

In Conversation with International Disability Rights Activist Judy Heumann

Speaker Biographies

Nora Hakizimana is a research analyst in the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Urban Institute. She works to engage people with lived experience in the design and implementation of research and technical assistance projects, as well as in the development of community-based interventions. She has extensive experience conducting environmental scans and key stakeholder interviews, implementing surveys, analyzing quantitative and qualitative data, and providing technical assistance to nonprofits. Before joining Urban, she interned at Hopeprint, where she worked to develop and implement efforts to foster community and self-sufficiency and improve quality of life for newly arrived refugee families. Hakizimana holds a BA in economics from Brown University.

Judy Heumann is a lifelong advocate for the rights of disabled people. Her extensive accomplishments include cofounding Disabled in Action and the World Institute on Disability, serving in the Clinton administration as assistant secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the US Department of Education, and most notably, being the first person to serve as a special advisor for international disability rights, a position established by the Obama administration. She also served as the World Bank's first special advisor and recently published [Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist](#) and was featured in the Netflix documentary film [Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution](#).

Susan J. Popkin is director of the Urban Institute's Housing Opportunities and Services Together (HOST) Initiative and an Institute fellow in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center. A nationally recognized expert on public and assisted housing policy, Popkin directs a research program that uses community engagement and community-based participatory approaches to explore new strategies for improving outcomes for families, and she conducts evaluations of complex community-based interventions. Popkin is the author of *No Simple Solutions: Transforming Public Housing in Chicago*; coauthor of the award-winning *Moving to Opportunity: The Story of an American Experiment to Fight Ghetto Poverty*; lead author of *The Hidden War: Crime and the Tragedy of Public Housing in Chicago*; and coauthor of *Public Housing Transformation: The Legacy of Segregation*.

Sarah Rosen Wartell is the third president of the Urban Institute since it was founded in 1968. During her tenure, Urban has "elevated the debate" by bringing more of its insights from research to federal, state, and local government and practice; becoming a leader in research communications and data visualization; and undertaking an ambitious program of business systems and technology modernization. Previously, Wartell was deputy assistant to the president for economic policy and deputy director of the National Economic Council. At the US Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1993 to 1998, she advised the federal housing commissioner on housing finance, mortgage markets, and consumer protection. Later, she was a consultant to the bipartisan Millennial Housing Commission. After government service, Wartell was the founding chief operating officer and then executive vice president of the Center for American Progress. Before her tenure in government, she practiced law with the Washington, DC, firm Arnold & Porter. Wartell serves on the board of the Center for Law and Social Policy and on Bank of America's National Community Advisory Council. She previously served on the boards of the Low Income Investment Fund,



the Center for Urban Science and Progress at New York University, and the Corporation for Enterprise Development. Her areas of expertise include community development, consumer finance, asset building, and housing finance. Wartell has a bachelor's degree with honors in urban affairs from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and a doctoral degree from Yale Law School.