



Removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all: the 2012 World Day for Disabled People Rights

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The World Day for Disabled People Rights (Table I) will take place on December the 3rd. The Italian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (SIMFER), as well as other physical and rehabilitation medicine (PRM) scientific societies, have always supported this initiative. This year's support will be carried out through a joint initiative with the Vatican (Table II), according to recently defined commonalities.¹

Approximately 15 per cent of the world's population live with some form of disability. According to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), disability is an evolving concept that "results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental bar-

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TABLE I.—World Day for Disabled People Rights.

Previous years topics
2011: Together for a better world for all: Including persons with disabilities in development
2010: Keeping the promise: Mainstreaming disability in the Millennium Development Goals towards 2015 and beyond
2009: Making the MDGs Inclusive: Empowerment of persons with disabilities and their communities around the world
2008: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Dignity and justice for all of us
2007: Decent work for persons with disabilities
2006: E-Accessibility
2005: Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Action in Development
2004: Nothing about Us without Us
2003: A voice of our own
2002: Independent Living and Sustainable Livelihoods
2001: Full participation and equality: The call for new approaches to assess progress and evaluate outcome
2000: Making information technologies work for all
1999: Accessibility for all for the new Millennium
1998: Arts, Culture and Independent Living

TABLE II.—The SIMFER initiative. World Day for Disabled People Rights.

"Removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all. 2012 December 3 Roma - Aula San Pio X, via della Conciliazione, 5 Ore - 10.00- 12.30

Chairmen: Giornalista
Introduzione Prof. Vincenzo Saraceni Pres. Simfer- Mons. Zimowski Pres., Pontificio Consiglio

Saluti ed Interventi:
Presidenza del Consiglio, Ministero della Salute, del Lavoro e Welfare
Presidente Inail

Messaggi video-registrati: Alana Officer (WHO Dar Ginevra) e poi altri colleghi da Grecia, -Xanthi Michail Pres. ESPRM, Cipro Nicolas Christodoulou Pres. UEMS, Cina Li Jianan, Brasile Marta Imamura, USA Alberto Esquenazi, Belgio Prof Guy Vanderstraeten

Interventi Prof Gerold Stucki -Presidente ISPRM - Prof. Sara Rubinelli - Prof. Giustini - Prof. Stefano Negrini - Prof. David Fletzer...

Interventi di membri della delegazione Italiana Paralimpiadi: ,Presidente CIP Avv. Luca Pancalli, ed altri vincitori di medaglie alle Paralimpiadi

Invitati rappresentanti delle Associazioni delle persone disabili (Fish, Fand, Fiaba, Aism, Aisla, Uildm, Ass. TCE, Anffas etc..)

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riers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

Despite ongoing efforts to reduce disparities, disabled people still face barriers to participation. Not only physical and environmental barriers, but also the more subtle ones need to be considered, such as those regarding information and communications technology (ICT) or legislation or policy or societal attitudes or discrimination. These barriers preclude not only disabled people from equal access to society or services, but also the entire community from benefitting from their contribution. The commemo-

ration of 2012 World Day for Disabled People Rights, with the theme entitled “Removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all” provides an opportunity to address these issues.

References

1. Rubinelli S, Fletzer A, Giustini A, Saraceni V, Stucki G. Rehabilitation as an optimal health strategy for synergies towards implementing the World Report on Disability. Paths for dialogue with the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers. *Eur J Phys Rehabil Med* 2012;48:347-50.

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