

PS LetMEbe



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (PART I)

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6. Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7. All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8. Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10. Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11. (1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence. (2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13. (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. (2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14. (1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15. (1) Everyone has the right to a nationality. (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16. (1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. (2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. (3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17. (1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

PS LetMEbe

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Preface

LAMBERT VAN NISTELROOIJ: "ON RIGHTS AND REALITY"

On 13 December 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This was the starting point for a long lasting battle, bringing these rights to reality.

I am happy that Prisma, the Dutch Institute for Care, Housing and Welfare of persons with a mental handicap brings us unique views of clients in their daily life. Their approach results in the exhibition "PSLetMEbe" in the European Parliament in Brussels from 9 until 13 July 2018. This booklet and a symposium will guide their experiences with the Convention in daily life.

From mid-2010 until mid-2018, I was President of the Supervisory Board of Prisma. During this period, I met with clients, family members, volunteers and care workers at Prisma. I am proud of the progress made, and of giving them a warm welcome in Brussels.

I thank all the participants of Prisma and their partners for the initiative. Your visit together with the exhibition "PS LetMEbe" will inspire the debate in the European Parliament.

Lambert van Nistelrooij
Member of European Parliament, EPP Group, the Netherlands



On 2 February 2018, a cheque from charity foundation Fonds Cohesie was handed out to the supported living centre De Pannehoeve in Helmond, the Netherlands"

DIETER-LEBRECHT KOCH: "BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS"

As a Member of the European Parliament, I take a stand for the rights of people with disabilities since 1994. To raise awareness for the specific concerns of people with disabilities, I co-founded the Disability Intergroup. Our aim is to ensure that people with disabilities are fully included in society on an equal basis with others.

One of my goals is to enable people with disabilities to travel spontaneously. Right now for example on rail trips in many countries, assistance services have to be requested not only several hours, but sometimes also several days before the start of a trip. There is a clear need for improvement. As Vice-Chair of the committee on Transport and Tourism, I therefore focus on promoting barrier-free booking and travel.

To break down the existing barriers, I work closely together with those affected as well as their associations. I strongly believe that only regular, active exchange can create understanding for the concerns of people with disabilities and lead to sustainable solutions.

The long lasting cooperation of Prisma with the Stiftung Alsterdorf in Hamburg helps to understand the different traditions and perspectives in Europe. I strongly support Europe-wide cooperation and am open for debate.

Dieter-Lebrecht Koch
Member of European Parliament, EPP Group, Germany



MEP Dieter Lebrecht Koch (EPP Group) with Simone Fischer, Städtetag Baden-Württemberg

PRISMA: “PS LETMEBE”

Prisma, a Dutch organisation with over 100 facilities, takes care of more than 2,200 clients with a (mental) disability in healthcare, housing and welfare. Prisma provides tailor-made care for clients of all ages and puts the clients first.

Prisma started its first facility at the beginning of the previous century. Considering the predominant views at the time, one has to recognise that Prisma was a frontrunner in caretaking. Even before the Netherlands ratified the UN Convention in 2016, Prisma already wielded a client-centred approach. The UN Convention formed the point of departure for all the organisation’s activities regarding people with disabilities. As a result, the clients have a say in the care they receive, their living facilities - at Prisma or at home - and their daily schedule.

The pivotal role of the client with a disability is further enforced by the organisational structure of Prisma. Every unit consists of a team of caretakers. In developing Prisma’s philosophy, the quality of the individual teams and their team supervisors was the first priority. Consequently, Prisma assured a genuine bottom-up approach.

The “PS LetMEbe” pictures are a selection of a photo presentation created by Prisma. The original exhibition, the result of a collaboration with clients and their caretakers, wanted to show the intrinsic value of people with a disability. The texts that accompany the pictures often come from persons with a disability.

