Idit Itzhak

Eighth Anniversary of the 18th Amendment to the Legal Capacity and Guardianship Law – Achievements and Goals

Over the past 20 years, there have been significant changes in the legal status and treatment of people with disabilities and older adults with diminished capacity. The 2012 ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities led the Israeli legislature to adopt the 18th Amendment of the Legal Capacity and Guardianship Law, which shifts the center of gravity of the guardianship process from a paternalistic approach that limits a person's legal capacity to an approach that respects his or her autonomy.

However, despite the great promise of this amendment, this article points at significant gaps between its spirit and its implementation. In particular, due to the selective adoption of principles from the convention, the amendment failed to determine the parameters that should be considered in order to assess legal capacity and does not require hearing access to the person who is at the center of the proceedings. Therefore, the selective adoption mentioned above preserves the paternalistic narrative that the convention and the amendment aimed to reduce.