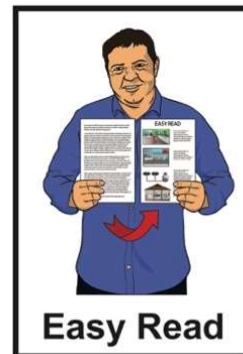


VALIDITY



About Validity

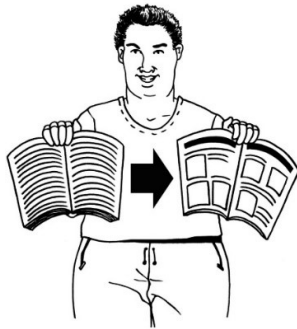


Published: August 2023

Before you read this Easy Read



This document is written in **Easy Read**.



Easy Read is a way of making information easier to understand using:

- plain words
- pictures.



The words we use in this document are the ones we use in the **global** disability rights movements.

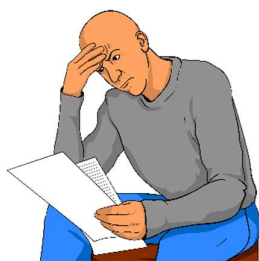


Global means the whole world.

We know people prefer different words in different places.



This is a long Easy Read document.



It can be hard for some people to read a document this long.



Some things you can do to make it easier are:

- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.



What you will find in here

Page number:



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About Validity



Validity is an international organisation that works for people with:

- **psychosocial disabilities**
- **intellectual disabilities.**



A **psychosocial disability** means:

- someone has a **mental health condition**
- and
- society makes things harder for them because it treats them differently.



A **mental health condition** is a medical condition to do with:

- your mind
- how you feel.

Some examples of mental health conditions are:

- depression
- bipolar disorder
- schizophrenia.



Intellectual disabilities are also sometimes called **learning disabilities**.

People with intellectual disabilities can do lots of different things.



When people with intellectual disabilities are children they often learn to do things at different ages to other children.



When they are adults they can find some things hard to do.

Society often treats people with intellectual disabilities differently.

What does Validity do?

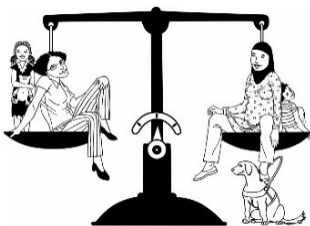
VALIDITY

When we say **we** or **our** in this document we are talking about Validity.



Our goal is to stand up for all people to get:

- **equality**
- **inclusion**
- **justice.**



Equality means everyone gets the same chances.



Inclusion means everyone gets to be part of things.



Justice means the law works in a fair way.



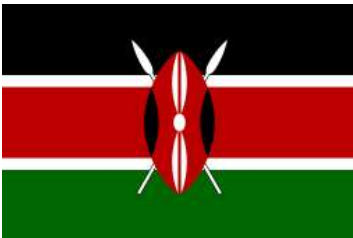
We work in lots of different countries in:

- Europe
- Africa.



Our offices are in:

- Budapest in Hungary
- Nairobi in Kenya.



How do we work?



Validity uses the law to help people get their rights.



We work together with other people / organisations like:

- lawyers
- organisations of persons with disabilities
- people who work for **human rights**.



Human rights are rights that belong to every person in the world like:

- the right to be treated fairly
- the right to live a good life.

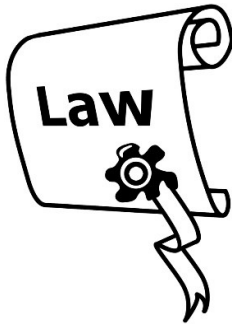
Some of the ways we do our work are:



- listening to people with disabilities
- listening to organisations of persons with disabilities
- doing research which means finding out information
- speaking out about important things so people know what is happening
- working on changing laws
- supporting other organisations / people to learn how to do things.



Validity also works as a **watchdog**.



Being a **watchdog** means that we:

- watch what governments / organisations are doing
- make sure what they are doing:
 - follows the law
 - is **ethical**.



Ethical means doing things in a way that:

- is respectful
- does not hurt people.

What are the issues?



The main issues Validity works on are:

- **discrimination**
- **institutionalisation**
- **segregation.**

Stop
Hello Eat
Words
Person Day Open

We will explain what these words mean on **pages 13 to 16.**

Discrimination



Discrimination is when people are treated unfairly because of something like:

- having a disability
- being a woman
- their skin colour
- not having much money.



