

# INCLUSION AROUND THE WORLD

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Inclusion International (II) is a global federation of family-based organizations advocating for the human rights of people with intellectual disabilities worldwide. II represents over 200 member federations in 115 countries throughout five regions Middle East, Europe, Africa, the Americas, and Asia Pacific.



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## INTERNATIONAL

*Global Conference on Inclusive Education. Return to Salamanca-Confronting the Gap: Rhetoric, Rights and Reality. 21-23 October, 2009*



The Conference is organised by Inclusion International, Inclusion Europe & INICO (Universidad de Salamanca) and it will take place on 21-23 October, 2009.

**Sponsored by:**

Fundación ONCE

United Nation Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education

Spanish Ministry of Education

Spanish Confederation of

Organisations in favour of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (FEAPS)

Fifteen Years have passed since [The Salamanca Statement](#) (1994-2009) and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education was adopted by the World Conference on Special Needs Education: Access and quality, (Salamanca, Spain, 10 June 1994).

As the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities comes into effect, it is time to assess the progress made and set the agenda for renewed action in the years ahead.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE CONFERENCE AND HOW TO REGISTER IS NOW AVAILABLE AT <http://inico.usal.es/>

Inclusion International and Inclusion Europe are developing a Global Report on the status of children with disabilities in education to be released on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Salamanca Statement.

The Report will identify the sources of discrimination faced by children with intellectual disabilities in education and make recommendations to governments and policy makers about how to address these issues. By reviewing both the international commitments made to inclusion and the knowledge that families have about what works, what doesn't and why, this initiative will attempt to link local voices (and knowledge) to global processes for achieving Education for All.

In each of the five regions of Inclusion International: Europe; The Middle East North Africa; Africa; The Americas and Asia Pacific a participatory research process is being implemented. A number of different sources and tools are being used to collect information about the current status of inclusive education. More information at [www.inclusion-international.org](http://www.inclusion-international.org)



## 2008 General Assembly of Inclusion International. Ottawa, Canada.

The 2008 GA of Inclusion International took place during the GLOBAL FORUM FOR INCLUSION 2008: *Transforming Rights into Action*. 17-26 Nov 2008 Co-Hosted by Inclusion International and the Canadian Association for Community Living.

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated at this event and contributed to make it a success.

### Papers adopted

[Right to Life,](#)  
[User Councils and,](#)  
[Key Elements of a System of Supported](#)  
[Decision Making](#)

We had to say goodbye to some of the Council members as their term came to an end:

Fred Heddell- Treasurer, Moussa Charafeddine- Vice-President , self- advocate Robert Martin and his support person Desmond Corrigan representatives of Asia Pacific, Zdenka Petrovic- self-advocate representative of Europe, and Yves Giraud- representative of Africa and the Indian Ocean.

We also welcomed the new Council members: Klaus Lachwitz as President Elect, self-advocate David Corner- representative of Asia Pacific and Gessesse Tadesse as representative of Africa and the Indian Ocean.

To honour and publicly acknowledge the contributions of some of our key leaders a *Honorary Life Members pin* was created and handed out during the assembly to the following people: Barb Goode, Desmond Corrigan, Fred Heddell, Moussa Charafeddine and Robert Martin, Gordon Porter and Walter Eigner. Previous Honorary Members who could not attend the meeting: Don Wills, Francoise Jan, JB Munro, John O'Gorman, Therese Kempeners and Victor Wahlstrom will also be receiving the pin.

A presentation on our Project '*Living without Barriers*' also took place during the Assembly. The project is funding several initiatives aimed to promote full accessibility, community living and full exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities and their families in Panama.

For more Information on the Forum and the GA (Minutes and adopted Resolutions) visit [www.inclusion-international.org](http://www.inclusion-international.org)





## Klaus Lachwitz – New President Elect of Inclusion International

**D**uring the 2008 GA that took place in Ottawa, Canada I was elected President Elect of Inclusion International. I am a lawyer by profession and I work for Lebenshilfe Germany as legal adviser in all fields of national and international disability laws since 1981. During that long and continuous career



it has always been one of my main aims and tasks to fight for the human rights of persons with disability and their families.

