



## Sif Holst

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### ABOUT ME

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I am a civil rights advocate, a woman with a disability, focused on achieving solutions and releasing potentials by working together.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

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#### Vice-chairperson

***Disabled People's Organisations Denmark*** [ 24/04/2015 – Current ]

As vice-chair of the Danish disability umbrella I speak on behalf of persons with disabilities in Denmark and serve on a large number of boards, steering committees and other activities. I have extensive knowledge on physical accessibility and universal design, including a focus on transportation, on tourism for all and nature for all. Another key topic for me is equal access to health, but I have worked with most areas related to disability. Examples of current activities not listed below are projects on introducing universal design to engineers (DTU), architects (KADK) and designers (Design Kolding) and updating a White Paper on Rehabilitation.

#### Chairperson

***Knowledge Center on Disability*** [ 30/04/2022 – Current ]

The Knowledge Center on Disability is focused on ensuring that persons with disabilities can live active lives and can be a part of society. As vice chair I have especially been active when it comes to a project focusing on Nature for all. I have served as Vice-Chair since March 2019

#### Committee member

***European Economic and Social Committee*** [ 20/09/2020 – Current ]

I am the Vice President of Group 3, Civil Society Organisations and a member of the Bureau. I am Co-spokesperson Associational Life Category and furthermore serve on the sections on Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society (TEN) and on Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship (SOC). I am a member of the Ad Hoc Group on Equality and a member of the Thematic Group on Disability Rights. I have been the rapporteur on the opinion on Strengthening the role and independence of equality bodies. I have previously worked on a number of opinions, including: Gender lens investing as a way to improve gender equality in the EU, Solidarity for rare disease patients, New EU urban mobility framework, New European Bauhaus, Emerging stronger from the pandemic, and Strategy on the rights of persons with disabilities. Before becoming a member I served as an alternate since September 2013.

#### Boardmember

***The Danish Institute for Human Rights*** [ 12/10/2021 – Current ]

The institute is the independent national human rights institution as well as national equality body in relation to race and ethnicity and gender and the institute has a special role in the disability area where we promote and monitor the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. As board member I am a part of the governing body and have a central role when it comes to disability.

## **Chairperson**

***God Adgang*** [ 15/03/2018 – Current ]

The Danish Accessibility Association informs about the physical accessibility of buildings and outside areas. As chair I guide the work and the continued development of the Accessibility Scheme. Current key areas are the accessibility of the health sector and of the municipal level (which for example includes city halls, schools and sport facilities) and focus on Tourism for All and Nature for All.

## **Treasurer**

***Kvinderådet - Women's Council Denmark*** [ 26/03/2023 – Current ]

The Women's Council Denmark is a non-governmental umbrella organisation (NGO) for more than 40 organisations working to promote women's rights and gender equality in Denmark and globally. As treasurer, I work with the rest of the board to further our work. I also have a special attention on women with disabilities and other intersectional issues.

## **Council Member**

***Danish Health Technology Council*** [ 28/02/2021 – Current ]

The primary objective of the Danish Health Technology Council is to target Danish healthcare resources at the technologies and interventions that provide best value for money, across both physical and mental health services. As council member I focus on ensuring equality of health and bringing attention to vulnerable groups in the health care system, such as persons with a disability.

## **Chairperson**

***The Danish Disability Fund*** [ 31/08/2014 – Current ]

The Danish Disability Fund is administered by Disabled People's Organisations Denmark and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark. The Disability Fund is founded on a shared aim of realising the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and it supports cooperation between Danish Organisations of persons with disabilities and like-minded organisations in the Global South. And as chairperson I guide the grant committee and the continued organisation of the work, as well as participating in the examination of the applications.

## **Member**

***Danish Disabled Person's Air Travel Council*** [ 31/08/2014 – Current ]

Danish Disabled Person's Air Travel Council works to create better conditions for persons with disabilities travelling by air. Two of the topics I have focused on is the introduction of the Sunflower Scheme for persons with invisible disabilities and unlawful restrictions by airplanes regarding wheelchair size.

## **Committee Member**

***Nordic Council's Committee on Disability*** [ 31/03/2017 – Current ]

As appointed expert and committee member I council the Nordic Council on disability issues and the Committee can also raise issues and undertake initiatives. Most recently I am been a member of the project on new technology as a tool for increased inclusion of persons with disabilities on the labour market. Before becoming a member I have been an alternate from the beginning of the Committee in November 2013. On a Nordic level I am also a board member of the Disability Organisations Nordic Council.

## **Consultant**

***Mennesker & Mening*** [ 31/03/2020 – Current ]

A communication company focused on diversity and achieving an inclusive society. As consultant I support the CEO, my husband, in his work. Including work related to our joint book, "Lad os snakke om smerter" (let us talk about pain).

## **Candidate to the UN CRPD Committee**

[ 01/10/2020 – 14/06/2022 ]

As a candidate to the UN CRPD Committee I have worked closely with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and I got an in-depth understanding of the workings of the UN system, the other conventions, the offices, programmes and funds and autonomous organisations. For example the Convention on the Elimination on all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women and World Health Organisation (WHO). During the campaign I got to study and talk about a number of topics such as voting rights, the climate crisis, the need to focus on intersectionality and the need to learn from the lessons from the pandemic. Part of the activity has been online, but I have also been to New York on a number of occasions to talk to state parties and to talk to UN agencies, as well as extensive travels in Europe.

### **Boardmember**

**SUS Social Development Center** [ 18/05/2021 – 24/05/2022 ]

SUS is an independent nonprofit consultancy focusing on user driven social innovation in order to create better conditions of life for socially vulnerable people. An example is a project on the prevention of violence in connection with users of the healthcare or social sector.

### **Board member**

**CABI – Better work for all** [ 30/04/2017 – 30/03/2021 ]

Cabi is focused on securing better opportunities on the labour market for vulnerable unemployed. I was central to bringing increased attention to persons with disabilities, including showcasing the potential of employees with a disability.

### **Health political consultant**

**FSF Danish Fibromyalgia and pain association** [ 31/07/2013 – 30/03/2020 ]

The association is a disability organization working for persons with fibromyalgia and other types of chronic pain. During my employment I helped move the organization from a situation where there is no contact with health authorities or the politicians making the decisions. I participated in the development of new chronic pain guidelines, established political connections and prepared the organization for the upcoming ICD-11 classification.

### **Development consultant**

**DHF Disabled Association for the Disabled** [ 31/05/2005 – 29/11/2008 ]

DHF works to improve the lives of people with a physical disability. The Association has an office for development partnerships in the Global South and when I worked there my main project was the establishment of an association for youth with a physical disability in Ghana and secondary strengthening women with disabilities in Ghana.

### **Organisational consultant**

**SUMH Association of Youth with Disabilities** [ 30/11/2008 – 30/07/2013 ]

The youth disabilities umbrella is focused on empowering the youth and giving them a chance to lead. I was headhunted to establish the development programme and empower youth with disabilities in Uganda. That partnership is still running and there are now additional projects in Sierra Leone and Rwanda. I also worked with empowering youth with disabilities in Denmark and help them raise awareness through campaigns.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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### **Conflict Resolution for volunteers**

**Danish Center for Conflict Resolution** [ 30/06/2005 – 30/12/2005 ]

Country: Denmark

Website: <https://konfliktloesning.dk/>

### **Adult education basic education**

**DSU and Roskilde Højskole** [ 30/09/1996 – 29/04/1997 ]

Country: Denmark

Website: <https://dsu.net/>