

**DRI’s Strategic Litigation Docket (as of June 2026)**

Country	Facts/Legal Issues/Status of Case	Human Rights Body	Beneficiaries	Impact of Advocacy and Litigation to Date
<p><b>Mexico: Casa Esperanza case</b></p>	<p><b>Casa Esperanza</b> is a private facility in Mexico City where 37 people were detained in atrocious conditions; all women were sterilized to cover for the widespread sexual abuse. After DRI filed a complaint with local authorities in Mexico City, the facility was closed. But most detainees were re-institutionalized, and some were sexually abused and left to die in new facilities. Having exhausted domestic remedies in Mexico, DRI brought this international case to enforce the right to protection and community services for all former residents of this facility. The case also seeks protections against forced sterilization and human trafficking. DRI demands reparations for torture and abuse from government authorities for failure to protect residents at this private facility.</p> <p><b>Status of case:</b> In 2020, the Casa Esperanza case was declared admissible by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on grounds that there are no domestic</p>	<p>Inter-American Commission on Human Rights</p>	<p>37 people detained at private facility “Casa Esperanza”</p>	<p>As a result of DRI’s advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Casa Esperanza was closed;</li> <li>• Some of the former residents were released to the community;</li> <li>• UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ordered Mexico to investigate the allegations of forced sterilization, put an end to forced sterilization and start a process of deinstitutionalization.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Mexico: UN Inquiry</b></p>	<p>remedies in Mexico. <b>We are expecting a decision on the merits of the case this year, which may lead to a referral to the Inter-American Court.</b></p>			
	<p><b>Official United Nations Inquiry –</b> DRI has documented pervasive segregation and abuse of children with disabilities in Mexico’s vast system of institutions over the last thirty years. DRI filed a case before the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) seeking national reform of the country’s mental health and social service system. To instigate an official UN investigation, DRI had to demonstrate that abuses are “grave and pervasive.” In 2022 DRI obtained a unanimous decision from the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to carry out such an official UN public inquiry.</p> <p>In April 2026, the UN CRPD Committee issued its report on the inquiry finding that grave and systemic abuses are committed against people with disabilities in institutions in Mexico. The report adopts the position that institutionalization itself is a form of violence.</p>	<p>UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</p>	<p>175,000 children and adults officially estimated to be detained in institutions. Unofficial estimates put this number at over 300,000.</p>	<p>DRI’s complaint to the UN CRPD Committee instigated the first inquiry into a national system of treatment and care, encompassing a broad range of private and public mental health, social service, substance abuse, and disability facilities for children and adults throughout the country.</p> <p>As a result of this inquiry, the United Nations issued a comprehensive report, finding grave and systemic abuses. This is the first UN report to call for an end to new admissions of children or adults with disabilities to institutions.</p> <p>The UN accepted DRI’s detailed recommendations for reforms. The report serves as a blueprint for reform that can be replicated in other countries.</p> <p>DRI builds on a long history of work in Mexico. DRI helped create the</p>

	<p><b>Status of case:</b> Over the next two years, the CRPD Committee will closely scrutinize Mexico’s compliance with its recommendations. DRI’s documentation will play a major role in bringing international pressure on Mexico to comply.</p>			<p>first organization in Mexico run by people with psychosocial disabilities who have become important advocates in the country.</p> <p>As a result of DRI’s litigation and advocacy – along with allies in the country - Mexico has adopted new legal frameworks, including laws that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recognize the right of persons with disabilities to receive services and treatment in the community;</li> <li>• protect the right not to be institutionalized;</li> <li>• ban the practice of guardianship and establish a right to supported decision-making.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Guatemala: Inter-American Commission</b></p>	<p><b>Patients of Federico Mora v. Guatemala.</b> Federico Mora is an extremely abusive psychiatric facility in Guatemala where DRI documented extensive violence, abuse, and human trafficking. In December 2023, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights issued a groundbreaking decision in DRI’s case. The Commission</p>	<p>Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Inter-American Court of Human Rights</p>	<p>334 people currently detained at the institution in 2014 and over 5,000 people with disabilities who have been detained in the institution</p>	<p>The Inter-American Commission issued a sweeping decision on the right to community inclusion, guardianship, and access to justice. The Commission orders reparations for more than 5,500 people detained in the facility. Review by the Inter-American Court will set</p>

