



# International and Regional News

## International

**DANISHKADAH IS OFFERING FREE WEB DESIGNING AND HOSTING FOR DPOs**

DANISHKADAH was established in 2006 to empower persons with disabilities and deafness is offering FREE websites for Disabled People Organizations (DPOs), this include hosting, domain, and development of accessible Web Pages. (Initially for Pakistani DPOs, but request from DPOs from other country may be entertained).

### Offer Detail:

- FREE web hosting
- FREE domain
- FREE website (4-6 pages)

For more details visit

<http://www.danishkadah.org.pk/index.html>

**Global Forum on Inclusion 2008: Transforming Rights into Action. 17-21 November, 2008**

To be held at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa, Canada in November 2008, this Forum will engage self-advocates, families, activists, professionals and partners from around the world. Focused on the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Forum will look at how to transform rights into actions that lead to full inclusion and citizenship for people with intellectual disabilities.

### Events:

- *International Gathering of Families (Nov. 17-18)*
- *International Gathering of Self-Advocates (Nov. 17-18)*
- *2008 General Assembly of -Inclusion International (Nov. 18)*
- *International Conference on UN Convention on the*

*Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Nov. 18-19)*  
*-Inclusion in Focus: Spotlight on Canada, at the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Canadian Association for Community Living (Nov. 19-21)*  
*-Study Tours on Inclusive Practice in Canada and the U.S. (Nov13-15 and 23-26)*

For information on these events, registration, accommodation and more visit:

[www.inclusion2008.com](http://www.inclusion2008.com)

**INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY. 18 November, 2008. Ottawa, Canada**

II General Assembly will take place on 18 Nov at 1pm at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa, Canada.

At this year's meeting, the General Assembly will be required to:

(I) Elect a President-Elect to take office as President in 2010. This position is presently vacant.  
 (II) Elect a Treasurer. Fred Heddell has served a total of eight years and is ineligible for re-election as Treasurer.  
 (III) Re-elect the President for a further two years. Diane Richler has served as President for six years and is eligible for re-election for a final term to 2010.  
 (IV) Re-elect the Secretary-General for a further two years. Ralph Jones has served two years and is eligible for re-election for a second term to 2010.

We invite all Member National Societies of Inclusion International to make nominations for the two vacant positions.

**Please note that only paying members will be entitled to vote. If you have not received the call for fee for 2008 please get in touch with the Administrative office on [info@inclusion-international.org](mailto:info@inclusion-international.org).**

Visit [www.inclusion-international.org](http://www.inclusion-international.org) to download the documents for the GA and for updated information

**The Disability Rights Fund has launched a Website.**

The Disability Rights Fund, a groundbreaking collaborative supporting the human rights of people with disabilities, has launched its website at [www.disabilityrightsfund.org](http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org)

With a clear and easy to use design, the website provides information on the Fund's history and strategy, governance, as well as its advisors and donors. In mid-June, the site published information about the Fund's first request for proposals. A unique partnership between donors and the worldwide disability community, the broad objective of the Disability Rights Fund is to empower disabled persons organizations around the world to effectively implement and monitor the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**A report titled “Disability among Refugees and Conflict Affected Populations” profiles Nepal, Thailand, Yemen, Jordan and Ecuador.**

Published in June 2008 by the Women’s Commission

for Refugee Women and Children, the report discusses risk indicators for disability, types of disability, and access to services for refugees with disabilities. Report available at

[http://www.womenscommission.org/pdf/disab\\_fulll\\_report.pdf](http://www.womenscommission.org/pdf/disab_fulll_report.pdf)

**Europe**

**European Coalition for Community Living (EECL) workshop on the Right to live independently and be Included**

The workshop entitled *Strengthening local and national campaigns for community living* will take place on 11 September 2008 in Oslo (Drammen), just before the Annual Seminar.

Information about the workshop can also be accessed on the following website <http://www.community-living.info/index.php?page=287>

Participation in the workshop is free of charge.

**Spanish Citizens to donate 0.7% of their taxes to social services.**

Several Spanish NGOs, including Inclusion International's Spanish member FEAPS, are working together in a campaign to ask citizens to donate 0.7% of their taxes to social services. To agree to the donation the citizens are asked to tick a box when doing the declaration of personal income.