The photographs try to give an answer to the following questions: “How do people with a disability look at the UN Convention? What kind of ideas do they have about their rights within current care?”. Foremost, the photographs show us, as a society, that there is still a long way to go to obtain equal rights for people with a disability.



In April 2015, the then Supervisory Board (SB) and the Board of Directors (BD) started its lobby on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the European Parliament in Brussels. From left to right: Lambert van Nistelrooij (president SB); Anouschka van Laarhoven-Rovers (vice-president SB), Leo Platschorre (secretary SB and BD), Marijke Frijters (member SB), Jac de Bruijn (member BD), Jaap de Bruin (president BD), Leon Vincken (member SB), Pier Holtrop (member SB).

EQUALITY

ARTICLE 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

ARTICLE 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

You and I
Me and you
Not equal
But equivalent
You and I
Me and you
Who are we?

Gerard and Anita

ARE YOU ME?



MEDICATION VS CARE

ARTICLE 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

"I didn't behave well. According to them. They didn't understand me. My behaviour got worse. I was throwing, beating and destroying things. I did not understand the world. It was too much for me. Do you know how many caretakers I have already had? I stopped counting.

They felt that I had to be contained. They had all sorts of tricks for that. Pills. Not letting me go. Locking me up. Do you know what pills do? I lost myself. I had no energy left and felt like a dead bird. I also could not think well anymore. I could no longer do everything I could before.

Tell stories. Operate my music recorder. I liked that. But I couldn't do it anymore. It didn't matter how hard I tried, they did not understand me. I just wanted to explain that I did not understand the world. I just cannot say that with words.

Now I am better at it. I am me again. They try to understand me. They look at me. Not only just at what I do. They try to understand what I mean by it. A lot of pills are gone. The things I can enjoy again: food and drinks; making a trip together with my caretakers; looking at what is happening around me.



And the best thing about all of this? I'm not the only one. I see that others in my home are succeeding as well. No more straps. No more locking up. No more pills. Now that they understand us, we do not have to break anything anymore. To hit. Or to throw. And if it does happen once? Then they stay with me and we try again. Always. That feels good. And do you know where I live? At Mierennest 3-5. I feel at home there. "

Frank, Sanne and Marijke

ARE YOU LIVING FREE?

NO DRESSCODE

ARTICLE 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

ARTICLE 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Wessel, Mixie, Robin, Anita
Germon, Abdelilah, Kees, Edwin

**DO YOU SEE THE
DIFFERENCE?**



TRUST

"I thought the idea of the photo was a nice way to show that it can be frightening to trust being in a dependent position.

Trust is just as non-existent for me as rest in general

I know it should be standard, but I just don't have it.

The most normal things on earth are a struggle for me.

In the relationships with my caretakers, I am confronted with the issue of trust.

I am being forced to trust because of my dependence.

If I don't trust, I have nothing at all."

Serge and Helna

DO YOU TRUST?



