## A Decisive Collective Step for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the European Union

**UE, August 1.-** On June 30, 2025, during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the 27 Member States signed a joint <u>Declaration to promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.</u> This initiative aligns with the European Union's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the European Disability Strategy 2021–2030.

Among the commitments made by the Member States are:

- Represent persons with disabilities in the media in a dignified and authentic manner.
- Implement ongoing national campaigns to raise awareness about their rights and their social and professional potential.
- Promote the Disability Employment Package to strengthen their inclusion in the labor market.
- Advance independent living and community inclusion through clear guidelines.
- Utilize EU funds to support concrete actions that foster autonomy and community integration.
- Support the implementation of the European Accessibility Act to ensure media providers offer equitable access to content and services.

This Declaration marks a significant step towards building a more inclusive society, where persons with disabilities can exercise their rights on an equal footing and fully participate in all areas of life.

At RIDHE, we renew our firm and unwavering commitment to the defense of human rights and the full inclusion of persons with disabilities. We believe that a just society not only recognizes diversity as an essential value, but also guarantees genuine equality of opportunity and actively works to eradicate all forms of exclusion and discrimination.

Within this framework, we are promoting the Network for Disability Inclusion, a platform for coordination and collective action involving organizations of persons with disabilities, human rights defenders, and committed social actors. Through this Network, we seek to raise visibility of the multiple forms of discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, especially those who also belong to historically marginalized groups such as women, migrants, racialized people, and LGBTIQ+ communities.

We are committed to building advocacy and cooperation strategies that ensure their active participation, autonomy, and full access to rights across Europe and Latin America.