<p><b>Guatemala: Inter-American Court</b></p>	<p>agreed with DRI findings of widespread violence, sexual abuse, and conditions amounting to torture. Modeled after the US Supreme Court decision in <i>Olmstead v. LC</i>, the case recognizes institutional placement as a form of discrimination under international law.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> In June 2025, the IACHR referred the case to the Inter-American Court on Human Rights, which is expected to hear the case at the end of 2026. There could a ruling on the case in early 2027.</p> <p>DRI is now preparing its final brief to the Inter-American Court. The case will be the first of its kind to test the enforcement of the right to community integration on a nation-wide level. It will set precedent that will be enforceable through Courts throughout the Americas.</p>		<p>since the case was filed (2014).</p>	<p>precedent throughout the Americas.</p> <p>As a result of our litigation around the Federico Mora case that started in Guatemala in 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No more children are detained in the adult psychiatric institution, where they were extremely vulnerable to sexual abuse.</li> <li>• Armed guards responsible for rampant sexual abuse at the institution are no longer allowed in the ‘patients’ areas.’</li> <li>• Physical conditions in the institution and access to medication has improved for the detainees.</li> <li>• The government of Guatemala has decentralized mental health services. People with mental disabilities in seven departments (States) can now access to mental health services in health clinics and primary care hospitals closer to their communities.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Guatemala: Inter-American Commission</b></p>	<p><b>Hogar Seguro precautionary measures.</b>  The Hogar Seguro Virgen de la Asunción was a 600-bed orphanage for children where there was extensive sexual abuse and trafficking. In 2017, after a group of girls broke out to protest their own trafficking, 41 girls were locked up and killed after their room caught fire. The facility has since been closed. But many residents with disabilities were moved to other institutions in Guatemala. Most were dumped into the community with little support. More than 60 have been killed since then, and local activists believe that there is an effort to intimidate witnesses who might speak out about the trafficking and abuse at the facility. An additional 90 former residents of the facility are missing and not accounted for.</p> <p>DRI obtained an order for immediate “precautionary measures” to protect the lives of survivors. The precautionary measures order from the Commission also called for community protections and services for former detainees.</p>	<p>Inter-American Commission on Human Rights</p>	<p>600 children detained at Hogar Seguro Virgen de la Asunción on March 7, 2017</p>	<p>As a result of DRI’s advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hogar Seguro Virgen de la Asunción facility was closed;</li> <li>• The majority of children were released to the community;</li> <li>• There is public pressure to prosecute the traffickers;</li> <li>• The case brought international attention to the problem of abuse and trafficking at orphanages;</li> <li>• The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has ordered Guatemala to stop the institutionalization of all children.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Guatemala: case before the Inter-American Commission</b></p>	<p><b>Status of case</b> – the precautionary measures have been extended due to ongoing concern about the safety of former Hogar Seguro residents.</p> <p><b>Seeking accountability for violence and trafficking and a full array of community supports and protections:</b> Domestic courts in Guatemala held low-level officials responsible for the killing of girls in the fire, but it did not rule against officials engaged in trafficking girls in the facility.</p> <p>DRI, together with allies in Guatemala, is preparing to file a new petition in the case to the Inter-American Commission seeking accountability for the abuse and the creation of community services and protections consistent with the recent <i>Federico Mora</i> decision. This case has the opportunity to extend the <i>Federico Mora</i> decision in a way that will impact Guatemala’s extensive orphanage and institutional system for children.</p>			
<p><b>Colombia:</b></p>	<p><b>Seeking an affirmative right to community-based services and protection for an autistic child</b> -- DRI is preparing to file a precautionary</p>	<p>Inter-American Commission</p>	<p>An adolescent boy with a disability with a potential to impact the system</p>	<p>As a result of pressure by allies in Colombia, the young boy has been released from abusive detention. He is living with his mother but</p>

	<p>measure petition and a case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights regarding the case of an adolescent boy with autism wrongfully detained and sexually abused in Colombia. His mother is blind and her child was taken away from her based on prejudice and discrimination.</p> <p>Mother and son are both victims of the armed conflict, afro descendants, and live in extreme poverty. The boy's mother asked the Colombian government to provide her with supports to care for her child and instead of doing so, the government institutionalized the child. He was sexually abused at the institution and after a year, dumped in a psychiatric facility for adults from where his mother had to retrieve him and take him back to her home without any supports.</p> <p><b>Status of case:</b> DRI is filing for immediate precautionary measures to provide life-saving protections for the boy. In addition, we are filing a contentious case to seek an enforceable ruling on the affirmative</p>	<p>on Human Rights</p>	<p>of supports for children with disabilities in Colombia. The case will also test the right of parents with disabilities to receive support necessary to raise their children in safety in the community.</p>	<p>receiving almost no services or support from the State.</p>
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	<p>right to receive treatment and protection in the community.</p> <p><b>Status of the case:</b> DRI is working with partners in Colombia to file the precautionary measures request and case by mid-2026.</p>			
<b>Peru</b>	<p><b>DRI submitted a claim to the CRPD Committee opposing involuntary psychiatric detention:</b> In 2022 DRI submitted the case of a person with a disability arbitrarily detained in private psychiatric institution in Peru to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> The CRPD Committee is analyzing the case and has forwarded it to the State of Peru for their comments.</p>	UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	One young man with a psychiatric disability	As a result of DRI's submission, the person was released into the community before the CRPD Committee issued a decision on the case.
<b>Serbia</b>	<p><b>Appeal to the UN CRPD Committee to protect boys in a Serbian group home:</b> In 2022 the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities admitted a case on the segregation and abuse of children and young people with disabilities detained as children at Dusko Radovic Group Home in Serbia. The case will be the first of its kind to test whether group home placement for children is a form of</p>	UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	14 young adults detained at Dusko Radovic Group Home in Serbia and could potentially impact 700 children with disabilities detained in institutions in Serbia according to official estimates -	DRI is set to appeal a decision from the UN CRPD Committee that deemed the petition inadmissible on the basis of lack of exhaustion of domestic remedies. This decision contradicts the precedent set by the Inter-American Human Rights System that people detained in institutions are unable to exhaust domestic remedies.

	<p>institutionalization and whether the State has an obligation to provide support for them in a family.</p> <p><b>Status of case:</b> DRI is appealing the case to the CRPD Committee.</p>		<p>the unofficial estimates could be higher.</p>	
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