



Brussels, 20 March 2020

World Down Syndrome Day - 21 March - Over 100 MEPs demand better rights for persons with Down syndrome

Persons with Down syndrome are at high risk of social exclusion as their unemployment rates are double of citizens without disabilities and even four-times higher for people with intellectual disabilities. So says a declaration of 108 Members of the European Parliament from across the political spectrum and from over 26 countries to mark [World Down Syndrome Day - 21 March](#). They are demanding that persons with Down syndrome are more fairly treated.

Antonio Rosique from *EU for Trisomy 21* stated: “The declaration calls on governments and EU institutions to support autonomy rising projects such as inclusive educational programs, independent living projects as well as health research programs with therapeutic goals.”

World Down Syndrome Day (21 March) highlights the daily challenges and opportunities persons with Down syndrome have to cope with. They should not face discrimination be it in employment rights, representation in political life. The declaration also affirms that persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual disability, have the right to be fully included and to participate on an equal basis with others in society.

It is thanks to the efforts of EPP Member of the European Parliament Miriam Lexmann from Slovakia, who promoted the declaration, that we have managed to collect over 100 signatures from MEPs across the political spectrum. Persons with disabilities face discrimination on a daily basis and this declaration points to some of the solutions.

The co-signatories further demand that the rights of persons with disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are mainstreamed in all European policies and programmes, including on health, employment and inclusive education.

Finally, the declaration calls to respect and promote the individual autonomy of persons with disabilities and intellectual disabilities.

Further information:

Declaration and MEPs’ signatures: <https://eufortrisomy21.eu/declaration/>

Press contacts:

Antonio Rosique: +32 4 79 63 47 94 antonio@eufortrisomy21.eu

MEP Miriam Lexmann [Contact details](#).