

Statement of Unity
of
Inclusion International

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A Statement of Unity is an agreement about what is important to us.

It explains our values and what we think the world should look like.

All of the members of Inclusion International agree to these ideas.

Statement of Unity

We are members of Inclusion International.

We are a movement of families and self-advocates.

We give each other support and share our expert knowledge.

We work together to make sure that inclusion is real.

For us, this means:

- People with intellectual disabilities have control and can make choices in their own lives.
- People with intellectual disabilities are full and equal members of their family and community.
- Remove the things that stop people with intellectual disabilities from being fully involved in community life.
- People with intellectual disabilities can use regular services like everyone else and do not have to use separate or segregated services.
- Our communities value everyone's differences and respects everyone equally.

As members of Inclusion International, we fully support the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

We believe in the rights of persons with disabilities. We use them to guide our work and check how we are doing in our work.

The CRPD will help us reach our vision of a world where everyone with an intellectual disability and their families are treated equally and valued in community life.

As a network we:

- Celebrate that our members played a part in creating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Believe families are important in helping people with intellectual disabilities become a part of the community.

- Support self-advocates and families in making decisions.
- Support organisations of families and self-advocates.
- Believe everyone with intellectual disabilities should get the right support so they are included in their communities.

We will support people with intellectual disabilities by:

- Understanding that people should make their own decisions and get support to achieve their goals.
- Provide the right kind of support based on each person's needs.
- Understand that inclusion starts within families, and then extends to the larger community.

We will support families by:

- Educating them about the rights of people with intellectual disabilities.
- Advocating for policies that help families support their loved ones.
- Encouraging families to work together and support each other.
- Helping family groups break down the barriers that stop inclusion.

We will work to remove barriers and make communities more inclusive by:

- Making changes that last.
- Making sure community services, systems and information are accessible to everyone.

- Giving opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to learn and work in the community.
- Making sure everyone has equal choices.

We will work to end exclusion by:

- Recognising that every person has the right to choose how they want to live.
- Pushing governments to support inclusive approaches.
- Helping governments set up services and systems that are inclusive for everyone.
- Supporting and setting up inclusive education systems.
- Supporting and setting up inclusive employment opportunities.

As members who advocate for inclusion, we agree to work towards being inclusive organisations.

We will use the principles of the [Listen Include Respect guidelines](#) to help us include everyone in our work by:

- Believing that inclusion of everybody is possible. We know that with the right time and support no one is “too disabled” to take part including people with high support needs.
- Creating opportunities for self-advocates to be leaders and for their decisions to be heard and respected.
- Building awareness and understanding in our organisations of inclusion and human rights and fighting against discrimination and stereotypes.
- Communicating in an accessible way so that everyone can understand.

- Providing reasonable accommodations and removing the barriers that stop people from taking part in our organisation's work.
- Understanding that the process of including people is as important as the result. People with intellectual disabilities can make our work better by including them in our projects from the start.
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Understanding that inclusion is a journey.

We know the journey to inclusion is not easy. But working together makes it faster. Different countries or regions may be at different stages, but we promise to share what works with each other.