

Comment

of the Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe e. V.

17. Sept. 2012

Human Rights Council resolution 22/3 – “The work and employment of persons with disabilities”

The Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe is the largest German advocacy organisation for people with mental disabilities and their parents. We are committed to intensely promoting the implementation of article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

In 2009, Germany signed the UN Disability Rights Convention. According to the constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany the 16 federal states (*Bundesländer*) are responsible for education. On behalf of their own responsibility they have taken various measures to implement the UN Disability Rights Convention.

In March 2013, Professor Dr. Klaus Klemm, one of Germany’s leading academics on inclusion in the educational field, submitted a survey on the current situation of inclusive education in Germany. This survey was conducted on behalf of the Bertelsmann foundation (see http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/cps/rde/xbcr/SID-DA55D5F4-70CF95DB/bst/xcms_bst_dms_37485_37486_2.pdf). The findings show that implementation of inclusive education varies widely between the different federal states. There are also large differences with regard to different types of impairments: E.g. 43.2% of all children with so called emotional and social impairments visit regular schools in comparison with only 5.4% of all children with mental impairments.

The study thus confirms the opinion of the Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe that educational inclusion of students with mental disabilities is hardly taken into consideration in Germany. Rather these students remain excluded from inclusive schooling in Germany.

The Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe called upon the responsible ministries in the federal states to ensure full inclusion of students with mental impairments. We encouraged them to strengthen and guarantee the implementation of inclusive education for student with mental disabilities.

Sincerely yours

Mrs. Antje Welke
head of department
concept and law