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## Living in the Community: Position Paper

The Draft Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities promotes:

*“The equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and (that States Parties) shall take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community...”*

Inclusion International demands the right of all people with intellectual disabilities to decide where and with whom they live and to receive the supports they require in the community. Specifically promoting:

- ❑ That persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose a place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;
- ❑ That people with disabilities must be supported by a range of support and community services.
- ❑ The closure of segregating residential institutions
- ❑ That no further investments are made into the renovation of existing institutions or building of new segregating residential institutions

### BACKGROUND:

The experience of institutionalization over the past several centuries has in many countries resulted in exclusion from economic, social and political participation. Frequently, the need for support or assistance is used to argue that placement in an institution is necessary, or that the person is ineligible to live in the community in the living arrangement of their choice. We know from the experiences of people with intellectual disabilities that it is not the level of disability or ability that determines whether a person can live in the community but rather the key determinant is the supports to which they have access.

### STRATEGIES:

Inclusion International promotes the right of people with intellectual disabilities to live in the community by advocating for:

- ❑ appropriate supports in the community including in-home, residential and other community support services ;
- ❑ supports to families ;
- ❑ access to regular mainstream services and support in the community