FROM THE INSIDE

ARTICLE 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

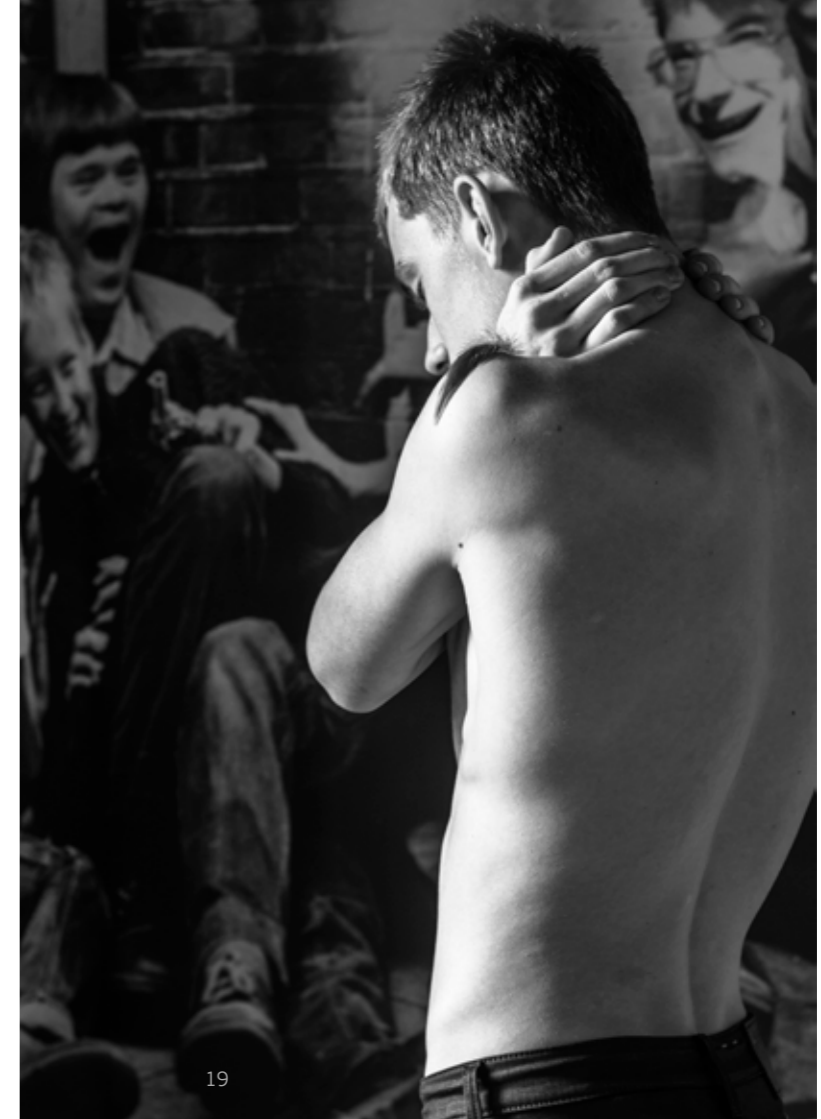
ARTICLE 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

From the inside I feel like a bird
I feel free there
You're out there
And force me
I feel humiliated, alone and abandoned
Can I hate you?
You think, decide and judge me
Time after time, he and she
You're the outside and I am the inside,
That's how it looks like for the others
But inside I feel free
And you cannot understand that

Jordy

ARE YOU LOVED?



THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

ARTICLE 6

Everyone has the right to recognition
everywhere as a person before the law.



"Incomprehensible are my words
Understandable are my sounds
Blind for the visible
But readable in my face
Deaf to the silence
Audible for my loved one
Fighting for my happiness
Unconditionally loved
I give you, myself in protection....."

Harm and Germon

ARE YOU WORTH IT?



LOOK AT THINGS DIFFERENTLY, LOOK AT ME DIFFERENTLY

ARTICLE 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

"I asked the court for help a few years ago. I was not happy with my life, did not feel like I was in control and was in conflict with the people around me. My father was a my curator and we had a lot of arguments about all kinds of things. The quarrels, the struggle, made me feel helpless and hopeless, and the fact that I did not experience any support in my environment only made it worse. The judge however, was there for me, he understood what I meant and appointed another caretaker.

I have won but also lost.
I wanted to get rid of the arguments, not to lose my father.
I just wanted my father,
but the other is true, so true.
One day I hope my father will be my father again."

Patrick

DO YOU SEE THE SAME?



MADNESS

ARTICLE 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

“The dictionary gives the following translations: The madness, the mischief, the senselessness, the insanity, the folly. Crisis shelter Hindeloop 2-4 has years of experience in helping clients of different origins, different development levels with different questions and they all come from a so-called ‘crisis situation’ where they can no longer stay in their current place of residence.

During the ‘old / former situation’, the client was often seen as THE problem. The clients were also received as such. The apartment was not decorated in a cosy way and the doors were always locked. The staff was most important, they decided when clients were allowed to go outside, to eat, to go to bed, to smoke and what was going to happen in the ‘free’ time of the clients.