Amongst the programs financed by the 0.7% contributions are those for self-advocates and family support. At a press conference Mario García, self-advocate explain that now 'I can make my own decisions'

To read more about this initiative visit

[http://www.feapsmadrid.org/opencms/opencms/feaps/recursos/noticias/08/04\\_04\\_irpf](http://www.feapsmadrid.org/opencms/opencms/feaps/recursos/noticias/08/04_04_irpf)

**A new EU rule giving greater rights to disabled air travellers has come into force**

The regulation will ensure assistance, if required, is given by airports to disabled passengers without a

charge. In addition airlines will be obliged to offer certain free services such as the transport of wheelchairs and guide dogs.

The regulation will also mean airlines cannot refuse carriage or bookings on the grounds of disability or reduced mobility. This applies to any flight leaving an airport in the European Union and also to flights on European airlines arriving in the EU.

Please read full story: <http://www.rte.ie/news/2008/0726/disability.html>

**Discrimination Against parents of Children with Disabilities.**

The European Union's (EU) highest court has ruled that employers can be found guilty of discriminating against the parent of a disabled child under EU equality laws.

The European Court of Justice says laws against the discrimination of the disabled also apply to their carers.

It says in a recommendation issued 17 July 2008 in a British court case that a London, UK law firm was wrong to refuse legal secretary Sharon Coleman her previous job after she

gave birth to a son with breathing problems.

Coleman claims "her employers said she was lazy when she asked for time off to care for her child." She says "other workers with non-disabled children received better treatment and more flexible working hours." Full article at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/jan/31/children.childcare>

**The Americas**

**XXIII National Congress of APAES: Diversity in life cycle of individuals, families and society.**

The Congress sponsored by the NATIONAL FEDERATION OF APAES, (Federação Nacional das APAES, the Brazilian national association comprising over 2,000 APAEs chapters -one organization per municipality, covering almost half of Brazilian cities and towns) will take place in Vitoria on 4-7 Nov, 2008.

The Conference intends to promote national and international conferences, roundtables, talks, artistic presentations and thematic

dialogues: 1) inclusion and social exclusion; 2) socio-cultural diversity and regionalism; 3) management of social nets; 4) public policies; 5) equality of opportunities; 5) identity: plurality and singularity.

The structure of program foresees a main conference for each thematic axis, talks and roundtables on dissemination of innovative experiences; of scientific-academic works and projects to disseminate each axis.

For more information

<http://www.congressoapae.org.br/>

or contact

[congressoapae@wincentraldeeventos.com.br](mailto:congressoapae@wincentraldeeventos.com.br)

**Disabled people in Bolivia demand the benefit promised to them during the elections.**

Persons with disabilities announced yesterday that they will not cease their pressure on the government until the President Evo Morales complies with the agreement regarding the payment of a benefit for disabled people he promised during the elections and that was ratified last year.

The President of the confederation of persons with disability, Jaime Estívariz explained that 'During Evo Morales'

campaign for the Presidency it was promised a benefit for life for people with disabilities, equivalent to a minimum salary'. He pointed out that the government also signed an agreement in 2007 for funding to allow the payment of an annual bonus of Bs 3, 000 to every persons with disability in the country.

The Agreement, according to Estívariz, established that the Executive would approve and promulgate a Law for the creation of National Funds for Solidarity and Equity. Otherwise other funding sources would be considered to make the benefit effective 'We have his signature (from the Minister of the Presidency, Juan Ramon Quintana)'

However, the Ministry of Legal Defence, Sacha Lloreti (who established negotiation with this sector in 2007) said that "the commitment from the government is to create a national funding for solidarity and equity. It is now down to the Congress to approve a law on funds and other financing resources"

After the fourth day of protest, persons with disability have announced they will not stop until the government complies to the agreement. They have blocked the Mariscal Santa Cruz Avenue in La Paz and

some of them have started a hunger strike.

