

A Convention Day

People with disability consist 10% of the world population, meanwhile according to recent official statistics, count a total of round 80,000 people with disability.

Discussions on the content of a Convention on the rights of people with disability is in process at UN offices in New York. This treaty will consist the first and most important document that will affirm and promote the rights of this category.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights documents of UN , declare and accept that all human beings should enjoy all the rights and freedoms, stated in these papers without any distinction.

Although there exist all these instruments, people with disability allover the world, still face with barriers of participation as equal members of the society, violation of human rights.

An integral and comprehensive Convention that promotes and protects the rights and dignity of people with disability will offer a meaningful contribution towards balancing the deep disadvantages of people with disability and balancing participation of people with disability in all spheres of social political, economic and cultural life on equal opportunities both in developed and developing countries.

Albanian Disability Rights Foundation(ADRF) through a constant advocacy process with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since 1994, succeeded to ensure the engagement of the Albanian Government and its Albanian state engagement and involvement in the process of compiling of this draft Convention.

The states participating in the process of compiling the Draft Convention, intend to approve the Convention in the next session, to be held in New York at UN headquarters in August 2006.

In order to acknowledge the role of the Albanian state and the civil society in this process, ADRF organized in the environment of the Rogner – Europa Park Hotel, on March 17th, 2006, a meeting to present the International Draft Convention that promotes and protects the human rights of people with disability, aiming to stimulate active participation and contribution of all Albanian actors in the process of finalization of this document. This activity was enabled with the support of UN Voluntary Fund on Disability.

Albanian Disability Rights Foundation(ADRF) is a non profit and nongovernmental cross disability organization , exercising its activity since 1996, working for the promotion of respect of human rights with a special focus on the rights of people with disability.

ADRF intends to reflect in its activities European and International Standards and is involved in National, European and International initiatives by providing concrete contributions in the area of respect of human rights for people with disability

The presence and the addressed speech of highest officials, representatives of the responsible structures, testify the attention of the Albanian Government in the finalization of this process. The presence in the meeting of disability organizations, other organizations focused in human rights, local, national and international partners, is a sign of the grown interest of all the community in the process of promoting and respecting the human rights of all disabled people.

Adaptation of the Convention, the signing and ratifying process from the Albanian Government, will contribute to further compliance of Albanian state disability policies with international standards.

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