

Occupational Justice as the Freedom to Do and Be: A Conceptual Tool for Advocating for Human Rights

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The WFOT Position Paper: Human Rights (2006) has informed occupational therapists' work with vulnerable populations, but lacks power to hold societies to account. Reported instances of occupational deprivation, alienation, marginalisation and apartheid have shown the suffering endured by people subject to occupational injustices, but failed to identify a foundation from which to demand political and organisational change. This workshop introduces a new conceptual tool, linking occupational justice concepts to the 'immediately enforceable' Convention for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR; 1978) and the 'progressively realised' Convention for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR; 1978). Interpreted through an occupational lens informed by Amartya Sen's capability theory, the tool links the freedoms to do and be that should be rights accessible and available to all citizens to articles in the conventions.

This workshop is presented on behalf of the WFOT International Advisory Group: Human Rights.

Learning Objectives

- 1. Explore how international conventions can be used to advocate against barriers to occupational participation.
- 2. Understand occupational rights as freedoms
- 3. Apply the tool to analyse situations where the freedom to do and be is repressed
- 4. Offer critical commentary to inform ongoing development of the tool

Teaching methods

A brief presentation followed by a worked example equips participants to work in small groups to practice applying the tool to relevant situations, with support from workshop facilitators. Worksheets provide structure and will gather feedback for future development of the tool. Plans to extend the tool are outlined.

Maximum Participants: 80