People with intellectual / psychosocial disabilities are often discriminated against.



For example children with intellectual disabilities may have to go to a different school.



Adults with intellectual disability are often discriminated by:

- not being able to get a job
- not being able to live where they want
- being stopped from voting.



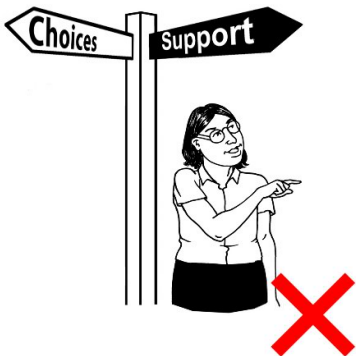
Institutionalisation

Many people with intellectual / psychosocial disabilities still have to live in institutions.



Institutions are where disabled people have to live together instead of with their families.

Institutions usually have lots of rules.



People in institutions do not get a lot of choice about their own lives.

Segregation



Segregation is when disabled people are:

- kept apart from other people
- only allowed to be with other disabled people.



For example segregation can be:

- not being able to take part in activities in the community
- being kept away from other people in a
 - hospital
 - care home
 - mental health unit.



What do we want?



Validity wants rights for people.

This part of the document talks about some of the rights we **advocate** for.



Advocate means to speak up about important things.

Legal capacity



Legal capacity means:

- you can make decisions about your own life
- the law recognises those decisions.



People have the right to get support to make decisions if they need it.



We have a campaign about legal capacity called:

I'm a person.



We advocate for all people to be able to make decisions about their own lives.

Living in the community

People have the right to:

- live in a community
- be included in the community
- have the support services they need.



We think that people should not live in institutions.



Everyone has the right to choose their own home.



We have a campaign for everyone to get the support they need in the community called:

My home, My choice.

Reasonable accommodations



To be part of their community disabled people may need:

- support
- things to be changed like:
 - ramps instead of stairs
 - information in accessible formats like Easy Read or Braille.



These are called **reasonable accommodations**.

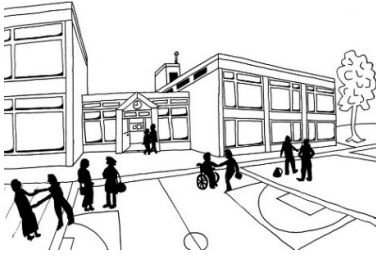


Everyone should be able to use:

- public transport like buses or trains
- buildings like libraries or government offices.



Inclusive education



Everyone has the right to go to a **mainstream school**.



A **mainstream school** is a school that everyone goes to.

It is not a different school for disabled children.



Children should get the support they need at school.

We have a campaign for inclusive education called:

Schools for All.



We think all children should be able to:

- learn together
- play together.

About the UNCRPD



Validity respects the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is a law lots of countries have agreed to.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is also called the **UNCRPD**.



It says what governments must do to make sure disabled people get the same rights as everybody else.



Some of the main ideas in the UNCRPD are:

- people get to make their own choices
- discrimination is not allowed
- everyone should have equal chances to do things.

You can find an Easy Read guide to the UNCRPD in English at:

<https://bit.ly/2GIgD31>

Who works for Validity?



Lots of different people work for Validity.



Most of the people who work for Validity are professionals like lawyers.



There are also some **volunteers** who work for Validity.



Volunteers are people who work without being paid.

Our volunteers do:

- office work
- research.





Our volunteers are:

- students
- **experts.**



Experts are people who know a lot about something.

There are lots of ways people might know a lot about things



For example they may have:

- done something
- experienced something
- learned something.

Contact us



Validity wants to hear from you if you:

- are a disabled person who has experienced discrimination because of your disability
- are an advocate who speaks up for disability rights
- want to work with Validity as an advocate.

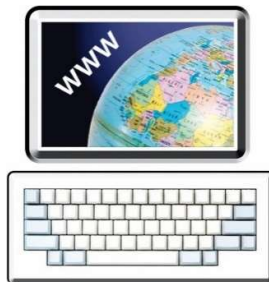
The person you can contact is called Steven Allen.

Steven Allen is the Executive Director of Validity which means he is in charge.



You can contact Steven by email at:

sa@validity.ngo



You can also find more information
about Validity on our **website**:

<https://validity.ngo>



This information has been written by Validity.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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