In recent years, the vision on crisis relief has changed.

The same words still apply, but they are approached with a friendly, positive look. Clients who come to Hindeloop 2-4, still come from a crisis situation but are received differently.

They are welcomed, they get something to drink and they are reassured. They are listened to, and it is checked what they have gone through and what care and guidance they need. Clients are allowed to put things in their apartment that are important to them, give them support and make them (hopefully) feel more at ease.”



“We work with people, people who have a hard time and who are entitled to feel better again!

The Madness: the mischief, the senselessness, the insanity, the folly.
We are going for it!”

team Hindeloop 2-4

WILL YOU CLOSE THE DOOR?

SOUND OF SILENCE

A picnic table in the front yard.
Coffee and tea.
Residents and guidance.
Looking like two parties and
almost directly opposite each other.
The beginning of a conversation
on a late summer evening in August.
With a joint desire,
that HEARING actually becomes LISTENING ...

team De Bergsebaan

ARE YOU HEARING WHEN YOU ARE LISTENING?



CUSTOM-MADE SUIT

**"MY BACK CAN ONLY CARRY
WHAT I CAN HANDLE."**

Carlo and Jordy



THE HAMMER BLOW

ARTICLE 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

ARTICLE 11

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.



She does not see who is standing in front of her, she weighs the accusation against the evidence and she determines the punishment according to the severity of the offense or the crime.

Margo

ARE YOU GUILTY?

ENJOY THE RIDE

ARTICLE 13

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
- (2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

"The Clients Platform holds the meetings at Prisma HQ. Entering the reception area however can be difficult without help.

This is often also the case in shops. The store staff often asks the caretaker what the client wants and / or how he or she will be paying.

You also get 'well-meant' advice from other shoppers: 'Would you buy this? Is there too much fat in there? Will it not make you fat?' "Public buildings are not always accessible, not to mention sanitary facilities. Disabled toilets are often used for a variety of other purposes. Often there is too little space.

It is often the case that conversations run through the person who is with you. So the person with a disability is out of the game.

When a group consists of persons with different disabilities, the caretakers must be able to 'switch'! Evening activities outside the housing facility are often difficult to realise because you are tied to time if you need help from caretakers."

Nel and Henny

ARE YOU FOLLOWING?



LOOKING BACK ON LIFE

“Started downstairs, where I received a lot of guidance in a 24/7 housing facility. Then I experienced many seizures. I have improved, no more attacks. Always small steps up to more independence. Now I live semi-independent where I get help one hour per two weeks. So I climb up ... do not let me go completely, I want to keep a small help line. ”

Sjoerd

DO YOU LET GO?



THE KEYS



“... give access to
happiness success
new ways, opportunities
Sometimes the door is closed ... ”

client supervisor

ARE YOU OPEN?

BE MY GUEST

“How do we express the ‘Human Rights’ in our work as family counsellors?”

In our work we focus on families, in which one or more persons have a restriction. For us it is self-evident that they, like everyone else, have the right to make their own choices. This means that they have a request for help, which we provide. We therefore do not decide what they need help with, but we decide together with the family what they need and how we can guide them. So the family is in control! They determine which path they want to follow and when and how they need our guidance.

At the same time, we have our own limits, Prisma sets conditions / requirements for the guidance and we are forced to work within the legal frameworks. When this comes into conflict with the choices of the family, this

is made negotiable. In consultation with the family, a solution is sought, in which the family is leading and the family counsellor looks at whether it is justified to think outside the box “.

On the photo, this is shown by picturing Patricia with one of her children on the stairs in the ‘spotlight’. Our attention is focused on the family, they determine where they want to go. Patricia expressed it very precisely: “I came from a deep valley and I am climbing up, up the stairs!”

