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Network of Independent Experts – NIE

**Written submission**

From Maria Stancheva[[1]](#footnote-1)

to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

The statement is provided to Network of Independent Experts – NIE (NGO based in Bulgaria) in two parts. The first part is provided as a written document, the only editorial change made is in punctuation. The second part is provided orally, in a phone conversation, a day after the first part. It had been translated by the organization with support from the Validity Foundation. No other editorial changes (except the translation) are made in the statement.

Hello,

I am Maria Stancheva from Sofia. I am 44 years old.

In 2006 I was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia after a battery from my ex-husband. My marriage lasted for 15 years, after that the 2020 pandemic came and I got divorced. I lived in stress, pressure, mental and physical abuse during all these years; I have 2 children from my marriage. I took care of them with the help of my mother and my sister.

It is very difficult to live with such diagnosis. Society doesn’t accept such people with mental disabilities easily.

I am against placing people in Homes.

THESE PEOPLE need family environment without an abuser in their house.

I am currently in remission, I want to be better for my children.

I am a different person after the divorce – I work, I am responsible and calm, this is important to me.

I still have to prove in my job that I am not “crazy”.

Additional Statement

People with disabilities need love and peace, not people that irritate them additionally. People, placed in institutions (medical centers and homes) feel deprived more than they feel damaged. The institutions themselves are damaging the mind.

The most important thing for a person is to have an opinion and diagnosed people are being suppressed, they are deprived from their right to opinion because they are vulnerable, someone always nags about their diagnosis. (This is what her ex-husband did, he was constantly depriving her from her right to opinion because of her diagnosis).

People with disabilities have opinions and they are sharing them, including those, placed in institutions, but their opinion is not taken into consideration. Everyone should be able to express their opinion even if somebody else says something different afterwards.

Institutions are depriving the individuality and the right to live.

Maria adds that when she was put into psychiatric treatment for the second time, her doctors told her that in case she has a third crisis, she would have to be placed in an institution permanently. She says that she was petrified that she would lose her children during her two stays in the psychiatric hospital. She thinks that one of the reasons why she waited for 15 years to get divorced is the fear that her then husband is going to take away her children.

**NOTE: The views presented in this submission are of Maria and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the organisations that made it possible for Maria to participate in the consultation process.**

1. The author is a person with disability. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)