

BIG ISSUES IN OUR LIVES

What Needs to Change

What Education Looks Like for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Our Experience with Education

People with intellectual disabilities face many barriers to accessing education. In many places, we are separated from students without disabilities in 'special schools'. Sometimes governments call special schools 'inclusive' but they really are not.

Self-advocates all over the world want our right to inclusive education to be respected. This means that all students with and without disabilities should learn together and get good support.

*"Send all children to school.
Not to special schools
where they will be treated
as special monsters, not
capable of learning, but to
regular schools."*

SELF-ADVOCATE, NETHERLANDS



Article 24 of the CRPD protects our right to education.

Our Rights

- It says that governments should make sure that children with disabilities can go to school.
- General Comment 4 of the CRPD explains more about our right to inclusive education.
- It says that inclusive education means changing the education system so that all children can learn together.

"I dropped out of school because I'm not understanding what the teachers are saying."

SELF-ADVOCATE, BURKINA FASO



Big Problems We Face

Accessing Education

- Schools say they won't accept children with disabilities
- Children with disabilities go to separate or 'special' schools
- We don't get to go to university

"Inclusive schools are where we are respected and valued as we are. Inclusive education helps others value us and have us be part of the community."

SELF-ADVOCATE, COLOMBIA



In Schools

- Teachers don't think we can learn
- We don't get support to understand
- Other students do not accept us

"They do not teach in ways that work for all students. Then they say that those kids can't go to school."

SELF-ADVOCATE, ARGENTINA



Good Inclusive Education Looks Like...

- We go to our local school with children our own age
- Teachers understand our needs
- We get support to take part
- We learn skills that will help us to get a job
- We can go to higher education
- We are valued and respected as learners

"We must receive adapted material and support because we need to advance in our learning with the rest of our classes."

SELF-ADVOCATE, ZANZIBAR



What Needs To Change

What Governments Can Do

- Support Inclusive Education
 - Make laws to make sure all children have inclusive education
 - Don't allow or spend money on separate "special education" systems
- Support Schools
 - Fund schools to get training about inclusion
 - Fund schools to make buildings accessible

What Schools Can Do

- Make Classrooms Inclusive
 - Respect and value all students
 - Make sure everyone has time to understand and take part
 - Have a plan to stop bullying and discrimination
- Give Good Support
 - Train and support teachers to teach all students
 - Make sure we have the adjustments we need
 - Work with our families and organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) that represent us

"[My university] didn't require testing...we could have more time with our homework. If I wanted to meet with a teacher, they were open to having a call afterwards to talk about my work."

SELF-ADVOCATE, UNITED STATES



What Others Can Do

- Believe in Inclusion
 - Talk about inclusion and challenge stereotypes
 - Share success stories



Resources from our network

- [Inclusion International's Inclusive Education Position Paper](#)
- [Catalyst for Inclusive Education](#)
- [Better Education for All: Global Report on Inclusive Education](#)
- [Every Learner Matters Report](#)
- [Supporting Families to Champion](#)
- [Inclusive Education: A New Toolkit](#)

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OUR BIG MESSAGE ABOUT EDUCATION

People with intellectual disabilities around the world want education systems that welcome and value all learners with disabilities.

This means no more special education, and that we have time for understanding and full participation in school.

