

DAGNACHEW WAKENE

Based at his hometown Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Dagnachew Bogale Wakene ('Dag') has been working for the past ten years as a disability researcher, educator, projects coordinator and advocate locally, regionally and internationally with a specific focus on Inclusive Development, Human Rights and Law.

Dag received his first Degree in Law (LL.B) from the Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia; and his second Degree is a Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) majoring in Rehabilitation, Disability and Development, which he completed at the University of Stellenbosch (Universiteit van Stellenbosch) in the Western Cape, South Africa. While doing his Masters studies, he served as a Research Assistant in an inter-regional, multi-partnership research initiative known as the African Policy on Disability and Development (APODD) – jointly led by the Centre for Rehabilitation Studies (CRS) at Stellenbosch University and the Trinity College Dublin (TCD) of Ireland. Since 2011, he has been working as a Research Associate at World ENABLED – a non-profit initiative created by persons with disabilities based in Berkeley, California. Over the past two years, Dagnachew has actively been involved as a Campaign Associate in the '*Post-2015 Development Agenda*' deliberations representing the disability cause and his continent at various regional and global forums, including the Conference of State Parties (CoSP) to the UNCRPD and the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, among others. He is also serving as a Board Member at the African Disability Alliance, formerly known as the Secretariat of African Decade of Persons with Disabilities.

Dagnachew has recently co-founded a new research consultancy firm named THISAbility Consulting®, aimed at bringing together emerging researchers with/without disabilities based in Africa in a bid to complement existing vast gaps in disability research across Africa. THISAbility would like to join hands with concerned research partners in advancing this cause.

Dagnachew is a Polio survivor – a condition he had contracted when he was only five months old. His writings and other contributions on different topics can be accessed online. One of Dag's immediate goals at present is to do his PhD in Disability Studies, and he is looking for pertinent opportunities to realize the same.

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