The coach has confidence in the strength of Patricia and supports / guides and stimulates her where, how and when Patricia wants. This gives Patricia confidence in her own ability and strength to go up the stairs as far as she wants!



- The title ‘Be my guest’ has a double meaning:
- The family supervisor is ‘a guest’ of the family, invited by the family to come to them.
 - Both the family and the family counsellor say to the other: “Go ahead”; the family invites the supervisor to join them in looking for solutions and the family counsellor encourages the family to actively think together about solutions and to get started.

Patricia and family counsellors

DO YOU TRUST ME?

CROSSING THE BORDERS

ARTICLE 14

Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

ARTICLE 15

Everyone has the right to a nationality.

ARTICLE 21

Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

- 1) Proof of citizenship
- 2) Proof that you may cross
- 3) Proof of nationality
- 4) Proof of identity
- 5) Government-issued document

WILL YOU PROVE YOURSELF?



A BEAUTIFUL DAY

ARTICLE 16

Men and women of full age have the right to marry and to found a family.

“Everyone has the right to marry his or her love of their life. You are allowed to be who you want to be and say yes to the person you love.

Doesn't love make the world more beautiful?

Falling in love with a man, woman or if necessary your teddy bear, you can marry whom you want. Isn't everyone entitled to that right?

And you make the choice yourself out of love. And not because someone says it or because your faith tells you to do so or because you have a disability.

I hope that I can one day marry the love of my life, but first I have to meet this person. If not, it is all the same, but I have been allowed to feel like, and be the bride on this picture! “

Ilse

DO YOU WANT THIS AS WELL?



PUPPET ON A STRING

ARTICLE 19

Everyone has the right to freedom
of opinion and expression



“The image on this picture is my dream.
My own directing, my own opinion, my own life
There are moments I live my dream, I am proud of that.”

Miriam

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WAKE ME UP

“A person is entitled to sleep, needs sleep.
In healthcare, we are sometimes inclined to continue intensive care in the night, from a sense of responsibility and other good reasons, our values / norms / habits / rules? But what care is really needed at night? Does someone show what is needed at night? And what if someone does not want to sleep at night?”

In the night you meet mankind in all his vulnerability. And because of the systems and care we sometimes use, someone's vulnerability becomes even greater! Think also of privacy! That means that we, night shift employees, want to be very cautious, in the care that we will or will not give.

Why do you wake me up at night?
Or why do you let me wake up at night? ”

team Nachtzorg



DO YOU DREAM?

COMFORT ZONE

ARTICLE 23

Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment,
Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work

“In 2013, with the memorandum ‘Every client is entitled to a career’, the new policy of the Daycare and Work sector is presented at Prisma.

At Prisma we consider having work / daytime activities as a fundamental element for someone’s life. It not only provides a daily routine, but also gives meaning to daily life. We therefore assist clients in finding that form of labour or day care, giving them the opportunity to fully utilize their personal capacities and develop their talents.

Enrichment is: the feeling of being meaningful, adding something with your contribution, having fun, being stimulated and challenged, being connected to the world around you and experiencing satisfaction.

It is all very clear and it sounds logical ...

We as care workers have to make a change from ‘caring for’ to ‘ensuring that’. Letting go, going out of your comfort zone. Because beyond the comfort zone there are opportunities! “

Angela

DO YOU SEIZE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES?



THE BICYCLE REPAIR MAN

Willem moved from Zwolle to Brabant on his own request because he wanted a fresh start. Willem lives at 't Schop in Oisterwijk. He has also been working at AC Groen. Willem worked for one day at a bicycle repair shop during his internship.

This is to the satisfaction of both Willem and the bicycle mechanic. This meant that Willem works every week on Thursdays at the bicycle repair shop. Willem feels like a fish in a barrel. He already possesses the necessary skills and he has insight into the bicycle repair profession. Willem finds it very nice that he can learn even more from the bicycle mechanic, which he can then apply in practice at home but also within AC Groen.

