

Enabling equality and economic empowerment for all women and girls - A Thought Leadership Roundtable around Gender and Disability

Tuesday, 5 March, 11:00 – 12:30
Room 11070, House1, GIZ Eschborn

In this session, two distinguished speakers will together spark a crucially important, energised, focused conversation, as we ask: ***would gender strategies have even greater impact if they were ‘disability confident’?***

Susan Scott-Parker and Kate Nash worked together for more than 20 years, enabling thousands of corporations to challenge the deep-rooted assumptions, the old brain thinking, that gets in the way when they set out to be truly barrier free.

The speakers:

1. Susan Scott-Parker OBE HonD, Founder and CEO of business disability international (bdi)

- Susan has a unique track record in mobilising business behind the economic and social inclusion of people with disabilities
- Coined the language and concept of ‘Disability Confidence’ – which sets out the 4 critical success factors unpinning the best practice which works to the mutual benefit of business, persons with disabilities and the global economy.
- Special advisor to the ILO Global Business and Disability Network, founder of the world’s first business disability network
- Steering group member of the Global Action on Disability Network; founded the Global Procurement Taskforce co-chaired by Infosys and EDF Energy.

Look at the website: <https://www.businessdisabilityinternational.org/>

2. Kate Nash, CEO PurpleSpace

- Kate has had a distinguished career as a leader of the disability rights movement, as a senior director in a large NGO, as a strategic advisor to the first business-disability network (BDF) and as a highly successful social entrepreneur.
- Has deep experience of disability as it impacts both the multinational business community and the public sector and of course, as it impacts human beings.
- Founded and leads PurpleSpace, the world’s only such learning hub that brings members of disabled employee networks together - to the mutual benefit of their employers and the individuals.
- She has led pioneering work enabling senior women executives who have a disability, to develop their personal disability confidence in a way, which enables both their careers and their wider contribution.

Look at the website: <https://www.purplespace.org/>

Description of the event:

- **One in five women globally live with disability, about 80% of them in the global south**
- **In Zambia, 24% of households have a disabled adult.**
- **How many of these adults are cared for by a woman?**

Join us as we explore how mainstream gender programmes would generate even greater return on investment, if they were grounded in a concrete understanding of the substantial impact which disability has on the life chances of hundreds of millions of non-disabled women, as well as its profound impact on the lives of girls and women with disabilities.

How do we ensure that our work is informed by an understanding of the lived experience of the hundreds of millions of women now excluded not because they have a disability, but because they must care for disabled children and grandchildren, and disabled elders and others. What is the impact on a woman and her family when a child is born with a disability - and when that child remains dependent into adulthood due to the disability related barriers that surround them?

Why are companies like Barclays, GSK and others investing in listening to their customers and their colleagues with disabilities? How does learning directly from people with disabilities generate added value to a business?

What works when large complex organisations seek to deliver best practice as employers and providers of goods and services - and how does this best practice add value for the business? What would a Disability Confidence GIZ look like?

Guiding questions:

- What are good examples regarding the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in the business or development sector?
- How do our approaches and work consider the wider contexts of the intersection between disability and gender (e.g. caring responsibilities of women and girls for disabled family members)
- Can Disability Confidence really add value to GIZ's Gender Strategy?
- How can potentials of digitalization be used to promote the economic empowerment of women with disabilities?