Some of you might recall my booklet: “Human Rights and Intellectual Disability – A Guide to international Human Rights Instruments for Persons with Intellectual Disability”, published by Inclusion International in 2002, where I have tried to summarize Inclusion Internationals` knowledge and positions regarding international human rights treaties and laws.

I would like to bring in all my knowledge and experience to help Inclusion International members to benefit from the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to fight for one of its main aims: That all persons with disabilities are full citizens of their country and that all of them are entitled to receive “Equal recognition before the Law” (Art. 12).

We should exchange good examples on how persons with intellectual disability are recognized and accepted by their countries as citizens who can claim all human rights enlisted in the CRPD and we should develop strategies to make the Convention known all over the world as the basic international human right instrument guiding all States Parties which have ratified the CRPD and its Optional Protocol.

## Minority Fellowship Programmes 2009-2010

Fellowship programme for persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

[2009 English speaking Minority](#)



[Fellowship Programme 2009](#)

[Arabic speaking Minority](#)

[Fellowship Programme](#) and

[Application form](#) in Arabic -

**deadline is 15 of July 2009**

The Minorities Fellowship Programme (MFP) was launched by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in 2005. Through this

Programme, the OHCHR aims to give persons belonging to national or

ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities - particularly young minority women and men - an opportunity to gain knowledge on the UN system and mechanisms dealing with international human rights in general and minority rights in particular.

The Fellowship Programme is intended to assist organizations and communities in protecting and promoting the rights of minorities the fellows belong to. For more information visit

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/minorities/fellowprog.htm>

## 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Inclusion International on 16–19 June 2010, Berlin

All countries in the world belong to the United Nations. The United Nations has adopted a Convention for the protection of the rights of people with disabilities. People with intellectual disabilities of all ages and degrees of disability and their families are at the core of the programme.

The topics cover all aspects of life from childhood to old age:



- The right to live in dignity.
- People with disabilities having legal capacity and the right to make decisions for themselves.
- The right to be included in the community.
- The right to inclusive education.
- The right to live without poverty.
- Protection from discrimination.
- The fight against social exclusion.

We are pleased to invite you to participate in this exciting event with many other people with disabilities, parents and other family members, professionals, researchers and political decision-makers.

For more information on the Congress visit <http://www.inclusion2010.de/>

## Inclusion International Joins Making It Work Initiative

Inclusion International has been invited to sit on the Advisory Committee for a multi-stakeholder initiative led by Handicap International entitled Making It Work. The purpose of the initiative is:

- To bridge the huge gap that exists between the standards set by the CRPD and the actual situation for people with disabilities in low or middle income countries.
- To work toward reducing this gap through processes of information dissemination, knowledge management, exchange and advocacy.

More specifically, the aim is to collect and use examples of innovative practices to influence the development of effective policies. This means to find examples of what works – then to replicate and scale up

Working with Handicap International on this initiative provides opportunities for II to build on its own efforts to promote models and good practices in implementing the CRPD and to contribute to the building of policy knowledge bases.

## Inclusion International Convention Action Teams

Inclusion International has developed a process through which it can support its national member organizations to participate in the implementation of the Convention to address the sources of discrimination. Support to the member organizations will be provided by Inclusion International's newly established Convention Action Teams (CATs):

- Convention Action Team on Inclusive Education;
- Convention Action Team on Legal Capacity and Supported Decision Making;
- Convention Action Team on Family Support and Family Policy;
- Convention Action Team on Living in the Community.

