

What does the UN Convention mean for Self Advocates?

David Corner
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Kia ora everyone!




My name is David Corner.





Today I am going to talk about what the UN Convention means for self advocates.

But first of all, I thought I might tell you just a little about myself.



I come from New Zealand.





I am on the Council of Inclusion International.



I am a member of the
Self Advocacy
Taskforce.

We work together on
issues that face self
advocates around the
world.



And you guessed it! I am a person with an intellectual disability



A proud self advocate indeed!



But enough about me!

Let's start talking about the Convention.

The United Nations Convention on the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

What a mouthful!!!

Before we start talking about how we can use
the Convention, I think it would be good if we
talk about what it actually means.



So, today we are going to break it down in to little bits and then put it back together again.

We will talk about:

1. What is the United Nations?
2. What is a Convention?
3. What Rights are being talked about?
4. I will also talk about how we as self advocates can be involved.



What is the United Nations?

It is a worldwide group.

Nearly every country in the world is a member of the group... 191 countries in total.

The main office of the United Nations is in New York City.



You can see the flags of lots of different countries that are members of the United Nations.



What does the United Nations do?

Members of the United Nations work together on lots of different projects and causes to make our world a better place.

These projects and causes include:

- o Peace keeping
- o The Environment
- o Human Rights



Because there are so many countries who are members, the United Nations works hard to make them agree on different things.

Sometimes they have to act like the police or a teacher and make some rules for countries to follow.





United Nations? ✓

Ok... now we have some idea about what the United Nations is and what it does!

Let's move on to this Convention they put together.



What is a Convention?

First things first... What does the word "convention" mean?

The word "convention" has a few different meanings.

Sometimes it can mean a meeting or congress where people get together to talk about certain things. Just like we are doing now.



But when we talk about the United Nations Convention, the word means something else.

This time, a convention means an agreement about a set of ideas.

It means that countries who have signed the convention are agreeing to what it says.

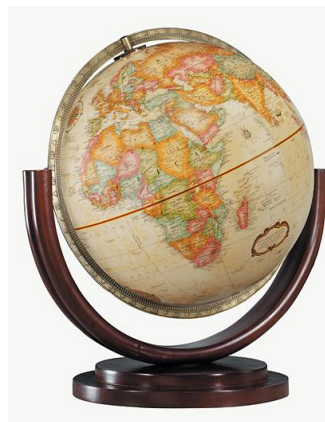
Another way to think about it is that the convention is kind of like an international law.



Think about it... there are 191 different countries with different ideas and different ways of living.

The United Nations has to think of some way to encourage them to work together.

By putting together a convention, countries are agreeing with what it says. This means that they can work together better on different causes.





Let's see where we are up to...

United Nations? ✓

We've learnt about the United Nations:

- A world wide group of 191 countries
- Working together on different causes
- Like the police, they make rules to follow



Convention ✓

We've also learnt what a convention is:

- An agreement
- A set of ideas
- Kind of like an international law





How did our Convention get put together?

People from different countries went to the UN office in New York. They talked about what are important issues for people with disabilities.

The group worked hard to have these heard.



How did our Convention get put together?

Members of Inclusion International were part of a working group that met in New York.

They were involved in making sure that the rights of people with intellectual disabilities were also included.





What's this about Rights?

For a long time people with intellectual disabilities haven't always known that they have had rights.

The convention talks about giving people with disabilities the same opportunities to live their lives and be treated the same as other people.

About time huh?!

**EVERY
HUMAN
HAS
RIGHTS**

The convention has a funny name for the rights it talks about. In the convention, they are called articles.

But we'll call them rights.

The Convention lists over 25 rights for people with disabilities. I don't have the time to talk about all of them today. I have just chosen a few to talk about in more detail.

ihc
IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Right 5: Being treated equally



This means being treated the same as people without disabilities.

This includes men, women and children



Right 12: Being treated equally by the law



This means that people with disabilities have the right to:

- make decisions about things that are important to them
- have the right support if they need someone else to help them have their say



Right 19: Living in the Community

This means that people with disabilities can choose:



- where they want to live
- who they want to live with
- what support services they need

Right 19: Living in the Community

Choosing where you
live and who you live
with....

I don't think that living
in institutions fits
here!





Right 24: Education

This means that people with disabilities have the right to:

- Learn at the same school as children without disabilities
- Get good support at school
- Continue to learn new skills after leaving school, if they want to



Are there any people in this room who went to the same school as people without disabilities?

