



Disability History and Awareness Month 2023

Pratima Gurung

Pratima Gurung is a renowned indigenous disability rights activist based in Nepal. She serves as an expert on the Disability National Direction Committee for the Government of Nepal and is a founding member and currently General Secretary of Indigenous Person with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN) and National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN).



An essential aspect of her work is highlighting the intersectionality of disability with other factors such as sex, economic status, geographic location, race, and ethnicity. The impacts and experiences people have with disability vary wildly depending on how these factors come into play; a child may have limited care options if born in a rural community that may not have access to more medical staff; specific disabilities present differently depending on a person's sex; people with lesser economic status may not have the same access to treatment and so on.

These factors can, of course, compound for a disabled individual. Those additional factors don't necessarily assign value judgments for that person, just like someone's disability shouldn't. However, she believed that it's crucial to look at all aspects of a person holistically because when we think about what disability means and what it means to be disabled, it's important to carefully consider how that might impact different groups of people.

Profiles by Andrew Caruana, Policy and Research Intern, Office of Senator Sara Gelser Blouin
Andrew is a Junior at Willamette University studying philosophy. He is a lifelong Oregonian and has cerebral palsy.

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