CATs include individuals and organizations working in these key areas from every region of the world. To join one or more of the CATs please send an email message to [conniel@inclusion-international.org](mailto:conniel@inclusion-international.org)

The mandate of II's CATs is to:

- Respond to opportunities and challenges which arise at a country level by supporting national associations to intervene in political or public policy situations
- Act as a technical support to member organizations working at a country level with governments on implementation;
- Develop a resource base of tools for family based organizations to use at the country level in promoting the implementation of the Convention (in each of these areas);
- Collect information and stories about the challenges and success of implementation;
- Provide analysis of the experiences related to implementation that may be used by family organizations; governments or multilateral institutions

Watch our website [www.inclusion-international.org](http://www.inclusion-international.org) for more information about these CATs and for announcements about CAT web pages.

## Working with the International Disability Alliance

Inclusion International is one of the founding members of the International Disability Alliance (IDA). As the Convention comes into effect and the Committee of Experts begins to monitor the implementation of the CRPD, disability organizations who are members of the IDA are focusing more of their attention on the monitoring process and therefore on the work of the treaty bodies and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This is a resource intensive process. II will have to make strategic decisions about how to be involved in these processes but overall our intention is to focus our efforts on supporting member organizations to work with their governments at the national level. The IDA secretariat is playing an increasingly important role for II and others as the link to the work of the Committee and the OHCHR in Geneva. II contributes significantly to the work of the IDA and in turn we are able to receive information and support in order to maximize our resources and determine when our direct involvement with the Committee and the OHCHR is necessary.



## EUROPE

**'My life!' Europe in Action  
Conference on 'Full Participation  
and Equality' in Tampere, Finland  
24-27 June 2009.**



The central theme this year will be *Full Participation and Equality in Society*.

Organized by Inclusion Europe and the Finnish Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (KVTL), it will focus on exciting new developments in Independent Living. The programme includes guest speakers, workshops, discussion groups and plenary sessions on issues such as:

- Accessible housing
- Empowering users of services
- Legal capacity and supported decision-making
- Adult education and learning
- Equal opportunities in culture and recreation
- Full participation in working life

This conference will be fully accessible for people with intellectual disabilities. There will also be plenty of entertainment, with musical and cultural dance performances, an art exhibition, circus performance and social events

For the program, registration and further information:

<http://www.kvtil.fi/mylife/en>

**Training Seminars on the UN  
Convention for IE Members from  
Central and Eastern European  
Countries. Organisers: Inclusion  
Europe, Lebenshilfe & SPMP  
CR. Location: Prague, Czech  
republic**

**15-16/05/09**

The importance of the UN Convention for the work and policies of organisations of people with intellectual disabilities and their families

**05-06/06/09**

Legal capacity and supported decision-making: initiating practical model projects

**10-11/07/09**

Achieving Education for All: conditions for the successful implementation of the right to inclusive education

**04-05/09/09**

The meaning of the UN Convention for self-advocates with intellectual disabilities

**02-03/10/09**

Accessibility for people with intellectual disabilities: Information, communication and attitudes

For more information contact

Inclusion Europe  
[secretariat@inclusion-europe.org](mailto:secretariat@inclusion-europe.org)

## Supported Decision Making Strategies in Hungary



Through our UN project Inclusion International has supported its member in Hungary, EFOESZ and other NGOs who have been working together with the Hungarian Government to advocate for changes to the civil code which would eliminate plenary guardianship and introduce a system of supported decision making (SDM). Klaus Lachwitz, Michael Bach and Connie Laurin-Bowie visited EFOESZ to assist in the planning for the project and to support the development of a pilot initiative to test SDM models.

In Hungary in 2006 out of a population of approximately ten million people, 66 203 adults were under guardianship, 44 812 of whom were under plenary guardianship and 19 202 of whom were under partial guardianship (of a general nature and of groups of matters) 6 189 of whom were under unknown type of guardianship.<sup>1</sup>

The main regulations of legal capacity and guardianship can be found in Act 4 of 1959 on the Civil Code and in Act 3 of 1952 on the Civil procedure. According to the Civil Code in force, everyone has full legal capacity until it is *limited* or *excluded* by the law.<sup>2</sup> These regulations violate, for example, the prohibition of discrimination, the principle of equal opportunities and concepts of necessity and proportion.

