

# Europe for us!

The Newsletter of the European Self-Advocates Movement

November 2002



## Editorial

In this newsletter, we will tell you something more about discrimination. Discrimination is when people are treated badly because they are different. We will give some examples of discrimination. We will tell you how you can fight against discrimination.

Ulla Topi  
President EPSA

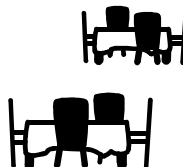


## Information

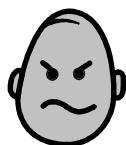
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## What is discrimination?

Just imagine...  
You want to eat in a nice restaurant.  
But the owner does not let you in.  
He says he does not want to serve disabled people.

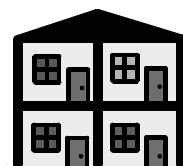


You want to buy a ticket for a train.  
But there is a machine which you don't understand.  
That's why you don't buy a ticket.  
Later you have to pay a fine.



You go into a shop and look for a new shirt.  
Another customer comes in later.  
But he is served first.  
You have to wait and you get angry.

You want to live in your own flat.  
But your carers say "no".  
They don't even speak with you about it.



These are examples of discrimination



With support of the European Community Activities in Favour of Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

**Discrimination is when people are treated badly, because they are different.**

For example, because they have a disability.

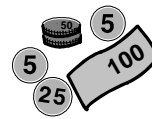


Discrimination hurts deep down inside!

Discrimination may take place at work.

Imagine a person who does the same work as a colleague. But he gets paid less because he has a disability.

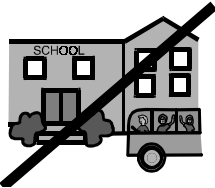
This is called **direct discrimination**.



Or imagine a person who wants a job as office cleaner. Then the employer says his office cleaners must have studied at high school. This is not necessary for the job.

It discriminates against people who have not studied at high school.

This is called **indirect discrimination**



Or imagine a disabled person who has found a job. She is very happy and proud.

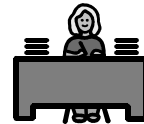
But her colleagues call her bad names.

They make her life difficult.

They don't like disabled persons.

But her boss does not do anything against it.

This is called **harassment**.



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## What you can do against discrimination

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Nearly everybody sometimes discriminates other people:

- When you say: "I don't like coloured people".
- When you are against gay or lesbian people.

- When you say: “He is stupid or an idiot”.
- When you are against Muslims or Jews.
- When you say: “This job is not for a woman”.
- When you don’t like disabled people.

Discrimination happens in everyday life.  
And often people do not know  
what they are talking about.

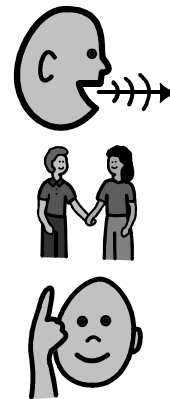
## Everybody can fight against discrimination!

Also you!

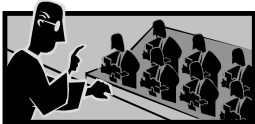


You can ...

- ↳ Help people who are discriminated.
- ↳ Tell people about how it is to have a disability.
- ↳ Make friends with people who are different.
- ↳ Try to understand people who are different.



Everybody has the right to be protected  
from discrimination.



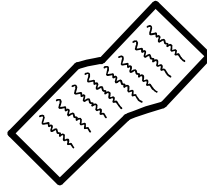
That is why the **government** must help  
people who are discriminated.  
The government must make laws  
against discrimination.  
The government must also make sure  
that these laws are followed.  
Many governments already made these laws.

15 countries in Europe form the **European Union**.  
The European Union can also make laws.  
The laws of the European Union are  
a kind of “super laws”.  
They are called **Directives**.  
Directives must be followed in  
all countries of the European Union.



The European Union has also made a Directive against discrimination. This is good for everybody. This Directive against discrimination must be followed in all countries of the European Union.

Below you find some questions you can ask to find out if laws against discrimination exist in your country:



Have you received any information in easy-to-read, video or audio tape about discrimination at work?

Did anybody tell you about your rights to fight against discrimination?

Do you know which special needs you have to find and keep a job?

Do you know what an employer has to do to make it possible for you to work?

Did somebody tell you what you can do to fight against discrimination at work?

Have you talked about discrimination with your friends, parents or carers?

If you have not checked all boxes there is still something to be done in your fight against discrimination.

**Good luck!**



- To get information
- To inform us about documents or meetings

Please contact us!

## **Inclusion Europe**

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