



**3 December
International Day
of Persons with Disabilities**

**the dream of equity
is getting older!**

International Day of Persons with Disabilities: the dream of equity is getting older!

By Alex Garcia – Deafblind Person, with Hydrocephalus and Rare Disease

It has been 28 years, I was a 16 year old teenager, a Deafblind Person with Hydrocephalus and Rare Disease, with many dreams and a gigantic load of hope that we, Persons with Disabilities, would achieve the social equity we had been dreaming of as a virtue that manifests itself with a sense of justice, impartiality (non-selectivity) and respect for equal rights.

Despite my 16 years old, I clearly observed that this lack of equality was beyond society and person with disability relationship. This lack of equity was already very present among persons with disabilities and soon it would become the purest selectivity of rights.

28 years have passed since that, in 1992, The United Nations instituted the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which started being celebrated every December, 03rd.

Nowadays, I am a Deafblind Person with Hydrocephalus and Rare Disease, but I'm not a teenager anymore: I am a hard bitten 44 year old man, an educator and an activist, but who, as incredible as it may seem, continues to be extremely stubborn and still dreams about equity which leads us to believe that it got lost or never existed in that mind and heart of a 16 year old teenager.

Years have gone by I reached the year 2000 collaborating with debates and formulation of what would become our most important tool: the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The UN's Convention somehow lifted my fear about the overwhelming advance of selectivity among us, persons with disabilities, when it signed in its preamble:

" j) recognizing the need to promote and protect the Human Rights of all Persons with Disabilities, including those who need a more intense support".

It was an encouragement, for sure, but, as I feared, in practice, it was little or totally ineffective.

Over the years, I started to defend the following idea: in practice, there are persons with more frequent disabilities and these are the most visible ones and they are the least complex.

And there are persons with less frequent disabilities and who are the least visible ones and they are the most complex.

For me, it was evident that the wide range between relations of power, interests, favor exchanges used the words "for all" to hide, to disguise the real selectivity of rights.

In this context, "the most frequent disabilities" are closer to inclusion and "the least frequent ones" are closer to exclusion and abandonment.

At the present the "Sustainable Development Goals" are constantly approached which, of course, have my un conditional support and it is very clear that on this December, 03rd, 2020 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities - I aim, with this short reflection, warn that:

The "Sustainable Development Goals" will only be effective for Humanity if real actions/tools are developed so that people with "less frequent disabilities" can move forward in search of a bigger/better equity in relation to people with "more frequent disabilities".

With my best and kind regards!

Please, share!

Alex Garcia - Brazil

www.agapasm.com.br/english.asp

www.agapasm.com.br/espanol.asp

www.agapasm.com.br