****

**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. S.**

With the support of

[Validity Foundation – Mental Disability Advocacy Centre](https://validity.ngo/)

Email: validity@validity.ngo

1. June 2022

I am a man with disabilities. I have been living in an institution for 6 years, including 1,5 years in a small group home.

I want to give the following feedback on the Guidelines.

About institutions:

* If the food is bad, we put it in a bucket and put it in the slop. Then we can cook for ourselves. At least 3 times a week the food is bad. We have to spend our own money on cooking for ourselves.
* I have to report everything. If I meet someone, I have to report about that.
* Institutions are so rigid. Living in the community is so much better.
* We need to get out of this perpetual ass state as soon as possible.
* They even give us a say if we buy ourselves a better-quality toilet perfume or washing powder from our pocket money. That's what the institution gives you, only shitty quality. Those products don’t clean properly.

Preventing institutionalisation:

* The guardianship authority decided that my mum and dad were not able to bring me up well, so they took me away. We had no clothes or food at home. They said my mum couldn't manage things. She had a guardian. That's why I was taken out of the family. My mother fought a lot for me. My other two brothers were adopted.

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

* If I move out, I want to live in a flat close to my workplace and I can get there by public transport.
* There is no preparation for moving out.
* I would need help with managing paperwork. Guardianship is not the answer. It would be good to have a support person who could help pay bills, especially by cheque.
* If we moved out, we wouldn't know anyone, but we could be on our own with my partner and do what we want. No one would watch our every move. Guardianship should be abolished.
* There are views according which some people should stay in institutions because their health is bad. Because they can't even manage their pocket money. And real life demands more. They need more help than I do. They also want to live outside if anyone asks them. But they need more, much more help.
* Some say it's more complicated in the free world because we get everything in the institution. And I say, but I still want to get out. I believe it is harder in that you have to pay for everything. Being lonely would be hard. I couldn't do it without help.
* It would be good for the residents if we could see people who have moved out and talk to them. It would be nice if everyone could see them.

Complaining in the institution to facilitate deinstitutionalisation:

* Staff says that things cannot happen as we [residents] want. There is no point in complaining because nothing will change anyway. If something did change, it would be a miracle.
* Allowing organisations and lawyers to come in and give legal advice would be good, but you need institutional authorisation. I don't know if the institution would let them in.

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

* In the current situation, as long as I'm there [in the institution], it's not good to ask for compensation because it will come to light and I'll be asked who you talked about such nonsense. I have a fear of the institution. Whatever we say, the institution won't admit when they're wrong; they won't admit that we're right. For example, the fence is not repaired in the institution. Inside, the walls of our room are soaked. The institution knows that but does nothing because they say it is not up to them.

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