



Autism in Pink project, 19 March 2014

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## OUTLINE

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- **About the European Disability Forum (EDF)**
- **Implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Europe**
- **EDF work programme**
- **EDF Women's Committee and its projects**



## **THE EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM**

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- **80 million persons with disabilities in Europe**
  - **Organisation OF persons with disabilities**
  - **Umbrella organisation with national platforms and European federations**
  - **diversity of persons with disabilities**
  - **Promotes the human rights end interests of persons with disabilities at EU & international level**
  - **“nothing about us without us” as motto**
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## THE EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM

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- **Mission** → **Guarantees Fundamental Rights**  
**through an active participation of**  
**persons with disabilities**
- **Values** → **Human rights**  
**Equal opportunities**  
**Non-discrimination**  
**Positive and constructive approach**
- **Vision** → **A society that integrates persons with**  
**disabilities is a better society**


## THE EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM

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- **We make our voices heard at the level of the EU institutions**
  - **We discuss with NGOs, industry and social partners**
  - **We deliver the expertise of persons with disabilities to the EU decision makers**
  - **On policy areas such as transport, ICT, social protection, employment, education, justice and fundamental rights**
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# **THE UN CONVENTION ON RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

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- **Concluded by the EU in 2010 & ratified by 24 Member States**
  - **Integral human rights convention: civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights**
  - **Accessibility & universal design, non discrimination, independence & living in the community, equal recognition before the law**
  - **women, children, persons with high support needs**
  - **Consultation and involvement of persons with disabilities in all decision making processes**
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## **THE UN CONVENTION ON RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

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- **EU will present a report to the United Nations in 2014**
  - **EDF is preparing its alternative report and will have special focus on disabled women and girls, including women with autism**
  
  - **EU has established a Framework for monitoring**
  - **EDF is member of the Framework and ensures the involvement of disabled persons**
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# EDF WORK PROGRAMME

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## OBSERVATORY OF THE CRISIS

- **Persons with disabilities hit disproportionately hard: decrease in living standards, greater unemployment, cuts in benefits and services and threats to their social and human rights**
- **A new social investment package to:**
  - **progressively improve access to healthcare, education, housing and social security**
  - **Investment in Community based services & participation**



# EDF WORK PROGRAMME

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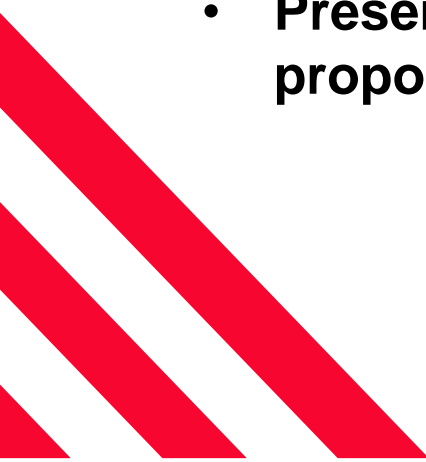
## FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

- **People with disabilities cannot yet fully enjoy their rights to Free movement and access mainstream goods and services, as easily as any other EU citizen**
- **EDF Freedom Guide**
- **European Accessibility Act: improve accessibility of goods and services in EU internal market**
- **European Mobility card: system of mutual recognition of benefits and reductions on transport, in education, on cultural and touristic events**

# **EDF WOMEN'S COMMITTEE**

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## **MANIFESTO ON RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES**

- **A toolkit for activist and policy makers at national and EU level**
  - **Tool to assist process of mainstreaming gender in disability policies and disability in gender policies**
  - **18 thematic areas: education, employment, political participation, sexual and reproductive rights, etc.**
  - **Presents the current situation faced by disabled women and proposes areas for study and research**
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# **EDF WOMEN'S COMMITTEE**

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## **EDF GENDER EQUALITY ACTION PLAN**

- **EDF's commitment to equality of women and men**
  - **through guaranteeing equal opportunities and equal treatment for both sexes and combating all types of gender-based discrimination**
  - **Gender equality committee: disseminating the Plan and monitoring and evaluating its implementation**
  - **At organisational level: in EDF and member organisations' governing bodies, human resources, communication**
  - **In EDF policy areas: sexual and reproductive rights, violence against women with disabilities, etc**
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

QUESTIONS and COMMENTS ?

**EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM**

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An-Sofie Leenknecht, European Disability  
Forum