

PRESS RELEASE



March 2015

Time to take action to end all forms of discrimination against people with autism

On World Autism Awareness Day, April 2, Autism-Europe is running a [campaign](#) calling on European leaders to promote inclusion of people with autism in all aspects of life. And we'd like to ask you to participate.

Sometimes discrimination is obvious, like when a child is denied access to school. Other times it's less obvious, like when adults with autism do not have the support they need due to lack of public funding.

Each time discrimination occurs, the effects accumulate. Without an appropriate education, it's difficult for a person with autism to get a job. Without an income and adequate support, it is difficult to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

Over a lifetime, this leaves people with autism more and more excluded from the society they live in.

Across Europe, people with autism experience widespread discrimination and social exclusion.

For example, in France, [80 per cent of children and young people with autism cannot attend school](#) due to a lack of appropriately trained teachers and other forms of support.

In Greece, there are people with autism living in a large and [inhumane residential institution](#) in which they are trapped in caged beds, prevented from going outdoors and heavily neglected.

Even in the United Kingdom, where support for people with autism is among the highest levels in Europe, [76 per cent of people with autism remain unemployed](#).

Under the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#), people with autism have the right to freedom from discrimination and the right to be included in their communities.

They also have the right to assistance in [education](#), [employment](#) as well as [other forms of support](#).

Most countries in Europe also have laws to prevent discrimination and support people with disabilities. For rights and laws to make a difference, however, they must be translated into concrete actions.

On World Autism Awareness Day, Autism-Europe is calling on everyone to help us ask decision-makers across Europe to become more aware of autism and take action to prevent discrimination and promote inclusion.

Simple steps you can take to stop discrimination and promote inclusion:

1. Learn to recognise it: [What is autism? Answered in 4 minutes](#)
2. [Spread autism awareness via Twitter and Facebook](#)
3. [Ask your local MEP to sign the European Parliament Written Declaration on Autism](#)

Autism is a complex disorder that affects the brain. It impairs an individual's social and communication abilities and often causes them to display unusual or repetitive behaviours. Currently, around 1 in 100 children in the European Union are diagnosed with autism.

For more information and interviews, please do not hesitate to contact Aurélie Baranger, Director of Autism-Europe, in Brussels. Tel: +32 (0)2 675 75 05 Email: aurelie.baranger@autismeurope.org

www.autismeurope.org #AutismDay2015



Published with the support of the European Commission. The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or opinion of the European Commission.

