

European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2021

Speeches in easy-to-read

Easy-to-read is information that is written in a simple way so that people with intellectual disabilities and all people can understand it. You can find more information about easy-to-read at www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read.



In this booklet
you can find some speeches of the event
in easy-to-read.

Day 2: Friday 3 December 2021

Session 3: Children with disabilities

In this session,
the discussion focuses on children with disabilities.
Many children with disabilities in Europe
cannot go to school with other children.
Some leave school early
because they do not get the right support
to continue their studies.

Speech of Katarina Ivanković Knežević



Katarina Ivanković Knežević works at the
European Commission.

Katarina Ivanković Knežević talks

about the EU Disability Rights Strategy.

The strategy describes what problems people with disabilities face in the European Union.

The strategy says what the European Union will do to help with these problems.

The strategy also says what the EU will do to help children with disabilities.

There are other things the EU does to help children with disabilities.

There is a new Strategy on Rights of the Child.

There is the European Child Guarantee.

These strategies want all children to get good, inclusive education.

Inclusive education is when children with and without disabilities learn together.

These strategies also want all children and families to have access to childcare, such as kindergartens.

The European Child Guarantee wants all children

to have access to education and childcare,
to healthcare,
to good and healthy food,
and to have a place to live.

Speech of Elisabeth Gosme



Elisabeth Gosme works
for 'COFACE Families Europe'.
This is an organisation that works
for the rights of all families in Europe.
In short, it is called 'COFACE'.

COFACE has made a group that focuses
on people with disabilities and their families.
This group is called 'COFACE Disability'.

COFACE wants to make sure
that all families can enjoy a good and safe life.
For that to happen,
amongst others,
the **European Union** should:

- Give money to organisations that work to protect the rights of children and their families.
This way, these organisations can continue to do their important work.
- Talk with families and their organisations and understand their problems and needs.
- Give the right support to all families to be able to enjoy a good life and be part of the community.
- Read a useful booklet COFACE wrote about the rights and needs of families of people with disabilities.
This booklet is called 'the SHIFT guide' and is available on COFACE's website.
- Make sure all children can go to school together.
For example, children with disabilities can go to school with other children.

- Support children with disabilities and their families.
- Listen to organisations of people with disabilities when they make plans and decisions.

Closing Session

Speech of Joost Korte



Joost Korte is Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission.

In his speech Joost Korte says that the European Union needs to work to improve the lives and rights of people with disabilities.

The European Union works to improve for people with disabilities their:

- employment,
- accessibility of services and places,
- right to vote,
- right to live independently and be included in the community,
- access to public services such as health care, education, libraries and so on,
- and other areas of life.

People with disabilities have worse access to health care compared to people without disabilities.

People with disabilities must have the same access to health care as everyone else.

Children belong in their families and not in institutions.

Children have the right to good education in inclusive schools. Inclusive schools is when children with and without disabilities learn together.

Families of children with disabilities need support too.

Families need support such as information and training.

Families need also money, and support from people who are experts in various areas.

Persons with disabilities must take part in the digital transition.

Digital transition means when many things in our lives are being done on the internet.

Speech of Ana Peláez



Ana Peláez is vice-president
of the European Disability Forum.

This is an organisation
of people with disabilities

in Europe.

In short it is called the EDF.

EDF works to protect the rights of people with disabilities in Europe.

Ana Peláez talks at the closing of the European Day
of Persons with Disabilities conference.

Ana Peláez says it is very important that
all the discussions and ideas from the conference
are remembered.

Discrimination of people with disabilities
must be dealt with immediately.

Discrimination is when people with disabilities
have worse access to healthcare,
digital services,
and other things because they have a disability.

People with disabilities have worse access

to healthcare, for example:

- some doctors' offices or hospitals are not accessible to persons with disabilities using wheelchairs.
- there may not be sign language interpreters,
- medical staff may not know how to provide healthcare to patients with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities are sometimes denied access

to healthcare altogether.

We have seen this since the beginning

of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For women with disabilities the discrimination is even greater.

The EU must act and stop discrimination of people

with disabilities in healthcare.

The EU must spend money,

and promote equal access to health.

Violent health-related practices against women

and girls with disabilities must stop.

Violent health-related practices are forced sterilisation,
contraception,
and abortion.

It is also when a person is placed
into psychiatric hospital against their will.

Persons with disabilities should also benefit
from trainings on digital services:
How to use the internet for work, life etc.

Many students with disabilities
leave education much sooner
than students without disabilities.

Student with disabilities need support
to get proper education like everyone else.

EU funds must give money to early childcare
and education for children with disabilities.

On the international day for the elimination of violence
against women and girls,
EDF released a statement
calling on EU countries

to ratify the Istanbul Convention.

The Istanbul Convention is a document
to stop violence against women and girls.

We want the European Commission
to prepare laws to stop violence
against women and girls with disabilities.

There are some explanations of difficult words online
in English, French, German and Spanish at:

<https://www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read/#explanations>

More information

If you have any questions
about the European Day of Persons with Disabilities,
you can send us an email at:

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