



Judith (Judy) Heumann was the Special Advisor for International Disability Rights at the US Department of State from 2010-2017. This was a new position created by the Obama Administration. She had responsibility for advancing the human rights of disabled people around the world. In this capacity she and her team worked with State Department employees in the US and around the world helping them learn about the work of DPOs and governments and to look for opportunities to help advance knowledge to improve the rights of disabled people.

Judy served as the first Director of the District of Columbia's Department of Disability Services and as the first Senior Adviser on Disability and Development at the World Bank. She was the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services at the US Department of Education under the Clinton Administration from 1993-2001.

For more than 20 years Judy worked to help establish numerous DPOs including Disabled in Action in New York City, the first Center for Independent Living in Berkeley Ca. and the World Institute on Disability in Oakland California. She has been featured in numerous documentaries on the history of the Disability Rights Movement and recently her story was told on Comedy Central's Drunk History, in which she was portrayed by Ali Stroker, the first disabled woman to play on Broadway and Judy has also delivered a TED Talk.

Most recently as the Ford Foundation's Senior Fellow, she has been working to help advance the inclusion of disability in the Foundation's work and is leading a project to advance the inclusion of disabled people in the media. She also currently serves on a number of non-profit boards of directors and is an Ambassador for Leonard Cheshire based in London.