Huhanna Hickey transcript

Hallo everyone, my name is Dr Huhanna Hickey, I’m from New Zealand and I would like to take the opportunity as an indigenous woman who identifies as disabled, to talk a little bit about what does that mean, and in regards to empowerment of disabled women globally. For that means simply that I do not identify with disability in the same way that many in the Western communities do. It means that policy, proceeds, protocols, representation, all these, it just means we are almost excluded from the entire process. The government do not provide the funding, the support, the resources to get us involved in international events, unless it is in their whim or their desire to do so. Hence why the invisibility of the voice of indigenous people with disabilities, indigenous women in particular. So, for me, the barriers that exist for us, that are causing our disempowerment you would say, the only way to get around this is to get the disability community acknowledge and recognise the diversity in our communities that incorporate groups such as indigenous women, migrant women, refugee women, our children, refugees, survivors of those who were in dangerous warzones. We need to recognise those who are not part of the mainstream or the majority stream which is set within the Western context. If we can do that, we can start see true empowerment begin for women with disabilities, which will include all women. Thank you.