[http://www.la-razon.com/versiones/20080725\\_006344/nota\\_250\\_639010.htm](http://www.la-razon.com/versiones/20080725_006344/nota_250_639010.htm)

## Middle East and North Africa

**War and Disability:  
A Campaign to Raise Awareness  
Beirut, Lebanon  
July 4 & 5, 2008**

Moussa Charafeddine, Vice President of Inclusion International and Mia Farah, Council member of II attended the Launch of the Campaign on War and Disability that took place in Beirut, Lebanon on 4-5 July.

At the event a series of short films commissioned by the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur were shown.

The films aim at illustrating issues of concern, and raising awareness of the difficulties faced by persons with disabilities in war zones and areas of conflict.

The Programme consisted of:

The screening of the films, featuring persons with disabilities in the war-affected countries of Bosnia,

Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen

A press conference in which the Special Rapporteur, the directors and producer of the films, and the persons whose stories were featured in the films spoke about the impetus for launching the campaign, the making of the films, and their personal experiences;

An open discussion about the role of the media, the international disability movement, human rights activists and advocates, anti-war activists can play in raising awareness and actively carrying this message forward;

## Asia Pacific

**Inclusion International supports IHC's complaint to Human Rights Commission**

IHC has lodged a complaint

with the Human Rights Commission against government policies and practices that prevent disabled students participating fully at their local school.

The complaint targets government action that puts

up barriers to learning for students with disabilities.

IHC's Director of Advocacy Trish Grant says that, in theory, legislation and wider government policy supports a child's right to attend their local school, but the reality is that many experience significant difficulty accessing the support necessary to participate in school life alongside their peers.

*"We know that many schools acknowledge their response to disabled students is limited by resourcing and other constraints. It is clear that government policy does not allow all schools to do their best by disabled students."*

To read the whole article visit

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO0807/S00401.htm>

## Africa

**Inclusion international concludes self - advocacy workshops in Africa.**

Inclusion International combined effort with Norwegian parent organization known as NFU. For implementation of this

project, Africa Network for Developmental disabilities was used as vehicle to Identify and form self advocacy groups in each respective ANDD member country at National level.

The project started in January 2008 and since they have trained self advocates at national level in the following Inclusion International/ANDD member countries: Uganda, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Kenya, Zanzibar, Tanzania and Malawi.

The rationale of the workshops was as follows:

- To know about Self Advocacy,
- To empower Self Advocates with knowledge that shall enable them to speak for themselves on issues that affect their lives
- To gather more information on the needs of Self Advocacy in Africa
- The expectation of this initiative is to contribute to the development of training Material for Self Advocacy (as was discussed in Victoria Fall during the 5<sup>th</sup> ANDD Conference)

- To orient persons with Intellectual disabilities in self advocacy work and to also train their support persons on how best they could help the Self Advocates achieve their goals
- To support the development of Self Advocacy groups
- To learn about UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

To read more visit [www.inclusion-international.org](http://www.inclusion-international.org)

**ENAMRCY becomes the Ethiopian Association on Intellectual Disabilities (ENAID)**

Following Inclusion International's recommendation, the Ethiopian National Association for Mentally Retarded Children and Yourth (ENAMRCY) recently changed its name to The Ethiopian Association on Intellectual Disabilities (ENAID)

The new name not only complies with Inclusion International's philosophy but also with the UN Convention of the Rights of

Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.

ENAID is an indigenous non-political, non-profit making and non-religious parental association that has been working for the promotion of the rights of children and youth with intellectual disability for the past thirteen years.

The association was accepted as a Member National Society of Inclusion International in 2006.

**Report on post election violence by the Kenya Association for the Intellectually Handicapped.**

The KENYA ASSOCIATION FOR THE INTELECTUALLY HANDICAPPED (KAIH) has put together a report on the post elections violence and the impact on the Persons with Intellectual disabilities and their families.

The report provides graphic details of the horrors of the situation and it includes recommendations to be adopted in order to help prevent further such situations. Please take time to read this touching and useful document.

The report is available at:

<http://www.inclusion-international.org/en/voices/7.html>

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## Regions

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All contributions and suggestions are welcomed. It is up to Inclusion International discretion to select the material received and to edit it according to its policies.