For Willem, the photo session felt like the day of his life. He experienced this as a piece of recognition for his craftsmanship. And this also convinced him that the step from Zwolle to Brabant has been the right one.

Willem



**ARE YOU STUCK
IN YOUR SADDLE?**

SEND ME A POSTCARD

ARTICLE 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure,
including reasonable limitation of working hours
and periodic holidays with pay.

"The summer vacation,
The autumn holidays,
The Christmas holidays,
The crocus holidays,
The May holiday,
The summer holiday,
The autumn holiday,
The Christmas holiday,
The crocus holiday,
The Me holiday?
Summer holidays,
autumn holidays,
Christmas holidays,
The crocus holidays,

They're always passing by,
the wonderful stories of that other person. "

Ad



HOW WAS THE WEATHER?

STAND BY ME

Will you stand by me?
Where others turn their
backs to me?

Anke, Andries, Matz



AS IF



"As if..."

We are colleagues...
We are citizens of the same city
We are caretaker and caregiver
...who cares?"

Anneline and Michael

WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

MY HOME

"I am a child
I am entitled to a place where I belong
Where I can be myself
Where I get the support that I need for this
Where I get the warmth of a family
Where I can grow together with foster parents and their children
Just like a tree
My tree
Where I can ground
Just like the roots of a tree
My roots
Where my biological parents may be
With their roots
Where my foster parents may be
With their roots

Later
When I grow up
I see both my trees
My roots
My house
MY HOME."

foster care Prisma

ARE YOU AT HOME?



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

ARTICLE 27

Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

“Her right to love”
Where were you last night?
You should not just leave
Do you mean that it is not necessary? A strange smile
around her mouth
A little proud ... that there is no need for it anymore.

Engelbert van Poppel 1979

Her right to, says the painting

Art can be viewed from two perspectives.
From the artist's point of view, it expresses the
imagination of the artist. From the person who perceives
it, art is something that evokes a feeling or imagination.

Art appeals to the human feeling for beauty
But sometimes it can also give up in a shocking way
To the person who perceives it, art offers the possibility
to be taken from the daily reality to a created world or
else the possibility of that daily reality from a different
perspective.

Jeffrey

ARE YOU AN ARTIST?



UNCONDITIONAL

Home
sweet,
?

Kyra and Bennie



CUCKOO



"The statement, it is five to twelve.
That means rushing for what ??????
I set my clock to five past twelve.
That meant that for years people saw me
too late, so I became Cuckoo.
Now I have fortunately learned that there
are people who take time for me.

Taking time for each other means getting
to know each other, that you know who is in
front of you in difficult situations and in good
times. Set your clock to the right time "

Cathy

WHAT TIME IS IT?

LONGING FOR BALANCE

“What do human rights mean to me? For me, human rights mean: all people equal, rich or poor, sick or healthy. Where many rights are still being violated, I hope that everyone will be equal one day. From superpowers to poor families. For me, human rights is more than that. It is important that many things improve.

I have been dealing with care for years. I am fortunate to have been born in the Netherlands. Not in a proud way but in the area of care. With budget cuts everywhere, we are somewhat fortunate that the care is still good.

Balancing with care providers, due to impossible budget cuts, we try to stay alive and to aim at perfect care. Now we, all residents of the Netherlands, are still lucky and human rights are well respected. But one day, a very beautiful day, I hope that all countries and all nationalities may also have the luck that human rights are respected.

My message: human rights for everyone, good care for everyone and a nice, safe, healthy and loving life. “One world and we have to share it. So let’s do that in peace. And with equal rights for everyone. ”

Patrick and Lianne

**DO YOU
STRAIGHTEN OUT
THAT WHAT IS
CROOKED?**



HEALTH RISKS

ARTICLE 25

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

“Everything is health and health is everything!

Total well-being is important: medical, mental, emotional and existential. Ensure that no risks are taken, but sometimes consciously take risks. This from a multidisciplinary collaboration.

