**EDF Human Rights Report about**

**the Sustainable Development Goals**

Why are they important

for people with disabilities in Europe?

**Easy to read version**



# The European Disability Forum

The **European Disability Forum** is an organisation of people with disabilities in Europe.

In short, we call it **‘EDF’**.

EDF works to protect the rights

of people with disabilities in Europe.

We think that people with disabilities

should have same chances in life

and take part in the community like everyone else.

We also think that people with disabilities should decide about their lives.

**Nothing should be decided about us without us.**

# The human rights report

Every year, EDF makes a document

that talks about the rights of people with disabilities.

It talks about things that are important for them.

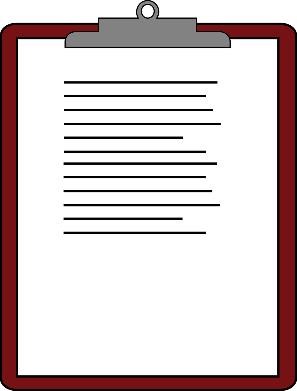
For example, last year we made a document that talks about

the **‘UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’**.

# The UN Convention

The **UN** is a big organisation

that works for peace and a better world.

The UN made a document that says

what rights people with disabilities have.   
It also says how countries should protect these rights.

This document is called

**‘the UN Convention on the Rights**

**of Persons with Disabilities’**.

In short, we call it ‘**the UN Convention’**.

Many countries have signed the **UN Convention**.

That means that they agreed to do what the **UN Convention** says.

They agreed to make things better for people with disabilities.

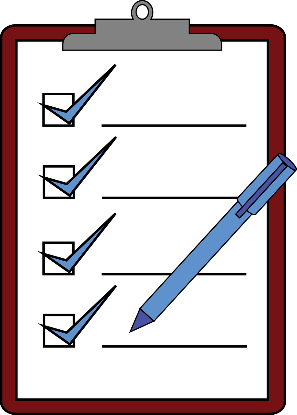
# The Sustainable Development Goals

This year, EDF made a document

that talks about another important thing for people with disabilities:

**‘the Sustainable Development Goals’**.

Some time ago, countries came together and agreed to work

to make the world better.

For example, they agreed to protect people

who are very poor or left out

and make things better for them.

They also agreed to try to make peace in the world   
and to protect the planet.

They made a plan to make this happen by 2030.

To make this plan happen, they set some goals.   
We call these goals **‘the Sustainable Development Goals’**.



If countries make these goals,  
the world will be a better place for everyone  
and no one will be left behind.

For example:

* Less people will be poor, hungry or left out.



* All people will have the chance to go to school and study.



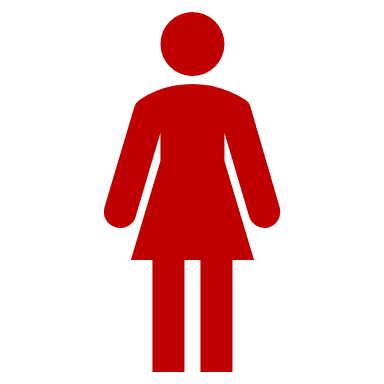
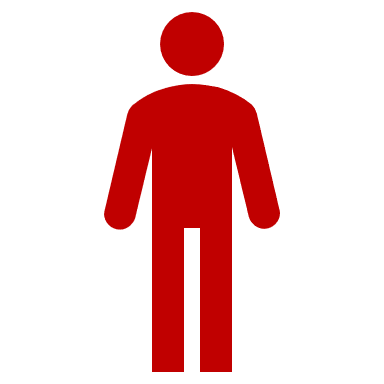
* All people will have the chance to work

and make their own money.



* Women will have same chances in life as men.   
  They won’t be treated unfairly or badly.





* All people will take part in the community   
  and live together as equals.



Countries who have agreed to make these goals happen,   
meet every year to talk about how it is going.   
They talk about what they did to make these goals happen.   
They also talk about problems that make it harder for them  
to make these goals happen.   
They share their experiences, learn from each other   
and try to solve these problems.   
  
For example, every year in July,   
there is a big meeting in New York.   
This meeting is called **‘High Level Political Forum’**.

# All people should have a say

Countries should hear what people think about their work   
to make the **Sustainable Development Goals** happen.  
They should listen to all people and make sure  
that **no one is left behind**.

The **Sustainable Development Goals**   
concern people with disabilities too.   
They can make their lives better.  
So countries should listen to people with disabilities too.

That is why people with disabilities and their organisations   
made a group.

All people with disabilities and their organisations

can join this group, if they want to.

This group wants to make sure

that people with disabilities can take part

in the work that countries do   
to make the **Sustainable Development Goals** happen.

The group reminds the countries that

the **Sustainable Development Goals**

concern people with disabilities too.

So the countries should listen to them and respect their rights.

# How things are in Europe

The **European Union** is a group of 28 countries in Europe.

These countries came together to make the lives of people better.



The European Union signed the **UN Convention**

and agreed to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

They agreed to make things better for people with disabilities in Europe.

The European Union agreed

to make the **Sustainable Development Goals** happen too.

