

This chapter has illustrated two areas of foreign policy where there has been less successful implementation of Canada's commitment to including disability as an area of human rights. The disability community may want to consider some of the successful actions taken by women's groups and poor people in the past years to raise the international profile of their issues when Canada's reports on implementing human rights treaties are considered at the United Nations. Two parallel strategies have been used with significant success in getting greater attention to their human rights concerns.

Several women's groups have written parallel, non-governmental reports to the official government report on implementation of a specific human rights treaty, documenting what they perceive to be the more complete story of implementation. For example, in 1990 the National Action Committee on the Status of Women submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, a report which document key areas in which the federal government had not lived up to its obligations under the Women's Convention. A Shadow Report was submitted in 1997 by a coalition of women's groups, also outlining weaknesses in implementation<sup>3</sup>. Most recently, the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA) drafted an alternative report on Canada's implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action on Women called *Toward Women's Equality: Canada's Failed Commitment* (see Stienstra forthcoming for a more complete discussion of these actions). In addition, they prepared *The Other Side of the Story* which analyzed the answers the government had given to the United Nations, highlighting where mountains have been made out of molehills,

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<sup>3</sup>These and other initiatives by women's groups are documented in Waldorf and Bazilli 2000.