

Europe for us!

The Newsletter of the European Movement of Self-Advocates

Jul-Aug 2006



Editorial

Dear readers,

For most of us, holidays are over. This means that the work is back. It also means that lots of activities will start again, like conferences and seminars or like the publication of new books.



We tell you about some of these things in this issue. But if you want to tell us about what you are doing, do not hesitate to send us an article.

Andrew Doyle
President of EPSA



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The Fighting For Our Rights project

Inclusion Europe is working on a project called "Fighting for our Rights".

This project wants to give people with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to know better their rights.



This project is about discrimination at work.



People with disabilities are often discriminated at work. This is why the European Union has written the "Directive for equal treatment in employment and occupation".

A European Directive is a European law. This European Law protects people from discrimination at work.

The aim of the Employment Directive is to stop the discrimination of people at work or at vocational training.

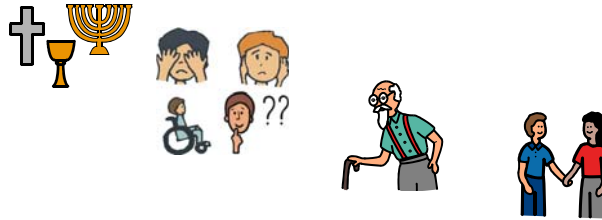


With support of the European Commission and Inclusion Europe

The Fighting For Our Rights project

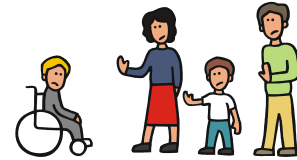
Discrimination can be because of

- your religion or belief
- your disability
- your age
- your sexual choices.



Discrimination is:

when a person is treated worse than another person in the same situation.



For example:

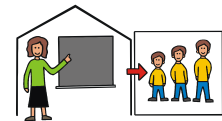
A person does the same work as a colleague.
But the person gets paid less because he has a disability.
This is a direct discrimination.



Sometimes a situation seems to be the same for everybody.
But really, some people are treated worse than others.
This is called indirect discrimination.

For example:

A person is looking for a job as an office cleaner.
The employer says: I want employees that have completed a basic school education.
This would be indirect discrimination if you do not really need a formal school education for this job.



Inclusion Europe tries to explain this law, to help you to understand what you can do with this law. Inclusion Europe explains this law to people with disabilities, but also to other people.



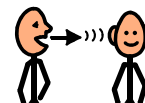
If you have not been treated like other people, you should explain what happened.
If you think that you have been discriminated against, you have the right to complain.
A complaint is a long and difficult procedure.
But you can receive some help to defend your rights.
And you can receive some help to go to Court.



The project explains to the lawyer, what is in the law.
It is important because the lawyer is the person who will defend you.
A lawyer is a person who will help you to explain your story.



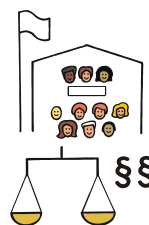
Sometimes it is not easy to speak to your lawyer.
Most lawyers are not used to talk to people with intellectual disabilities.
Inclusion Europe would like to help people with intellectual disabilities
to have good lawyers.



The project also explains the law
to the people working in the Public administrations.
Public administrations are the offices
where people work for you and your country.
For example, the place where you go to get a disability benefit
is a public administration.



Your country should make sure
that you know about your rights in every situation.
This is important because
the government must inform all workers
about their rights.



This European Law is giving important rights for all workers.
Inclusion Europe wrote a little booklet with the information about the rights.
This booklet is easy-to-read.

If you want to read more about the rights of this European Law,
you can write to self-advocacy@inclusion-europe.org
to receive this booklet.



Exploring Experiences of Advocacy by People with Learning Disabilities.

In the UK, a book called “Exploring Experiences of Advocacy
by People with Learning Disabilities” has been published.

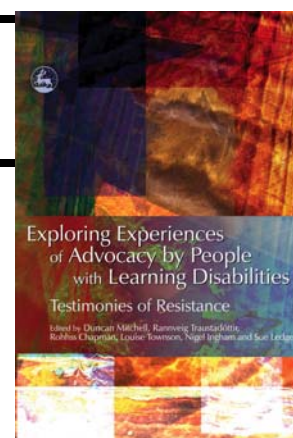
This book explains how people with learning disabilities
have become increasingly able to direct their own lives
as fully active members of their communities.

It also explains what self-advocacy means for these people and
it shows how opportunities and services have changed for them in 10 years.

This book is partly easy-to-read and partly made for parents and professionals.

To get more information:

<http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/book.php/isbn/9781843103592>



Accessibility of internet for all

In Germany, a book called "Actions for an internet for all" has been published recently. It is available only in German. It is fully easy-to-read.



Another book was written. It is called "Accessible webdesign". It is meant for people who are creating new websites. It tells them how to make accessible websites. It is only in German. It is not easy-to-read. There is a CD-rom with it.



For more information:
www.abi-projekt.de or www.wob11.de



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

Please contact us!

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Belgian self-advocates attended an important congress

AIRHM is the "Internationale Organisation of scientific researches for people with intellectual disabilities".

From the 21 to 25 August, AIRHM organised a congress in Lausanne. The topic was: "Participation of people with intellectual disabilities".



2 self-advocates from the Belgian group "Vous et Moi" attended the congress. There were other Belgians with them.

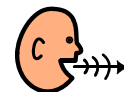
Ann Ndayiziga made a presentation at this congress.

She talked about how self-advocacy groups work and why participation is so important.

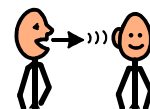
She was very happy to explain why it is important to let persons with intellectual disabilities speak by themselves.

Everybody should learn to speak for themselves.

And everybody should also learn to listen when someone else is talking.



During the congress, there were other presentations, for example on the importance of communication or on the topic of the self-help working groups.



Finally, there were also visits, for example of "Les Aigues-vertes", that helps the integration of people with intellectual disabilities.



For more information: www.airhm.org