Both the **UN Convention** and the **Sustainable Development Goals**

are very important for people with disabilities.

The **UN Convention** talks about the rights of people with disabilities.

The **Sustainable Development Goals** talk about the good of all people.

Also people with disabilities.

# What the European Union should do

The European Union and its countries should work together

to make the **UN Convention** and the **Sustainable Development Goals** happen.

Some work should be done by the European Union

and some work should be done by each country that is part of it.

EDF thinks that the European Union should do more work

to make the **Sustainable Development Goals** happen.

We think that the European Union should make a plan that says

how they will work to make the **Sustainable Development Goals**

happen.

The European Union should also help its countries  
to make the **Sustainable Development Goals** happen in each of them.

EDF also thinks that the European Union should make a plan

that says how they will work in the next years  
to make the **UN Convention** happen.

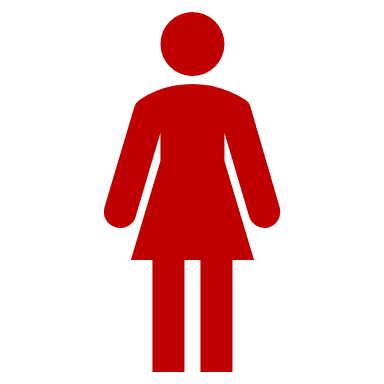
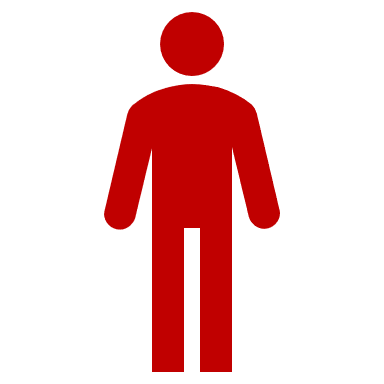
If the European Union makes the **Sustainable Development Goals**

and the **UN Convention** happen in Europe,

things will be better for people with disabilities and all people.

For example:

* **Both the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Convention**



**say that women are equal to men.**They should not be treated unfairly or badly   
just because they are women.   
  
Often women with disabilities are treated badly or unfairly.   
They have a bigger risk to be left out than women without disabilities. This is unfair and should stop.  
  
EDF thinks that the European Union   
should protect women with disabilities and make sure

they have same chances in life like everyone else.   
They should not be left out or treated badly  
just because they are women or because they have a disability.

* **Both the Sustainable Development Goals**

**and the UN Convention**

**say that things should be accessible**

**so that all people can use them.**This is very important

for people with disabilities.   
Too many things in Europe

are still not accessible for them.

For example, often buses and trains

are not accessible.

So people with disabilities

cannot use them to go to work

or go meet their family and friends.

Or schools are not accessible.

and children with disabilities

cannot go to school with other children.

So people with disabilities

cannot take part in the community

like other people

because things are not accessible for them.

They are left out and this is unfair.

EDF thinks that the European Union should make sure   
that things are accessible for all people.

We think that the European Union should make a strong law

to make more things accessible for people with disabilities.

This law is called **‘the European Accessibility Act’**.

Now the European Union is talking about this law and will decide

if they will make this law happen in Europe.

If this law happens, some things will be better

for people with disabilities.

* **Both the Sustainable Development Goals**

**and the UN Convention**

**say that all people**

**should have the chance to get a job.**

If they have a job,   
they can make their own money,

be independent and make their life

as they want.

But too many people with disabilities in Europe

do not have the chance to get a job.

This is because things are not accessible for them.

For example, if the bus is not accessible,

many people with disabilities cannot take it to go to work.

It can also be because other people do not want to work with them.

Without a job, people with disabilities do not have money

to buy the things they need to have a good life.

They may be very poor or left out of the community.

EDF thinks that the European Union should make sure

people with disabilities have same chances to get a job

like other people.

To make things better for people with disabilities,

it is very important that the European Union knows

how many people with disabilities there are in Europe.

For example, they should know:

* How many are women with disabilities?
* How many are children with disabilities?
* How many people with disabilities live in care homes?

If they know how many people with disabilities there are,   
they will be able to help people with disabilities in a better way.

# Leave no one behind

It is also very important that the European Union listens

to people with disabilities and their organisations.

When countries agreed to make the **Sustainable Development Goals** happen,

they promised to **leave no one behind**.

So people with disabilities should not be left behind either.

The European Union and all countries should remember this

when they work to make the **Sustainable Development Goals**

happen.

They should listen to people with disabilities and all people

and try to do things better for them.

They should keep their promise to **leave no one behind**.



# How people with disabilities can help

People with disabilities and their organisations can help

to make the **Sustainable Development Goals**   
happen in their countries.

For example:

* They can learn more about the **Sustainable Development Goals**

and understand why they are important for them.

* They can share information and learn from each other.
* They can talk to people who make decisions in their country

about how important the **Sustainable Development Goals** are

for people with disabilities

and ask them to make them happen.

# More information

If you have questions

or if you need more information

please send us an email at [info@edf-feph.org](mailto:info@edf-feph.org).

Also, you can visit our website at [www.edf-feph.org](http://www.edf-feph.org).

