**Response by the British Association for Supported Employment to the Draft General Comment on Article 27 on the rights of persons with disabilities to work and employment.**

The British Association for Supported Employment (BASE) is a national umbrella group for providers of specialist employment support services. Our 225 organisational members support people with a range of disabilities into sustainable work by using the internationally recognised Supported Employment model. We are particularly pleased to see reference to Supported Employment within the draft General Comment.

Employment rates for disabled people remain stubbornly low and BASE strongly supports the content of the draft General Comment. We urge stronger action from States parties to encourage inclusive and diverse workplaces. BASE supports the recommendations of the [Vienna Declaration](http://euse.org/images/Vienna_Declaration-EN.pdf).

It should be noted that some disability groups, such as people with learning disabilities and autism, are particularly at risk of economic exclusion and so personalised approached will be needed to ensure that everybody, including those with more profound disabilities, have the opportunity to achieve their work ambitions.

Our only suggestion on the content of the draft General Comment is based on paragraphs 15-19 which discuss the provision of sheltered workshops. We agree with the phasing out of workplaces that do not offer integrated work settings and/or do not offer equal remuneration. Whilst agreeing with the draft comment, we urge the issuance of clear guidance to States Parties as to how this can be successfully achieved. It is vital that disabled people do not find themselves economically inactive as a result of the closure of segregated work settings. This will require the clear planning of alternative support mechanisms based on an evidence-based approach.

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