



UNA-UK

**UN Association of the UK  
3 Whitehall Court  
London SW1A 2EL**

T: +44 (0) 20 7766 3450  
F: +44 (0) 20 7930 5893  
E: [daws@una.org.uk](mailto:daws@una.org.uk)  
W: [www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk)

Rt Hon. James Purnell MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9DA

cc. Jonathan Shaw MP, Minister for Disabled People

4 February 2009

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you on behalf of the UN Association of the UK (UNA-UK) to congratulate the government on its intention to sign the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Once ratified, the Protocol will be an important tool for the 10 million disabled people in the UK.

Yesterday's announcement has been welcomed by disability rights advocates across the UK – notably the Equality and Human Rights Commission. However, these campaigners have also expressed concerns over the delay in the UK's ratification of the Convention and the reservations that the government has indicated it might attach to its ratification.

The UK played a key role in securing the CRPD and was one of the first countries to sign it. We urge the UK government to continue its leadership in the area of disability rights by ratifying the Convention immediately and without any reservations.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Daws  
Executive Director