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**Written Submission**

**to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**on the Draft Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization,**

**including in emergencies**

Submitted by:

**Mr. I.**

With the support of

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I am a man diagnosed with an intellectual disability. I lived in an institution for 30 years and I have been living in the community since August 2021.

I would like to give the following feedback on the Guidelines.

About institutions:

* An institution is a prison.
* There are shitty conditions in the group home: two people in a small room, everything is thrown together. No way for me to go back to the group home. Come on.

Thoughts in relation to deinstitutionalisation and how to support independent living:

* We never had conversations in the institution about getting out. There was no preparation in the institution for moving out.
* Residents have to learn a lot of things to get out of the institution. They should learn, for example, how to use a bank card. People moving out of institutions should also need to learn how to allocate money for one month. Some people can face difficulties in this regard and need to learn how to pay for electricity, internet, etc.
* Persons with disabilities living already in the community may need somebody to go with them and assist them so that they can learn things if they did not learn them in the institution.
* Guardianship is a barrier to moving out of institutions. Instead of guardianship, either formal or informal support is needed. Making friendships outside the institution should be facilitated.
* It is important to get support to settle into the residential environment. It is nice to know people living near to you.

Complaining in the institution to facilitate deinstitutionalisation:

* If I had a complaint in the institution, there was nobody I could speak with about it.
* If external lawyers, and disability rights advocates could go into the institution and speak with persons with disabilities, that would be good. It can help residents to move out of institutions.

In relation to Chapter IX on Remedies, reparations, redress:

* It is natural to get compensation for being institutionalised. We need to get this even during institutionalisation. This can help people move out.

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