

Statement of Unity

We the members of Inclusion International are a movement of families and self-advocates. Our network is enhanced by mutual support, strengthened by professional expertise and informed by research. We are actively committed to and are working to achieve the following principles of Inclusion:

- ***Inclusion*** supports people with intellectual disabilities to have control over their lives and to make choices and decisions in their lives.
- ***Inclusion*** requires that people with intellectual disabilities be accepted as full and equal members of their family and community.
- ***Inclusion*** requires the removal of social, cultural, economic and political barriers that prevent people with intellectual disabilities from full and equal participation in all aspects of community life.
- ***Inclusion*** is about full and equal participation in using mainstream services and is NOT consistent with segregation or segregated facilities.
- ***Inclusion*** celebrates diversity and equality, as the key to building stronger and better communities.

As members we fully commit to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as the Human Rights Framework to guide our work and as benchmark of the progress we are making towards our vision of a world where people with an intellectual disability and their families can participate on an equal basis and be valued in all aspects of community life.

As a network we:

- Celebrate the fact that self-advocates and families contributed to the CRPD and that their voices are reflected in the Convention.
- Recognize that families play an important role in helping people with intellectual disabilities achieve inclusion in the community and realize their rights.
- Give support to help self-advocates and their families to make their own decisions and control their lives.
- Support organizations of families and self-advocates.

- Recognize that persons with intellectual disabilities have the right to appropriate supports and inclusion in the community which help them to make contributions to their communities.

As members we commit to support individuals by:

- Recognizing that being able to make their own decisions is a top priority for persons with intellectual disabilities and working on empowering them to reach their goals.
- Providing the appropriate, individualized, responsive support needed to exercise personal choice.
- Recognizing that inclusion is also a personal development process that starts internally within families and then spreads through the choices of people with disabilities.

As Members we commit to Support Families by:

- Providing families with knowledge about the human rights of people with intellectual disabilities.
- Advocating for policies that support and strengthen families in their role of supporting people with intellectual disabilities.
- Recognizing the need for families to work in solidarity and mutual support.
- Empowering family organizations to recognize and remove barriers that hinder full participation.

As members we commit to change our communities by removing and challenging the barriers to full inclusion by:

- Taking the appropriate proactive action within communities to drive lasting change.
- Making community services, structures and information available and accessible.
- Giving opportunities and support for people to learn and work in the community.
- Supporting and developing services that enable people with intellectual disabilities to participate and contribute to their communities.
- Ensuring equality in options and choices.

- Involving people with intellectual disabilities in defining standards in a way to enhance their quality of life without restrictions related to the “safety” perceived and defined by society.

As members we commit to end exclusion by:

- Ensuring and recognizing that every person has the right to choose how, where and with whom they live and to control their day to day life.
- Lobbying and campaigning at the governmental and non-governmental level to shift from an institutionalised approach to an inclusive and rights-based approach.
- Providing governments with the support (information, systems, models etc.) needed to plan and maintain inclusive facilities for people disabilities.
- Supporting and developing inclusive education.
- Supporting and developing employment opportunities in the regular labour market.

As members we recognise that the road to full inclusion has many challenges but that collective effort will enhance the rate of progress as opposed to working in isolation. We also recognise that countries and even parts of countries are at different places on the journey. We as members of the network commit to sharing best practice to enable others to learn from our experiences.