

Bernadette Pilloy

Personal situation: 77 years old, married with 6 children – including 2 with "special needs" who were adopted – and bereaved parent since the loss of my 4th child in 1982.

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The onset of blindness in 1998, after being visually impaired since birth, marked a new turning point in my life.

Hold a Mobility Inclusion Card since then, mentioning blindness with need for support.

A person with a disability is first and foremost a person – continually learning incredible new ways of communicating, acquiring knowledge and starting over in a new and disrupted life. I always believe there is life after sight, as my experience taught me so.

My commitments since 2011

- Since 2011** **Board Member – CFHV (French Collective for Visual Impairment; ex CFPSAA, French Confederation for the Social Advancement of Blind and Visually Impaired People)**
Contributor to the universal and digital accessibility commission.
- Since 2015** **Full Contributing Member – CNCPH (National Consultative Council for People with Disabilities) for the CFHV**
Leader of the delegation for gender equality and disability since 2022.
- Since 2015** **Full Member – CFHE (French Council for Persons with Disabilities for European and International Affairs)**
Vice-President from 2015 to 2020; President since 2020;
Participated in the assemblies of the European Disability Forum since 2020;
Spoke at a European Disability Forum board meeting on the place of disability in the French Constitution;
Participation in the development of CFHE booklets, including "Disability and Artificial Intelligence" and "Disability: The Words to Talk About It";
Hosted the 30th anniversary of the CFHE with the presence of the President of the European Disability Forum, Yannis Vardastanis in 2023;
Animated the celebration of Europe Day with CFHE and Collectif handicaps in 2025, including a presentation on full access to rights for people with disabilities in France, Europe and internationally.
- Since 2021** **Alternate Member – National Consultative Commission on Human Rights**
Represents the CFHE;
Authored the opinion "Public policies on disability" as co-rapporteur.

Professional and extra-professional experience before 2006

- 1972** **Tutorial supervisor - Law Faculty, Metz (France)**
- 1975** **Head of Terre des Hommes France Basse-Normandie ; Member of the National Adoption Council of TDH-France**
On-site assistance to heart surgeries for foreign children;

Helped candidate families obtain DDASS accreditation for international adoption;

Follow-up on internationally adopted children.

2003 Public Writer's Business Founder

Retired at 65 in 2014; full-time volunteer work since then.

2003-2006 Assistant for candidates wishing to adopt disabled children (Adoption Agency: Emmanuel-Adoption).

Welcomed new parents of disabled children and ensured follow-up on placed children.

Since 2003 Yvelines Departmental Accessibility Subcommittee Board Member

Body responsible for reviewing the compliance of building and road permit applications for establishments open to the public (ERP) with accessibility regulations.

2003-2006 Assistant for candidates wishing to adopt disabled children (Adoption Agency: Emmanuel-Adoption).

Welcomed new parents of disabled children and ensured follow-up on placed children.

Training

1971 Master's degree in private law, Nancy Law School (Meurthe-et-Moselle).

1976 Bachelor's degree in psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Caen (Calvados).

1978 Bachelor's degree in Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Caen (Calvados).

Honours

1993 Silver Medal of the French Family

2023 Knight of the Legion of Honor

Interests

European affairs & policy — Sustained engagement through extensive reading and professional exchanges on EU institutions, policies, and debates.

Social advocacy — Long-standing personal and professional commitment to the rights of people with disabilities, the sick, migrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, and Travellers; in France, in Europe, and beyond.

Family — Proud spouse for 53 years, parent of five, and grandparent of eleven; family is both my anchor and a source of daily inspiration in my commitment to others.