Global Heumann Fellowship
WID

From Research to Impact:
The Global Heumann Fellowship 2024-2025 Cohort Showcase

December 10th, 2025

11:00 AM Eastern US
Click here for your time zone

Virtual (Link upon registration)

Join us to Celebrate International Human Rights Day

Join us for an inspiring **virtual event** celebrating the remarkable achievements of the inaugural cohort of the **Global Heumann Fellowship**—an initiative sparked by the lasting legacy of Judy Heumann, co-founder of the World Institute on Disability (WID).

Over a transformative twelve-month period from July 2024 to June 2025, these visionary **disability leaders** undertook rigorous, regionally focused research projects aimed at advancing accessibility, inclusion, and disability justice. This event will spotlight the research insights, innovations, and community-driven findings that emerged from the first cohort—and introduce the next wave of Fellows who are ready to carry this vital work forward.

To ensure accessibility, **ASL interpretation** and live **English CART captioning** will be provided. If you have any other accommodation needs please email WIDSupport@wid.org.

Dr. Munir Sewani, Pakistan

Open Educational Resources & Disability Inclusion

Global Heumann Fellow **Dr. Munir Sewani's** research examines how **Open Educational Resources (OER)** can transform higher education access for **adult learners with disabilities** in Pakistan and beyond. Drawing on lived experiences, narrative interviews, and a semi-systematic global review, the research uncovers the social, academic, and technological barriers that keep learners with disabilities stuck as passive consumers rather than active contributors of knowledge. It also outlines the **global promise of OER**—accessible formats, open licensing, collaboration, and culturally adaptable content—while exposing the persistent gaps in awareness, accessibility, digital poverty, and inclusive design. Join us as Munir shares practical, equity-driven **solutions for building OER ecosystems** where learners with and without disabilities can create, share, and shape knowledge together.

Monitoring human rights doesn't work unless disabled people lead the way.

Global Heumann Fellow **Dr. Robbie Francis Watene** reveals how countries are approaching their obligations under **Article 33.3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**. Through interviews with disabled leaders across **11 countries**, the research uncovers both promising practices and persistent barriers—underfunding, limited political will, exclusion, and outdated disability frameworks. Grounded in disability justice and lived experience, join us as she presents **actionable recommendations** for governments, Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), and global partners to strengthen accountability and ensure monitoring is truly **by us, for us, with us**. As one participant put it: "When we stay silent, nothing will happen."

Robbie Watene, New Zealand

Kasim Rashid Sajjabi, MSc, Uganda

Inclusive Participation in Uganda's Oil Sector

Uganda's rapidly expanding **oil and gas industry** promises national economic growth — but for people with disabilities in oil-hosting districts like Buliisa and Mubende, that promise remains out of reach. Global Heumann Fellow **Kasim Rashid Sajjabi's** research uncovers the structural, cultural, and economic barriers that keep **people with disabilities excluded from employment, leadership, and decision-making in the petroleum sector**. Through interviews, focus groups, and community testimony, the research surfaces stories of resilience, discrimination, and unmet opportunity, while outlining actionable reforms that would make the industry more equitable and inclusive. Join us as we explore the findings and discuss what **true disability-inclusive development** requires in Uganda's emerging oil economy.

Ways to Register for Global Heumann Fellowship Cohort Showcase

Scan the QR Code to register for the Global Heumann Fellowship Cohort Showcase

Use this **LINK** to register for the Global Heumann Fellowship Cohort Showcase