



CRPD 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

CELEBRATION TOOLKIT

for self-advocate groups & their supporting organisations



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INTRODUCTION

What is this toolkit for?

Plena International are organising a celebration of the CRPD 20th Anniversary

This toolkit is for self-advocate groups and their supporting organisations who want to take part in the celebrations.

The celebrations will include:

- Local community events
- A 24-hour online livestream and an international online celebration event, which will happen on 3rd December, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

This toolkit gives you information to plan and run a local gathering in your community.

You do not need experience or lots of resources to take part. This toolkit will guide you.

What is the celebration for?

The United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 13 December 2006.

Countries began to use the CRPD on 3 May 2008. 2026 marks 20 years since the CRPD was created.

About Plena Inclusion and Inclusion International

Plena Inclusion is a Spanish umbrella organisation that fights for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Plena Inclusion is a member of Inclusion International.

Plena Inclusion and Inclusion International believe that people with intellectual disabilities have the right to be heard.

Inclusion International and Plena Inclusion have a joint project called **Plena International**. It is a regular meeting where self-advocates come together every other month to discuss topics such as accessibility, employment, and independent living.

Why is this celebration important to self-advocates?

This celebration is important for self-advocates in Plena International because the CRPD made their work easier.

It helped more people learn more about the rights of people with disabilities. Self-advocates can use the CRPD to speak up more strongly and push for inclusion for everyone.

HOW THE CELEBRATION WILL WORK

Getting involved is simple. Here is everything you need to do, in three steps:

STEP 1

Hold a local event

Run a celebration of the CRPD in your own community, in October or November 2026.

STEP 2

Share your messages with us

Send us your photos, videos, messages and stories from your event by 30th November 2026.

STEP 3

Join the online celebration

Come together online with self-advocate groups from around the world on 3rd December 2026.

In this toolkit, we will be looking at Steps 1 and 2. We will share more information about Step 3 soon!

STEP 1: PLANNING YOUR LOCAL EVENT

To celebrate the CRPD, we want self-advocates to hold events in your community. You can do it in person or online!

At the events, you can tell people about the CRPD and the work self-advocates do to encourage others to follow the CRPD.

After the event, you can share what people said, along with pictures and videos, with us. We will then share these at the international online event on December 3rd!

Event ideas

Your group or organisations could plan different types of events. The event doesn't have to be big. For example, you could:

- Have a coffee morning at your organisation or at a local cafe
- Hold a short training or presentation on the CRPD
- Organise an open day at your group, organisation, or service so people can learn about your work, where you live, and what you do.



- Set up an information table or stand in your community, for example at the library or town hall, to help people understand what disability is and the work you do.
- Give a talk at a school, a sports centre, or a residents' association.
- Organise art exhibitions, or involve artists with disabilities, theatre groups or dance groups.

What to do at your event

At your event you could:

- Share local or national advocacy work from the past 20 years.
- Discuss what the CRPD means to self-advocates and your organisation.
- Look at what has changed and what still needs to change, and how this affects the lives of people with disabilities.
- Collect messages from self-advocates, families and professionals about the CRPD and the work that has been done on the CRPD.

Who should plan the event?

Your group or self-advocates should develop the ideas and plan the event, with support from your organisation. The organisation's role is to help make sure the plan happens, for example by supporting with logistics, budget and communication.

Who to invite

It is a good idea to get people to your event by preparing leaflets and posters and sending invitations. You can invite family members, friends, and supporters.

It is also worth inviting people from outside your group, such as:

- Local councillors or politicians
- Community groups and residents' associations
- Local schools or colleges
- Local media (for example, your community newspaper or radio station)

Inviting these people helps raise awareness of the CRPD and your work in the wider community, not just among people who already know about disability rights. It's a great chance to make new connections and help your group grow!

When to hold your event

Groups should hold their local events one or two months before the main online celebration on 3rd December. For example, in October or November 2026. In the Supporting Information section is a checklist to help you.

If you are already planning an event or meeting around this time, you could add a CRPD part. For example, if you have a meeting planned, you could add an hour to the agenda for the celebration!

Budget and low-cost ideas

We cannot provide a budget or funding for local events, so each group must cover its own costs.



Your group could fundraise for the event by working with your organisation or by finding sponsors.

You can also keep costs low by:

- hosting the event at your own organisation
- borrowing a free meeting room from a local library or community centre.
- asking everyone to bring some snacks to share, instead of paying for catering.

