



Integral Statement on Disability

Statement Information			
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Integral Board	IPG, IMG	Integral groups, public website	17 April 2013

Statement on mainstreaming disability¹ in our work

Recognizing that every human being is created in God's image and each one has both strengths and challenges, we affirm that no person should be viewed or treated as less than or inferior to others. For those whose disabilities hinder or restrict them from contributing to or accessing common or standard goods or services, we commit to proactively include them in all aspects of our programming so that each is able to use his or her gifts and abilities as well as use goods and services that are provided. As an Alliance, we seek to include people with disabilities in all levels of our work- as colleagues, as partners, and as advisors, so that we are better equipped to deliver an inclusive disaster response.

Background to this statement

The topic of disability inclusion was discussed at length at the October 2012 Integral Alliance Board Meeting. The particular focus was how to ensure inclusion and empowerment of people with disability in disaster situations - be that mitigation, preparedness, response or rehabilitation. Catherine Naughton, Director of Advocacy and Alliances for CBM, presented on the work of her organisation in this area and led the subsequent discussion. Board members then worked in groups to formulate elements of an Alliance statement.

Intended use of this statement

The Board intends that, through this position statement, members are reminded of their commitment to the rights, wellbeing and empowerment of people with disability in all their work.

The Board intends that in all Integral groups and collaborative work, the rights, wellbeing and empowerment of people with disability will be remembered and actively pursued.

The Board intends that this statement will draw attention to existing international agreements (e.g. UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and standards (e.g. Sphere) on disability that are already used by members and the Alliance.

¹ "Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others." (Article 1: Purpose, "Final report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities," United Nations General Assembly, A/61/611, 6 December 2006)

The Board intends that Integral's internal standards will be amended as necessary to reference disability during times of disaster response, that measures will be in place to ensure the intent of this statement is pursued and that evaluative data will be appropriately collected and disaggregated.

The Integral Program Group (IPG), as part of their quality work, will be requested to review this disability statement and disability mainstreaming in the work of the Alliance.