

Dec 3 – A Day For All Celebrating Disability as Part of Human Diversity

Tomorrow – and all the other days of the year – we urge you to help people with disabilities of the world eliminate the barriers that prevent and limit their full participation in society and reach the targets of the sustainable development goals. This is especially important for those who must face the additional challenges of armed conflict, natural disaster and displacement.

Today is truly a DAY FOR ALL, a day in which all of us can celebrate disability as part of human diversity.

We, people with disabilities, are scientists, sportsmen and women, lawyers, university professors, actors and actresses, musicians, stand up (or sitting) comedians, politicians and anything else you can imagine. Although we often face significant barriers, we have been able to make amazing contributions to our societies in all domains. We often bring an approach and perspective that is different because of the ways we have overcome barriers – ways which make lives better not just for us but for everyone.

We fully support and welcome a society that embraces diversity in all its forms and shapes: LGBT, ethnic, gender identity, indigenous origin, belief, colour and disability. We disabled people share these other conditions, but we are also who we are because of our impairments, because of the sport club we support, the music we like, the books we read and all the other dimensions of daily life we participate in.

Today is a call for a society that embraces diversity and human difference and moves away from prejudice, stereotypes and all other attitudinal barriers. A day for all that will make our societies better for all, and more joyously different!