The project in Hungary was designed to advance the paradigm shift of the Art. 12. of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, which clearly declares in this article that disabled people shall enjoy “legal capacity on an equal basis with others”.

EFOESZ (Hungarian Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) was established as an umbrella body for organizations concerned with the care and rehabilitation of people with intellectual disability. With a mission to work with and for people with intellectual disability to ensure that their rights are upheld in line with international agreements by cooperating with government departments and other stakeholders, EFOESZ’s goals have a central focus around the need to support people with intellectual disability. This goal branches out to ensure that those with intellectual disability have equal rights, equal opportunities and a say in decisions which affect them as active members of society.

<sup>1</sup> MDAC, Guardianship and Human Rights in Hungary, Analysis of Law, Policy and Practice Budapest, 2007 . p. 17.

<sup>2</sup> 11. § (1)





## ASIA

### Seminar on Reproductive Rights in Thailand

The Seminar on “De-mythify Reproductive Rights: a case of forced sterilization of people with disability”, took place on 25 March 2009, in the suburbs of Bangkok, Thailand.

Nagase, Council member of Inclusion International, acted as a member of the morning panel on “perspectives on reproductive rights: disability and mythical attitude”, presented the history of eugenics in Japan, including the Eugenics Protection Law of 1948 which was finally abolished in 1996, Inclusion International’s position paper on “A right to life” and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Thailand ratified July 2008. Nagase also introduced a Japanese manga, entitled [“Daisuki!!” \(I love you\)](#), in which a single mother with an intellectual disability gives birth to and raises a child. “Daisuki!!” will be published in Thai language in June 2009.



The afternoon panel included three disabled mothers sharing their experiences of family life and child care. It was noted many challenges of family life and child care were common among mothers, with or without disabilities.

[http://www.nationmultimedia.com:80/2008/02/06/headlines/headlines\\_30064574.php](http://www.nationmultimedia.com:80/2008/02/06/headlines/headlines_30064574.php)

### Making the Shift in India

Inclusion International’s UN Project has supported the development of a project in India to promote the shift to supported decision making models articulated in Article 12 of the CRPD. Through the work of the Convention Action Team on Legal Capacity, II is providing technical support to PARIVAAR and the National Trust in the development of a demonstration project on SDM.

In the year 1995, India formed a federation known as PARIVAAR, which is a federation working for people with Mental Retardation, Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Multiple Disabilities. PARIVAAR is a parent organization with 70 urban, 42 semi-urban and 38 rural parents associations, which underwent support by India’s project to build its capacity to contribute to and promote the UN Convention with particular reference to Article 12 and supported decision making. To help create a strong support group, the project took

on partnership with: Parivaar, National Trust of India, Inclusion International and Canadian Association for Community Living. With partnered support, the project adopted an overall purpose of demonstrating how Article 12 of the CRPD can be advanced in India.

Guardianship in India can be appointed under the authority of: The Mental Health Act, Civil Procedure Code and The National Trust Act and certificates are issued to provide the authorized family member/relative powers to manage an individual’s property, finances and personal affairs, and provide for community recognition of this transfer of legal authority from the individual with a disability to a guardian. With this guardianship law in place, India’s project intended to provide the notion that more options should be available to individuals and families in the area of legal capacity and decision making and how supported decision making practices can take off in India.



## THE AMERICAS



Members of Inclusion International around the world join us in mourning the death of Luis Daniel. As a leader of the parent movement he was an inspiration to countless families and supporters of the movement for rights and inclusion.

Luis was a pioneer who had been a founder of the parent movement in Panama, Central America and the Americas, and who remained a visionary and progressive fighter to the end. We are particularly indebted to him for being the link between Inclusion International and the project "Living Without Barriers" in which his knowledge, diligence and commitment were indispensable.

Many of us considered him a friend whom we respected for his strength, tenacity, humility and kindness.

