

United Nations checked the EU's progress on disability

United Nations Convention

The European Union (in short, EU) signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2010.

The Convention is an important document that tries to make sure the rights of people with disabilities are respected.

When the EU signed the Convention, people with disabilities were very happy.

Is the Convention respected?

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (in short, the CRPD Committee) is a group of people that check what countries do to make sure the rights of persons with disabilities are respected.

This year, the CRPD Committee tried to find out whether or not the EU has put this Convention correctly into practice.

They wanted to find out if the European Union included the rights of people with disabilities in European laws and policies.

This took almost a year.

Reports on what has been done

First, the **EU** wrote a **report**, saying what they did for people with disabilities since they signed the Convention.

European **disability organisations** also published a **report** to say how the EU is doing.

What did the reports say?

They said the **EU** needs **to do a lot more** to make sure the rights of people with intellectual disabilities are respected.

Inclusion Europe wrote a part of the report.
We talked about the personal experiences of people with intellectual disabilities.

For **example**, many people with intellectual disabilities still do **not have the right to vote or to be part of political life** because they have a legal guardian.

This keeps people with intellectual disabilities from taking important decisions about their lives.

Meeting to talk about the problems

The CRPD Committee read these reports and met a few times with disability organisations and with the EU.

One meeting was in April.

List of issues

After the meeting in April, the CRPD Committee made a list called 'the **List of Issues**'.

This list let them keep track of what still needs to be done to protect the rights of people with intellectual disabilities.

Inclusion Europe thought 'the **List of Issues**' does **not** go enough **into detail** about the different needs of support for people with intellectual disabilities.

Inclusion Europe

The European Association of Societies of
Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families



For **example**, the document did **not talk about easy-to-read information** or **extra support for families** who take care of their child with an intellectual disability.

The second meeting to see to talk about the problems

In August, the CRPD Committee, disability organisations and the European Union met again.

They tried to see **what the European Union could do better.**

They talked about many things, like how to support children with disabilities in school and how people with disabilities should live in the community.

Good work but not enough

After the meeting, the CRPD Committee published a document.

The document said the **European Union did a lot of good things**, but that is **not enough.**

They still have more work to do.

For **example**, the European Union needs to know what people with intellectual disabilities want when they make laws about them.

They also need to make sure that people with disabilities can take decisions on their own.

The European Union will now read this document carefully and try to put in practice the advice they got.

They have 4 years to do this.