Put your hands up if you did.

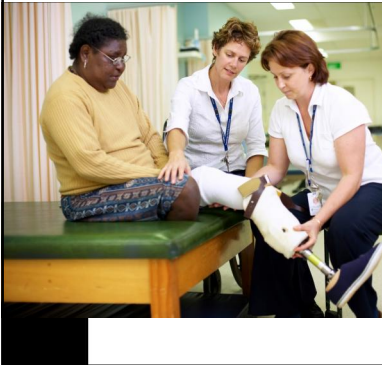




Right 25: Health Care

This means that countries will support people with disabilities to:

- have access to doctors and health care
- have access to other health care including family planning and counselling
- make sure they are not refused health care because they have a disability



Right 27: Work

This is about having a job.

Put your hands up if you have a job.
Keep your hands up if you are paid for the work you do.
Now put your hands up if you want a job.





Right 27: Work

This means that countries will support people with disabilities to:




- look a job if they want one
- get good support to do well in their job
- learn new skills or do some training for work

Right 28: Standards of living



Good standards of living mean that people with disabilities live in comfortable homes, with enough food, water and support.






This means that countries will support people with disabilities to:

- get financial help from the government if they are poor
- have access to services and aids to support them



There are many other rights that are talked about in the Convention.

During the Congress, I am sure there will be many more chances to talk about the Convention and what it means for self advocates.





Let's see where we are up to...

United Nations? ✓

Convention? ✓

Rights? ✓



Now we need to talk about how
we can be involved



I believe the convention is
a great thing.

To make it work for us, we
need to do a few things.



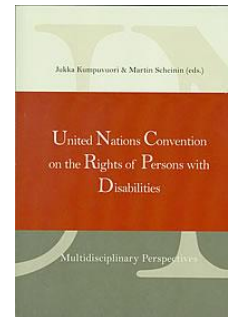
1. We need to understand

We need to understand what the Convention means.

We have broken it down and talked about it today.

We will learn a lot more over the coming days.

By having an understanding of the convention, this will lead to a positive future for self advocacy.



2. We need to be involved

We need to be involved in our own countries. And I mean really involved... not just sitting on the sidelines.

We need to make sure that our own governments listen to us, and involve us in any decisions that are being made that affect us.





This means that people ask us what is important to us. And they listen to what we have to say!

Who better to talk about what it means to have disability than some one who actually has a disability!



3. We need support

No one can go through life all alone. Everyone needs support... everybody, not just people with disabilities.

As self advocates, support is so important to us.





Good support means that we can have a greater understanding of our community.

Good support also means that we can have greater access to that community.


Good support means that we have more opportunities to have our say and be heard.



I have good support.
In fact, I have great support!



I get support from my family and friends, the people I work with, and people in my community.



When I talk about great support, this doesn't mean that people do things for me... it means that they support me to do things for myself, the best way that I can.



Good and real support means that as self advocates, we have more control over our lives and more opportunities to be heard.

We need support to be involved more with the Convention.

It is important to think about who can support you to be heard in your town.





4. We need to share

Over the next few days, we will all have the opportunity to learn many new things about the Convention and how it can work for us.

We need to go back to our countries and share what we have learnt. We need to share this with our friends with disabilities.



We also need to share our experiences with our community. With great support, we can tell people in our local community why the Convention is so important to us.

By sharing with our community, we can change the way people think about people with disabilities. We can remove some of the barriers that exist for people with disabilities.





With good **support**, we can **involve** people in our community, **share** what we have learnt and help everyone to **understand**.



Acknowledgements

Before I finish my presentation today, I would like to acknowledge everybody who has been involved with developing our Convention.

This includes people who are no longer with us or are unable to be with us here in Berlin.





Acknowledgements

I would also like to tell you about some great information about the UN Convention.

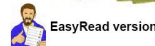


It has been put together by the United Nations. It is an EasyRead version of the convention.

International agreement
on the rights of disabled
people



It is in lots of different languages. You can find it by going online to:
www.un.org/disabilities




I have one final thing to ask you all

At the end of this congress we will all go home with lots of energy, passion, ideas and beliefs on how we want to change the world.

It is important that we share these ideas with our friends so they can have the same experiences and work with us to make changes.

With good **support**, we can **involve** people in our community, **share** what we have learnt and help everyone to **understand**.





I hope you all
have a fantastic
time here in
Berlin.

Thank you

