TCI is a global organization of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities (an OPD). TCI forecasts a future in which all human rights and full freedoms of persons with psychosocial disabilities are realized.

Empowered by the extraordinary vision and guidance of the CRPD, TCI’s purpose is to situate ourselves at the center of the cross-disability movements at the national, regional, and global levels, as a way to reclaim our dignity and autonomy, experience our independence and to realize our right to live in the community.

TCI is a post CRPD movement and a membership-based organization and works for the empowerment of organizations of persons with psychosocial disabilities for leading advocacy initiatives at national, regional and global level. For more than a decade our focus and vision has been to empower OPDs, and dialogue with a variety of stakeholders including civil society organization, development agencies and governments for the realization of CRPD, specifically Article 19, for realizing the right to independent living and community inclusion. Our key allies in this process has been the cross disability movements.

The alliance was named as Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI Asia) in 2014 in Bangkok, with the agreement of members from over 15 countries from Asia. TCI Asia became TCI Asia Pacific in 2018 during the Bali Plenary, which was attended by people from 21 countries from Asia and Pacific. The group adopted the ‘Bali Declaration’, using it as a manifesto for guiding advocacy initiatives nationally. In December of 2020, considering our unique positioning as an ‘inclusion movement’ and our increasing role in global advocacy, TCI Asia Pacific decided to become TCI, a global organization of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

From TCI Asia to TCI Global

With support of the Bapu Trust for Research on Mind & Discourse, India, and the International Disability Alliance, a group of people with psychosocial disabilities and cross disability supporters from Asia organized a workshop on ‘Transforming Communities for Inclusion - Asia’ in 2013. This group decided to be identified as persons with psychosocial disabilities, considering this identity to be more inclusive and diversified. The focus of the movement was defined as ‘transforming communities for our inclusion’. The group adopted the ‘dialogue method’ as a working methodology, promoting peaceful means of achieving advocacy ends.

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TCI offers 2 types of Memberships:

1. Individual Membership
   A person with a psychosocial disability may apply as an individual member to TCI, in case no national OPD of persons with psychosocial disabilities are available in their country.

2. Organizational Membership
   Organizations of persons with psychosocial disabilities, cross disability organizations, friends, and allies who support OPDs of persons with psychosocial disabilities can apply.

There is no subscription fee for joining the TCI membership. We are in continuous contact with our members, sharing information, advocacy news, opportunities, etc.

Our Membership

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Redefining our Entry Point

TCI has changed the entry point to our inclusion: from ‘right to health, inclusive of mental health’ to ‘right to all human rights, leading to full inclusion’. TCI, along with its...
One of our movements’ biggest challenges has been tackling the issue of legal barriers, especially the legal incapacity laws that rob us of our ‘personhood’. It is quite clear, with 15 years of the CRPD, that, unless legal incapacity laws leave national legislations, and there is true harmonization with the CRPD, we will be left behind in a big way. TCI, along with its members, has been advocating for and working towards repealing all discriminatory laws and legislation in our member regions.

TCI has always been about developing our national membership and growth of OPDs of persons with psychosocial disabilities. TCI has supported the development and capacity building of dozens of OPDs since inception, across global south regions. TCI has created and tested several program instruments to build the capacity of its national, individual and organizational members. TCI has developed a strategic program in a way to strengthen the national OPD networks for advocacy, movement building and inclusion in various national policies and programs.

TCI is inspired by the strong history and legacy of the movements of users and survivors of psychiatry, ex-patients’ liberation movements and mad pride movements which have existed since the 1960s. We pay our homage to the martyrs who gave their lives to expose the atrocities done to us, in the name of ‘care’. Truth be told, we are a historically violated group and victims: We await responses from governments and professional lobbies to establish truth commissions to expose the historical violations done upon our peoples around the world through ‘mental health care’ and to start a reparations process.

TCI has been very visible in engaging the UN human rights mechanisms, treaty bodies, initiatives by the OHCHR, its special procedures offices and several initiatives by the various UN agencies to unify their disability strategies to make it inclusive. TCI contributed to consultations of the Human Rights Council relating to their mental health and human rights resolutions, de-institutionalisation guidelines, lines of general discussion, SR reports, thematic studies etc. Political participation, gender and DIRR have held special interest for TCI in various UN initiatives. At the national level, TCI has facilitated multi-stakeholder engagement of our members in GDS, COSP, etc. other than actively engaging UN regional and national bodies in our dialogue processes. The ‘Bali Declaration’ became a rallying point of TCI and continued to influence the global discourse on the inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities.