



## The Global Disability Summit 2025 is censoring Gaza and Palestine: A Statement by the Disability Justice for Palestine Collective.

(February 11, 2025)--Since we released the [open letter to break the silence on Palestinians with disabilities in Gaza](#) last year, countless more Palestinians have been murdered, wounded and disabled by the Israeli Army. Thousands of children lost limbs, parents and siblings, and thousands of parents lost their children.

The collective Disability Justice for Palestine has countered the indifference of the disability rights community, [bringing Palestine to the UN Conference of State Parties to the CRPD](#) and the [CRPD Committee](#), collaborating with SR Albanese to [include the testimonies of Palestinians with disability into her reporting](#), and [demanding President Biden's action to protect Palestinians with disabilities](#).

Last month, we accompanied the Palestinian Disability Coalition in submitting a [side event to the 2025 Global Disability Summit](#), to be held in Berlin this coming April co-hosted by Germany, Jordan, and the International Disability Alliance (IDA). Centered around Palestinian testimonies of survival and resistance, the event *“[Taking Action for Disability Justice in Palestine](#)”* is organized in partnership with *the Government of Spain, the Palestinian Authority, UN-ESCWA, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Women Enabled International and several organizations of persons with disabilities.*

*Unfortunately, the event was rejected by the GDS hosts, and we have every reason to believe that Palestine was the cause of its rejection.* Members of our collective were told by the organizers that *the word “Genocide” would not be allowed at the GDS, nor “singling out Israel”* for its crimes in Gaza and against the Palestinian people. This was explicitly conveyed by IDA, one of the 3 co-hosts.

We have seen the list of 23 side events approved by the organizers, and *not one mentions Palestine or Gaza*. On the other hand, they considered *the situation of Ukrainians with disabilities as deserving not one but two events*—the only events dedicated to persons with disabilities in conflict.

*It is unacceptable that one of the most blatant crimes of our time, against the entire community of Palestinians with disabilities, is excluded from the agenda of the most important global convening on disability inclusive development.*

So together with the Palestinian Disability Coalition, *we decided to go ahead with the event despite the rejection by GDS organizers.* It will be fully virtual and will take place during the GDS week. *And we need your help to organize and promote it.*

The disability community must learn from the resilience of Palestinians with disabilities, and their struggle for survival and liberation. *If you plan to be at the GDS, we ask you to help us bring their plight into the discussions, joining the calls for humanitarian aid, but also for justice and accountability.* Without solidarity with their fight for freedom, our support for those surviving the war against Palestine will be incomplete.

**The Disability Justice for Palestine Collective.**