

Europe for us!

The Newsletter of the European Self-Advocates Movement

July 2004



Editorial

An article about cage beds was published in England. It described the situation in big care homes in Czech Republic.

Cage beds are very bad things.

People with intellectual disability or people with mental illness are locked in them if they are aggressive.

These people often stay in these cages for weeks or months.

Some people spend their whole life in cage.

It is good that articles like that are published.

People learn about bad things that happen to other people.

They can help to improve the things then.

Ulla Topi

President of EPSA



Information

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What are cage beds?

Cage beds are special beds.

You can lock people inside so they cannot escape.

It is like a cage for animals.

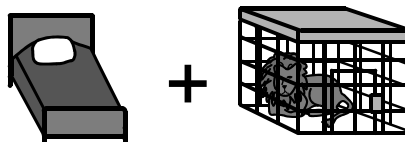
There are two kinds of cage beds.

One is made of metal.

It is used for adult people

One is made of net.

It is used for children.



Cage beds are used in institutions for people with intellectual disability or for people with mental health problems.



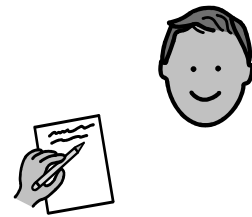
If people are aggressive they are locked in those cage beds.



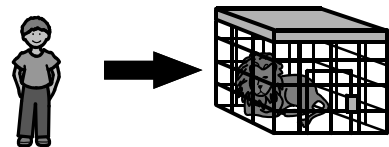
With support of the
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What happened in Czech Republic?

A reporter from a newspaper went to an institution for people with intellectual disability. He asked if he could work there as a volunteer. He wanted to find out how is life for people with intellectual disability in institution.



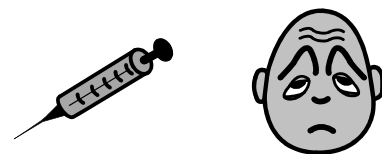
He found that in the institution people were treated really badly. He saw young children locked in cage beds. These children were crying and hitting themselves. Nobody paid attention to them. They didn't have any toys.



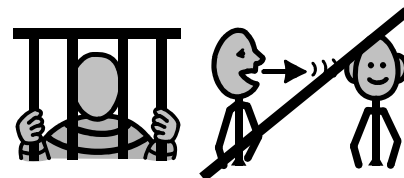
The children were in the cage beds for whole day. They could play outside only when their bed was cleaned. The staff was very unfriendly with them.



The reporter also found out that in some institutions people got injections of medicaments as a punishment if they do something wrong. These medicaments make people sleepy. Anybody can do anything with them.



He also talked to a psychologist. This psychologist had a breakdown because he worked too much. He was sent to psychiatric hospital. They locked him in cage bed. The staff didn't talk to him and didn't answer his questions. He was in the cage for two weeks.



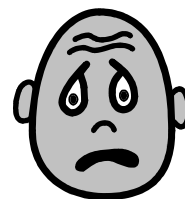
The reporter talked to the directors of the institutions. He asked them why they used this cage beds. They said that it is necessary. They also said that it is good for the people. If they couldn't use the cage beds they would have to put the people to the straight jacket or tie them to bed.

The reporter wrote an article about people in cage beds. It was published in a newspaper in England.



Why people are aggressive?

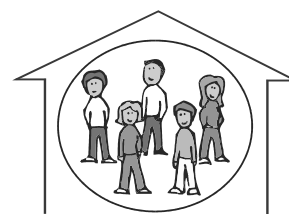
Some people are severely disabled.
They can't say what they want or
if they don't like something.
If they try to say it the people around don't understand them.
They become aggressive.
They are aggressive because they are unhappy.



Some people have mental illness.
They hear and see strange things.
They do not understand what is happening.
They become aggressive.
They are aggressive because they do not understand.



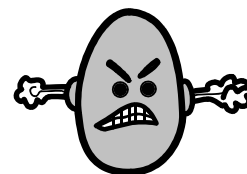
There is always a reason why someone is aggressive.
The staff or the parents should try to find out
why a person is aggressive.
They should try to solve the problem.



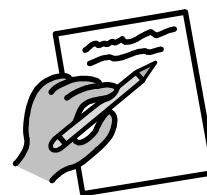
It is not right to put people in cage beds or give them injections.
People that are in cage beds get even more angry and unhappy.
Can you imagine yourself locked in a cage?

What happened next?

Some people in Britain and Czech Republic got angry.
They thought it was very unfair that
children and adults in institutions had to stay in cages.
They wanted to do something to stop it.



These people wrote letters
to the government in Czech Republic.
They asked the government
to ban the use of the cage beds in all institutions.
Joanna Rowling, the writer of Harry Potter, wrote a letter
to the president of Czech Republic.



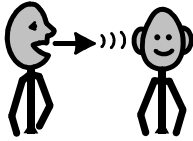
Then the government of Czech Republic banned the cage beds
in some of the institutions.



It is also recommended to all the institutions
to start using other methods
when their clients are aggressive.

What is important?

If you see that there is something bad happening, it is very important to tell others.

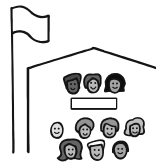


You can also contact journalists and ask them to write an article about it.

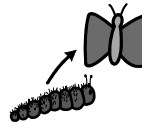
Or to make a program on TV.



You can write about the problem to people in your government.



If there are many people complaining, the government has to do something to change it.



- To get information
- To tell us about news and meetings

Please contact us!

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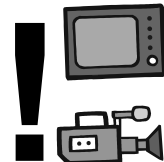
Fax: 0032-2-502 80 10

e-mail:

self-advocacy@inclusion-europe.org

The journalists can help!

If you hear people talking about “media” they usually mean television, radio, newspapers or magazines.



The journalist and the media are very important in today's life. They are important because they give information to most of the people.

If people learn from radio or TV that something wrong is happening, they can help to stop it.

The media have the power to change things.

It is important that the journalist show people with intellectual disability as they are and show their real needs.

They must not show people with intellectual disability as objects of pity or as someone who is helpless and has to be treated as a child.

Inclusion Europe is working together with other partners on project “Real Live Media”.

This project should explain to journalist how to write about people with intellectual disability.

You can find more about this project at www.realivemedia.org.