He will be greatly missed.

### REINA SOFIA 2008 AWARD "Prevention of Disability"

Winners: ACATED- Guatemala. Members of Inclusion International

In May 2008 the Spanish Royal Trust of Disability, launched the official call for the Reina Sofia Award 'Prevention of Disability'. ASCATED from Guatemala presented a report on the work they carried out nationally for more than 10 years to prevent disability in Guatemala and in different communities.

The organisation participated under the category for other Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries and they received the award in March 2009.

The President, Gabriela Castro de Búrbanco received the award from HM The Queen Sofia during the ceremony that took place in the Zarzuela Palace in Madrid, Spain.



### Persons with Disabilities and access to education in Latin-America

Publication: Madrid: Ediciones Cinca, 2009

<http://boletin.cermi.es/noticia.aspx?noticia=260&a=0>

The following research was funded by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Fundación ONCE for Deaf and Blind people in Latin-America (FOAL) and the Spanish Committee Representative of Persons with Disability (CERMI). The purpose of the research is to offer information on the current situation on access to education for people with disability in Latin-America

## CONFE's efforts pay off- TELEVISA apologises publicly for joke on person with intellectual disability.

The Journalist Katia D'Artugues Beuregard explains:



*It all happened last Sunday, 17 May during the program 'Make me laugh and you'll be a Millionaire' on Channel 2 of TELEVISA, during the 'VIP Joke' in which they play a joke on a well known person. That Sunday the object of the derogatory and discriminatory joke was Sammy, a person with a mild intellectual disability.*

*During the joke they abused the fact that he had a disability by making him believe he was being considered for a casting and making him get undressed, put cream on the presenters, Galilea Montijo and Roxana Castellanos, who were wearing revealing dresses and even follow instructions from a talking toy parrot...while promoting the image of women as sex objects.*

*Rafael Inclan, was the first judge to express its disagreement with the joke saying it was a lack of respect to his 'condition'. He also ended up being offensive towards him by saying that Sammy was not normal and calling him a television accident. The majority of the remaining judges, who tried to defend the fact that the joke was offensive didn't manage to do it with enough strength...and all this happened in front of Sammy, who was in the studio at the time.*

*To read the full article and watch the video visit:*

*[http://blogs.eluniversal.com.mx/weblogs\\_detalle7811.html](http://blogs.eluniversal.com.mx/weblogs_detalle7811.html)*

The Mexican Confederation of Organisations in favour of Person with Intellectual Disability (CONFE) together with other Mexican organisations sent a letter of complaint to Televisa, as part of the social action against this Mexican TV Company that has led to Televisa issuing a public apology.

Not only have they apologised, they have also accepted to receive training on information and awareness on issues regarding persons with disabilities.

The letter sent by CONFE was supported by Inclusion Interamericana and Inclusion International.

To read the letter visit:

[www.inclusion-international.org](http://www.inclusion-international.org)

## Parents for Inclusive Education in Colombia

Inclusion International's UN project also supported a pilot initiative in partnership with ASDOWN enabled the association to do an analysis of the education plan in Colombia in relation to Article 24; strengthen the capacity of the organization to contribute to the education policy dialogue in Colombia and to train teachers and families in good practices in inclusive education.



The Colombian government, at the beginning of the project in 2008, through the Ministry of Education agreed in a letter of consent to support the initiative. This support created opportunities to

build partnerships and generating financial contributions.

The initiative allowed the family organization to work with the Ministry of Education, with civil society and with other disability organizations in issues related to the implementation of Article 24 of the UN Convention. The knowledge developed by the members of the organization enabled them to participate actively in the Council for Disability in Bogotá and in several meetings around the ratification of the Convention happening in the country. As a result, the voices and perspectives of families of children with disabilities are being heard in decision making processes related to the implementation of the Convention and education



planning in Colombia.

As a part of the initiative Gordon Porter and Ines Escallon who are members of II's Convention Action Team on Inclusive Education conducted training sessions for teachers and families on inclusive education.

