



Dear readers,

Enclosed is the first Implementation Manual for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities addressed specifically to users and survivors of psychiatry.

This manual describes a paradigm shift that we believe makes room for the diverse needs and concerns of users and survivors of psychiatry: autonomy and support; the choice to use psychiatry and freedom from any unwanted psychiatry; the need for quality services and the right to be left alone. Our human rights are relevant in all areas of life, from the criminal justice system to child custody, from the right to vote to the right to work.

World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP) was one of the leading organizations in the drafting and negotiation of the Convention. Out of this base of knowledge, we have put together this manual addressing all aspects of the Convention from a user/survivor perspective, and some issues in more detail.

We hope that users and survivors and our allies will contribute to the ongoing development of a knowledge base of human rights advocacy (including advocacy for alternatives). Please contribute information about your experiences, activities, challenges, priorities and visions to the ongoing dialogue that must take place internationally, nationally, locally, at every level. We would like to put out an updated version of this manual that incorporates a wider range of experiences, and, in the longer term, to share information from countries that have taken a lead in implementation to serve as examples. It will also be helpful to have any feedback on the value and use of this manual, and any suggestions for improvement.

Please send correspondence to: humanrightsinfo@wnusp.net.

Sincerely,

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