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# **The UN-Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

## **and its impact on the daily life of adults with mental impairments**

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- Based on the Human Rights and legally binding
  - Entry into force: 3rd of May 2008
  - 53 ratifications of the Convention
  - 32 ratifications of the Optional Protocol

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# Convention Bodies

- Conference of States Parties
- Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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# Purpose of the Convention (Art.1)

- To **promote, protect and ensure** the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by all persons with disabilities, and to **promote respect** for their **inherent dignity**

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- Approximately 10% of the world`s population are persons with disabilities (over 650 million persons)
  - **Disability** results from the **interaction** between persons with physical or/and mental disabilities and environmental barriers as well as corporate attitudes of a non-inclusive society and individuals

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# Main Principles

- Social inclusion
- Self-determination
- Non-discrimination
- Respect for difference and for human diversity
- Inherent dignity

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# Social inclusion

- Economic dimension: access to employment
- Inclusion in the social community: use the services offered within the community
- Cultural inclusion: to know the moral concept and codes (norms)
- Psychic-emotional inclusion: absence of violence, discrimination and providing the feeling of home
- Inclusion by normative behaviour: absence of violence and aggressive behaviour. Acceptance of diversity
- Inclusion by membership: arranging and maintaining social networks

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# Self-determination

- *Independency* > self responsibility give power instead of taking
- Partner competences (Ellington) > inter-human relationship > being worthy of the trust
- Nobody is able to make a choice that she/he doesn't know about
- Power of observation

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# Non-discrimination

- *Belonging*
- Obstructive (hindering) power > leads to discrimination
- Restricting power > helps to live together with fair and transparent rules > active shaping is possible
- Acceptance of equality

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# Respect for difference and for human diversity

- Acceptance of a own identity
- Competence > look for what the person is meant to be
- Adjust the demands to the abilities and not the other way around

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# Dignity

- **Age of Enlightenment:** man as a rational being
  - > ability to choose between 'good and bad'
- **Natural law:** human being owns dignity from birth on (inherent)
  - > doesn't define dignity nor offers rules
- **Avishai Margalit (1999):** not justifying respect and dignity but giving the evidence of non humiliation
  - > dignity is the absence of humiliation and cruelty