

Spotlight Project



Meet

Mahjoub Boulhaj

Translator

UN Office in Geneva

UN Staff since April 2000

What advice would you give to persons with disabilities who are seeking employment with the UN?

Be patient, keep trying, and never lose hope.

What does working at the United Nations mean to you?

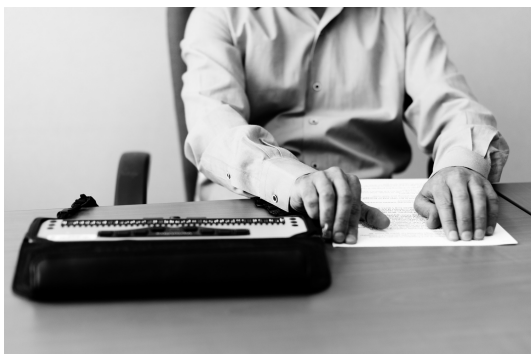
Achievement of a personal ambition and a chance to promote disability awareness and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities. Not by crying and shouting, but by making persons with disabilities visible and proving that they can be fully productive if given the proper training and education. The United Nations is the right place to do this on an international level.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Continuous learning, keeping abreast of the latest developments in various fields, and experiencing multilingualism and real diversity in all its human and cultural aspects.

What are you most passionate about?

Promoting a world free of stereotypes, discrimination, and racism.



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Meet

Sabela Avi3n Mart3nez

Reviser

Document Division, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

UN Staff since 2006

What advice would you give to persons with disabilities who are seeking employment with the UN?

Apply, and inquire about reasonable accommodations.

What does working at the United Nations mean to you?

I learned to read with Mafalda, the Argentinean comic strip about a little girl who says that, when she grows up, she wants to work (as an interpreter) at the UN to avoid wars. So it's a dream come true, but it's also a responsibility, as we must always remember the people we serve.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Knowing that we contribute to the work of the Organization, but also to the people: like when a friend in a small town in Spain told me she had been to an event about SDG 5 (Gender equality).

What are you most passionate about?

Languages, activism, scientific research and work-life balance

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Meet

Fekadu WoldeYohannes

Representative Staff with Disabilities
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

UN Staff since April, 1994

What advice would you give to persons with disabilities who are seeking employment with the UN?

"Oh, please come and experience the taste of the real world."

What does working at the United Nations mean to you?

It is a great place to work, mainly because one meets the world. It has a very diverse workforce, and it is like travelling around the world without much effort.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the exposure and the wide social dimensions that gives me a deeper perspective of the world I live in.

What are you most passionate about?

As a person with disability, I like being a part of an organization which brought CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and UNDIS (United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy) to the world, addressing human rights issues. I love spreading the word and advocating for inclusion, even if concrete actions are far behind.

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Meet

**Sarin
Wakimian**

Intern

Office of Human Resources, Department of Management
Strategy, Policy and Compliance

UN Intern since September 2021

What advice would you give to persons with disabilities who are seeking employment with the UN?

As an intern, I have learned that no matter where you come from or what your life experiences are, you will always have the chance to add value to the United Nations. So, if this is something you are most passionate about, then do not hesitate to go for it. If you have any questions or concerns, just know that there is an amazing team of people who are ready and willing to help and guide you through it all.

What does working at the United Nations mean to you?

It means everything to me! To be given the opportunity to intern for the United Nations has been one of the most rewarding experiences ever. I have learned and grown so much, both professionally and personally. Most of all, it has allowed me to achieve my life goal in making a difference and advocating for others. I will carry the lessons I have learned from my time with the UN throughout the rest of my career.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I truly enjoy working with my team, meeting new people, making connections from all around the world, and providing support to new personnel to help them feel welcome and ready to start working at the UN.

What are you most passionate about?

My biggest passion has always been to make an overall positive impact. I want to be a voice for others, especially those with disabilities, as well as struggling children from all around the world.