Constantly weighing and weighing, a quest between free choice and coaching guidance. With the aim of a good life.

‘Do not let me go, but PS Let ME be’. “

Mijntje, Irma, Peter, Marijke



**WHAT RISKS DO YOU
TAKE?**

TEN YEARS AFTER THE UN CONVENTION ENTERED INTO FORCE: STATE OF PLAY

As the first international human rights treaty of the 21st century, the CRPD aims to protect the rights and dignity of persons with a disability. Moreover, the Convention has contributed to a major mind shift of our societies: people with a disability are no longer considered as an object of charity or social protection. Instead, they are seen as full and equal members of society.

On 13 December 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the text of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). On 3 May 2008, it came into force. Today, ten years later, the CRPD counts more than 160 signatories, including the European Union (EU) that ratified the Convention in 2010, and its 28 Member States.

European Parliament pushing forward

In recent years, the European Parliament (EP) has been pushing for a European Accessibility Act, which would protect the rights of disabled people at EU level. On 20 May 2015, Parliament passed a resolution on the list of implementing issues adopted by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This resolution called on the European Commission to come up with an ambitious proposal for a European Accessibility Act.

Furthermore, the EP urged the European Council to present a common position and speed up its work on the accessibility of public sector bodies' websites. Additionally, Member States were called upon to translate into national law the obligations derived from Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

European Commission announces the European Accessibility Act

On 2 December 2015, Marianne Thyssen, the Belgian European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, finally came up with the proposal for a European Accessibility Act. It set common accessibility requirements for key products and services that would help the 80 million people with disabilities living in the EU to take part fully in society. The Commission listed needs that should be accessible, such as computers, telephones, TV, media services, e-books, etc.

This way, the proposed directive reduces barriers for people with disabilities all over the EU in the fields of education, jobs, and participation in society. The proposal took an Internal Market-approach by encouraging competition between economic operators, as well as the free movement of accessible goods and services. Consequently, the proposed harmonisation of rules both tackles the legislative fragmentation, and contributes to the inclusion of disabled citizens and consumers in society. The Commission wants to make the European Accessibility Act consistent with the Europe 2020 Strategy, which aims to promote, among other things, social inclusion.

On 15 September 2017, this report was voted during the plenary session at the EP. The amended text was approved by a strong majority of 537 votes to 12, with 89 abstentions. The vote gave the European Parliament's team a mandate to start negotiations with Council.

The negotiations among the European Commission, Parliament and Council are still ongoing. In the Joint Declaration of 14 December 2017, the three EU Institutions committed to agree on a number of priority proposals amongst which the "Accessibility requirements for products and services".

EPP Group in the lead

The EPP Group in the EP has always been engaged in the promotion of the rights of disabled people, with Ádám Kósa MEP leading the European Parliament's Disability Intergroup for the last six years. The presentation of the European

Accessibility Act was an important message for 80 million disabled citizens. By facilitating their inclusion in education and employment through accessible digital devices and services, we can create an e-inclusive society where independent living will finally become reality for everyone. Europe can tap into valuable human resources and contribute to the quality of life for those who need special care. With new digital solutions, accessibility can become easier and cheaper to achieve in a wide range of areas.

The EPP Group will work to ensure that the EEA makes accessibility a reality to the largest degree possible. For it helps people with a disability to stay in charge of their own lives for as long as possible. The plenary vote in 2017 showed how to translate their rights into national practice. At the same time, the EPP Group had worked on an active dialogue with small and medium-sized companies, by keeping the accessibility requirements workable and achievable. There is a need for innovation and dialogue with the users in the near future. This way we strike a balance between the needs of the citizens and economic partners in a world of changing technology and opportunities in new products and services.

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What do the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the European Accessibility Act mean for people with a mental handicap? Prisma, institute for care in the Dutch province of North Brabant, comes forward with their experiences.