegated by Hungary to sit on the European Court of Justice. Professor Czúcz was also the supervisor of my thesis at the Faculty of Law at Szeged University in Hungary. I was also encouraged by professor György Köncei, who was kind enough to sit on the jury for my thesis in 2006. Professor Köncei was also the first Hungarian delegate to CRPD Committee. When working on the proof reading for the respected Hungarian edition of the Human rights - YES! - Action and Advocacy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (by J. E. Lord, K. N. Guernsey, J.M. Balfe & V. L. Karr and N. Flowers, editor, Human Rights Resource Center, 2007), I also collaborated closely with Mr Gábor Gombos, the second delegate to the Committee in 2009.



## As an Administrator in Public Service

Having worked for many years as a civil servant, I am aware of how ministries and departments operate. Between 2001–2008, I worked on a number of disability related dossiers and projects at the Ministry of Labour in Hungary. I first worked as a legal specialist at the Disability and Rehabilitation Unit. During this time, I was partly responsible for organising the meetings of the Hungarian National Disability Council (2001–2005) in addition to contributing to the drafting of legislation relevant to people with disabilities. Later, I was partly responsible for evaluating and programming EU structural funds projects related to the interests of people with disabilities. Between 2008–2009, I worked for the department responsible for state budget planning and programming as well as the financial evaluation of public spending at the Ministry of National Development. This experience provided me with very useful experience in the field of public expenditure and the formulation of state policies in times of budgetary rigour.



## As a Teacher

Alongside my daily work, I have followed developments in the disability movement closely and have been able to share my experience and understanding of disability with others. I have lectured at the Bárczi Gusztáv College of Special Education, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest as a guest speaker for many years and I have also given seminars to students in other educational programmes in cooperation with a number of civil organisations. I enjoy stimulating interest in the challenges associated with disability and like to emphasise that disability is something that all individuals are likely to face, sooner or later, as they age.



## As an Adviser to a Member of the European Parliament

As the first disabled adviser (with hearing impairment) to a member of the European Parliament (EP) I started working at the EU institutions in 2009. I was particularly gratified to have been selected to assist the rapporteur responsible for drawing up the report on the mobility and inclusion of people with disability within the framework of the European Disability Strategy 2010–2020. This report was finally adopted by a very large majority in the EP. During the first weeks of 2011, I took part in organizing an innovative and successful exhibition on disability that covered arts-employment-human rights. This entailed bringing mentally disabled artists works from Hungary to the EP. I also contributed to writing and editing a book on the event and was responsible, in particular, for presenting the relevant legislation in the field. Finally, last September, I delivered a presentation on disability and ageing in the EP in the presence of Commissioner Viviane Reding, Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioner László Andor responsible for social inclusion alongside several other distinguished experts on disability.

