International Day of Persons with Disabilities

IDPD 2022 Theme: “Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world”

Event Theme: Capacity Strengthening of Youth with Psychosocial Disabilities

Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI) is the representative global voice of persons with psychosocial disabilities. TCI aims to mark the International Day of Persons with disabilities 2022, in partnership with the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and Indonesian Mental Health Association, by focusing on the inclusion of Youth with Psychosocial Disabilities and their capacity strengthening.

Emerging Platform on Youth with Psychosocial Disabilities

TCI, in partnership with Indonesian Mental Health Association (IMHA) and supported by IDA embarked on an initiative to form a youth platform for young people with psychosocial disabilities during a post GDS workshop organized in Jakarta in October, 2022. The workshop was attended by youth with psychosocial disabilities and also by experienced leaders from our membership. Young persons attending the meeting called for a platform on Youth with Psychosocial Disabilities.

Such a platform will provide leverage to young people with psychosocial disabilities to call out their issues to the governments, and other stakeholders such as technical support organizations, cross disability organizations, and UN agencies for recognition of the issues of youth with psychosocial disabilities and their full and effective participation in the development process. TCI is inaugurating this platform to mobilize young people with psychosocial disabilities at the national level to cultivate possible advocacy opportunities to raise their voices at the national, regional and global platforms.

Problems of exclusion expressed by youth with psychosocial disabilities

Young people with psychosocial disabilities are totally left behind in majority of the aspects of their life spans and denied equal access to health, education, social, economic, political and cultural opportunities. In friends and family circles their opinions are not respected. They have little or no decision making power. They are bullied inside educational institutions. The exclusion from quality education systems make the younger generation more dependent on others, remain unemployed without access to quality or equal standard of living.
There is a huge issue around our identity, in society we are still tagged as persons with mental illnesses, mental patients, persons of unsound mind, mad persons, etc. This confines us to the mental health legal systems and takes away our legal capacity to explore opportunities, take risks, make our own decisions, and enjoy all fundamental human rights on an equal basis to others. Institutionalization is growing massively in low and middle-income countries. There are massive investments being carried out in establishing new institutions or improving the existing institutions. There are countries where youth with psychosocial disabilities are commonly found in mental asylums, rehab centers, visiting psychiatric clinics, nursing homes and a variety of care institutions, facing long term confinement and isolation. Our families see us as a burden on them and we are forced to take psychiatric treatments which make us numb and weaker not only mentally but also physically. Psychiatric diagnosis and treatment is forced upon us for being ‘slow learners’, ‘autistic’, ‘attention deficit’, and such and many of us have lost our childhood to these treatments. Often, such treatments make our lives worse, and we drop out of the education system, losing hope in life. Another rise has been witnessed in the promotion and establishment of deaddiction centers. Families forcefully push their children into such centers for so called rehabilitation treatments and they remain confined there for many years or becoming a ‘revolving door patient’. Young people with psychosocial disabilities living in those institutions have no access to community support systems or services.

Young women and girls with psychosocial disabilities face a number of challenges and are doubly discriminated in our societies. Young girls with psychosocial disabilities are confined inside homes due to cultural barriers and are not encouraged to excel more in their lives on equal basis with others. They are not allowed to be educated, hangout with friends, to work etc. Gender based violence is also one of the issues which is rising rapidly and young girls with psychosocial disabilities have no access to justice. Many young girls with psychosocial disabilities face physical abuse and sexual violence in mental asylums, and other custodial care facilities. When they make a move for reporting the abuse, they are not listened as they are labelled as “mentally ill” and “incapable”. Therefore, such cases go unreported. Moreover, the LGBTQI and young people with non-binary identities remain highly ignored in all aspects of their lives and are multiply discriminated while being part of the community. They face invasive medical and psychiatric treatments and are not given the opportunity to express themselves or explore their identities.

**Way ahead for young persons with psychosocial disabilities**

As youth, we are mentioned as agents of change but unfortunately there is a huge issue of power imbalance. Youth leaders are not identified, their capacities are not strengthened, they lack mentorship and capacity building opportunities. They are not encouraged to step forward, take leadership and build their youth movement for raising their voice in the society for their full inclusion. Due to this young people with psychosocial disabilities continue to be marginalized, ignored and unheard in national regional or any high-level policy circles.

Over the last decade, TCI has been rigorously mobilizing with its members and has been advocating for de-institutionalization and community inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities. The recently launched “Guidelines on De-Institutionalization, including during Emergencies”, by the CRPD committee is a tool which governments must adapt immediately. It clearly emphasizes that communities must play a vital role in the full inclusion on persons, including youth with psychosocial disabilities. The governmental and non-governmental investments should be directed towards inclusive community
supports and community services such as peer support networks, friend circles, community awareness programs, social protection schemes, housing programs, etc.

TCI having its presence in 40+ countries and being a global voice of people with psychosocial disabilities we envision to build a momentum for effective participation of youth with psychosocial disabilities. Through this platform, young people with psychosocial disabilities will get the opportunity to be part of the TCI family and will be supported with technical assistance and mentorship from the TCI leadership as well as national nodal members to build on a common vision for our inclusion. TCI will ensure to make its programs participatory of youth with psychosocial disabilities to advocate for inclusion within disability and development through our program instruments including fellowships, country missions and multi-stakeholder platforms.

www.tci-global.org

International Disability Alliance, a close and strategic partner of TCI established a youth committee in March 2021 and also co-hosted a full Global Disability Summit (GDS) for the youth representatives in GDS 2022. TCI and IDA, together have been hosting number of consultations around the GDS 2022 including national consultations, pre and post GDS. The youth of TCI will be included in the discussions related to the Youth Call for Action.

Visit here for more information  https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/pages/youth-summit

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022

Since 1992, the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been annually observed on 3 December around the world. This year's theme is “Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world”.

The goal for this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities is to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. As TCI, this year's theme is very important to us, we as a global movement are transforming communities for inclusion through mobilizing persistently with our national leaders and providing a platform to them for supporting their advocacy initiatives and bringing it to the regional and global levels.

In this context, we are pleased to share that TCI being the largest voice of persons with psychosocial disabilities now open its memberships for the youth with psychosocial disabilities to join TCI as members and mobilize together, through the youth platform for the advancement of their rights at national, regional and global levels. TCI is happy to share the news of its first webinar from the youth platform on “Capacity Strengthening of Youth with Psychosocial Disabilities” in partnership with Indonesian Mental health Association International Disability Alliance, to be held on 8th December, 2022 for marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022.

The objectives of the webinar are as follows:

1. As identity has been an issue for us, one of the objectives of the webinar will be to mark the International Day of Persons with disabilities 2022
2. To bring together a voice of young people with psychosocial disabilities at a global level from different cultures and backgrounds
3. To hear, learn and bring in front the issues of young people with psychosocial disabilities to be addressed by the government

4. To create and build on a way forward for the inclusion of young people with psychosocial disabilities in the development processes at the national, regional and global levels

This webinar will bring speakers from Asia, Pacific and the Africa region to initiate with a platform of TCI youth with psychosocial disabilities. The webinar will be one to two hours long and will have closed captioning and international sign interpretation.

**Registration Details:**

To be part of the “TCI Youth Platform” you can apply for the membership by clicking the link below:

https://forms.gle/MDutjFTo2x9uJBTE7

For registering for the webinar access the link below