

EDF Manifesto on the European Elections 2019

**adopted by the 4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities
Brussels, 6 December 2017**

Introduction

This year, the European Disability Forum (EDF) celebrates its 20th anniversary. The Delegates to the 4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities, representing the European disability movement meeting in Brussels on 6 December 2017, adopted this Manifesto in view of the campaign for the European Elections 2019. This Manifesto calls for:

Fully accessible and inclusive European Elections

We call on the EU political leaders to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy their right to vote and to stand for election, inter alia through the following actions:

- Ensuring persons with disabilities the right to vote and the right to run as a candidate for elections as guaranteed by Art. 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which states that all persons with disabilities, irrespective of the kind and degree of their disabilities, can participate in political and public life by taking part in elections both as voters and candidates on an equal basis with others.
- Replacing existing legal capacity legislation, to comply with Article 12 of the UN CRPD and the General Comment No. 1 of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Ensuring that polling stations are accessible to all persons with disabilities and that voting procedures (including for remote voting) are accessible and easy to understand.
- Ensuring that election campaign facilities and materials, political debates, political party programmes and websites are accessible to, and inclusive of, persons with disabilities.
- Ensuring that all persons with disabilities, including those living in institutions, are able to exercise their right to vote independently.
- Ensuring that data on the political participation of persons with disabilities is collected and analysed.

A comprehensive European Disability Strategy 2020-2030

We call on the EU political leaders to adopt a European Disability Strategy 2020-2030 that:

- Satisfies all the provisions of the CRPD, with a budget allocated for its implementation and a well-resourced monitoring mechanism;
- Is integrated into the follow up to the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the European Pillar of Social Rights;
- Is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Is based on the Concluding Observations to the EU by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Involves all EU institutions, bodies and agencies in the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy.

The Strategy should become the driving force of a new Disability Rights Agenda 2020-2030. It should include 2021 as the next European Year of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the conclusion of the CRPD by the EU.

Central to the strategy, should be the establishment of a structured dialogue with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations with an independent budget line. This will allow for meaningful consultation and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, including women, girls and boys with disabilities, as enshrined in articles 4.3 and 33.3 of the CRPD.

EU funding to secure equal opportunities and non-discrimination

We call on the EU political leadership to:

- Safeguard an adequate budget for Cohesion Policy in the next Multi-annual Financial Framework;
- Maintain the partnership principle and the code of conduct on partnerships in the European Structural and Investment Funds;
- Ensure structured and meaningful involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in the negotiations on European funds and the future EU budget;
- Maintain the general principles of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including the principle of accessibility for persons with disabilities



in the planning and implementation process of all EU funded programmes.

An EU Pillar of Social Rights which improves the living conditions of persons with disabilities and their families

We call on the EU and Member States political leaders to:

- Ensure structured involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and its related initiatives. This includes allocating adequate resources to ensure accessibility and full inclusion of persons with disabilities;
- Establish a social protection floor to ensure to all persons with disabilities and their families an adequate and dignified standard of living;
- Adopt measures to include the employment of persons with disabilities in all policies, programmes and legislations aimed at increasing the employment rate in the EU. The right to work should be promoted on the basis of equal opportunities with others in a labour market which is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities as stated in Art. 27 CRPD;
- Ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to an inclusive workplace in the open labour market with a fair wage, reasonable accommodation, and access to an effective social protection system;
- Ensure that all persons with disabilities can enjoy their right to an inclusive education, with personalised support in the general education system;
- Put an end the segregation of persons with disabilities in institutions. Additionally, ensure and guarantee appropriate measures to make the transition from institutional to community-based living a process which allows full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in the community.

An accessible Europe

We call on EU political leaders to:

- Adopt, implement and enforce the European Accessibility Act;
- Ensure that the Marrakesh Treaty is fully implemented within the EU and in cooperation with partner countries around the world so that visually disabled and otherwise print disabled people have access to the same books, magazines and reading materials as all other people;
- Refrain from imposing an economic compensation on books in accessible formats for print disabled persons;
- Implement and adopt the necessary policies to ensure that current and future



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technological developments leave nobody behind and are designed for all so that persons with disabilities are able to use and enjoy them on an equal basis with others, improving their independent living and full participation in all aspects of life;

- Enforce EU legislation on passenger's rights, strengthening accessibility provisions to ensure that passengers with disabilities enjoy their freedom of movement on an equal basis with others.

A Europe of Human Rights

We call on EU political leaders to:

- Adopt an EU horizontal equal treatment legislation;
- Ensure that the rights of women and girls with disabilities are taken into account in all legislative and administrative measures on gender equality;
- Ratify and implement the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, including by prohibiting the practice of forced sterilisation.