STEP 2: SHARING YOUR STORIES

How to prepare a story

Please share the stories from your event with us.

We will use them during the online celebration on December 3rd. We will also ask some groups to present.

Your story can be:

- A personal story about disability rights and the CRPD in your community.
- A celebration of something your group has achieved using the CRPD.
- A message of hope or a call to action for the future.
- A short video, photo presentation, or spoken message.
- A celebration to commemorate the anniversary of the CRPD.



What to send

Send us any of these:

- Photos from your event
- A short video, no longer than 5 minutes
- Written messages or quotes from people at your event

- A short report about what your group did

Please also tell us:

- The name of your group
- Your country
- The date of your event
- The name of anyone we should thank or credit

How to send it

Email your files to mark@inclusion-international.org

If your files are too big to email, upload them to [the Google Drive Folder linked here](#). If you are not sure how, email us and we will help.

The deadline is **30th November 2026**. Please send everything by this date so we have time to get it ready for 3rd December.

You can send your message in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese. If you send a video, please also send a written copy of what is said, if you can. This helps us translate it.

Asking permission

Before you send us photos or videos of people or a person's stories, make sure everyone agrees to share them.

The Supporting Information section includes a permission form you can print and use.

HELP WHILE YOU PLAN

You can email us for support or guidance during the planning process:

Inclusion International

- Mark Mapemba – Mark@inclusion-international.org
- Ailis Hardy – Ailis.Hardy@inclusion-international.org

Plena Inclusion

- Natalia Perez – nataliaperez@plenainclusion.org
- Ana – tupueds@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking part in this work with us! We look forward to hearing about your events.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Suggested agenda

This agenda is for a two-hour event. You can make it shorter or longer.

Time	What happens
10 mins	Welcome. Say hello and explain why everyone is here.
15 mins	A short introduction to the CRPD — what it is and why it matters.
20 mins	Someone from your group shares a story about their rights.
30 mins	Talk in small groups, using the questions below
15 mins	Break with refreshments.
20 mins	Record your message, photo or video for 3 December
10 mins	Thank you and goodbye.

Discussion questions

Use these questions for the small group discussion in your agenda:

- What does the CRPD mean to you?
- What has changed for people with disabilities in your community in the last 20 years?
- What still needs to change?
- Can you share a time when your rights were respected, or a time they were not?
- How does your group use the CRPD in your work?
- What message do you want to share with self-advocates around the world?

Planning Checklist

Use this checklist to keep track of everything. Write down who is doing each job, and tick it off when it is done.

You do not have to do everything on this list. Use the parts that work for your group.

Your event details

Name of your group	
Country	
Date of your event	
Time	
Venue	
Who is leading the plan?	

Your planning checklist

What to do	Who is doing this?	Done
Start planning		
Decide what kind of event you will hold (see Event ideas in Section 3).		
Agree on your date, time and venue.		

What to do	Who is doing this?	Done
Check that the venue is accessible to everyone.		
Decide who in your group will do what.		
Set a simple goal or budget for your event.		
Read the Suggested Agenda and Discussion Guide in the Supporting Information section.		
Decide your agenda and what you want to do during your event.		
If you plan to have speakers, invite them and make sure they can attend on the date you have planned.		
Send invitations		
Prepare your invitations, posters and easy-read information.		
Send invitations at least 3 weeks before your event.		
Invite family, friends and supporters.		
Invite people from outside your group too, such as councillors, schools or local media.		
Share information about your event on social media.		

What to do	Who is doing this?	Done
Hold your event		
Close to the day of your event, hold a run-through or pre-meeting to make sure you're prepared.		
Hold your local celebration!		
Take photos and videos, with everyone's permission.		
Collect permission forms so you can use and share photos and videos.		
Collect stories, messages and feedback from everyone who came.		
BY 30 NOVEMBER — Send us your messages		
Choose your best photos, videos, stories or messages.		
Send them to us so we can share them on 3rd December.		
3 DECEMBER — Join the celebration!		
Watch the Plena International live stream and share with others!		
Join the Plena International meeting online at the agreed time.		
Celebrate with groups worldwide.		

Permission form

[Here is a link to a permission form](#) you can use to collect permission to use people's pictures, videos and stories. You will need to add your organisation's name in the highlighted places.

Poster template

[Here is a link to some templates for a poster and a leaflet](#) for your event. You can copy and paste these and fill them in with your group's information. But these are just ideas to help you get started! Feel free to make your own