

15-12-2019

Cc. Minister Finian McGrath
Dear Mr Flanagan,

Urgent call for support of the National Platform for Self Advocates.

We are contacting you in regard to the upcoming closure of Ireland's only self-advocacy organisation run by and for people with Intellectual disabilities due to the lack of long term secure funding. We call on the on the Department of Justice to recognise, respect and resource the human rights of persons with ID by providing core long term funding to secure the future of this valuable and unique organisation.

We draw your attention to article 29 of the UN Convention of The Rights of Persons with disabilities (CRPD), which has been ratified by Ireland.

(b) Promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:

(i) Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties;

(ii) Forming and joining organizations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels.

L'Arche, as an organisation for People with and without an Intellectual disability, considers the funding of the National Platform to be a human rights issue and one which falls firmly into the remit of the Department of Justice. The National Platform has built its skills and status as a respected organisation led and run by people with an Intellectual disability. By providing long term funding, the Government will retain a valuable organisation, which also enable the Government to meet its obligation under the Convention.

Yours sincerely

Mairead Boland Brabazon
CEO L'Arche Ireland