ASDOWN's central purpose is to *dignify the lives of people with Down Syndrome through empowerment of their families and the search to recognize diversity as a social value.*



## AFRICA

### Inclusion Africa Reinvigorated

Story by James Mung'omba

The Board of Directors of Inclusion Africa had its meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from April 25-26, 2009. The meeting was supported



IA President, Gessesse Tadesse on the left and the Board Secretary Mr M Phiri.

by the Secretariat of African Decade for persons with Disabilities. All Board members including Quincy and James, Rosalie from Burkina Faso (former Secretary General of Inclusion Africa and Indian Ocean) were in attendance. The main purpose of the meeting was to develop a strategic plan of IA and to finalize the constitution which was accepted and adopted in principle during the meeting in Windhoek, Namibia, in October 2008.

The New Board has now developed a five-year strategic plan, operational plan and one year operational plan. It also finalized on the issue of the constitution.

It is during forthcoming IA meeting in Zanzibar that the Board will table the strategic plan to all member associations and establishment of working committees. The secretariat for Inclusion Africa is set in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Association on Intellectual Disabilities (ENAID) offered IA one office for Secretariat. The email address is [inclusionafrica@gmail.com](mailto:inclusionafrica@gmail.com)

To read more visit

[www.inclusion-international.org](http://www.inclusion-international.org)

### Inclusive Education in Ethiopia

As a part of the UN supported global project to promote and validate models of good practice in the implementation of the UN Convention, II has supported a pilot initiative in Ethiopia to assist the parent organization to develop strategies to work with the Government of Ethiopia and community stakeholders to build an inclusive education system in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian National Association on Intellectual Disabilities (ENAID) is the parent association that has been working for the promotion of the rights of children and youth with intellectual disability for the past fourteen years.

The association recently changed its name from the Ethiopian National Association for Mentally Retarded Children and Youth (ENAMRCY) to its current name to reflect the association's objectives to promote inclusion.

With support from II representatives, ENAID conducted 3 workshops over the course of one week (April 20- 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009) to support the development of inclusive education practice in Ethiopia. The first workshop was conducted for 70 teachers and educators (some regular education teachers and some special education teachers) over two days (April 20-21<sup>st</sup>). The second workshop (April 22<sup>nd</sup>) was conducted for 70 NGOs and government officials working in the area of disability. The third workshop (April 23<sup>rd</sup>) was conducted for 70 parents and family members from all regions of Ethiopia.



## MIDDLE EAST

### Achieving Independence - The Shafallah Forum 2009

April 2009 Doha Qatar

Story by Mia Farah, self-advocate Council member of Inclusion International



This year, the Shafallah Forum was about “Achieving Independence”. For the self-advocacy movement it is about leadership and speaking for ourselves. We decided all together, Lebanese and American self-advocates, to lead the session together during the forum.

It was a huge challenge: we had to solve the problem of distance, language, the fact that we don’t know each other... But it was about us, about our rights, about the convention. So we used all the energy and the power of self advocacy to go through

all the barriers and had a wonderful presentation.

In our own words, we presented the convention. We involved the participants in a song, in a comic sketch. We talked about labels and their implications on our lives. We presented a short film, a campaign on how to stop the use of the “R” word, and an example of our work in our respective countries. It was a wonderful work where the participants heard from the self advocates themselves about journeys from exclusion to inclusion.

Self advocates from Lebanon: Manal Fares, Mia Farah, Mohamad Hares.

Self advocates from United States: Larry Kennedy Soeren Palumbo from United States was sharing his experience to end the use of the “R” word.

I also attended the IDA training held in



Cairo on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

The training was about:

The CRPD and the importance of its implementation in the MENA region.

Success stories from MENA in the signing and the implementation of the CRPD The follow-up and how we can use different regional initiatives, especially the Arab decade to help understanding and support the work of NGO’s to advocates for the implementation of the CRPD.