

Green European Disability Agenda

The Greens in Europe acknowledge that rights of people with disabilities are fundamentally human rights. Disability is first and foremost a social, not a medical matter. Societies must be made completely accessible and necessary services must be provided in order to ensure an independent living and equality for all disabled people.

Therefore, the Greens in Europe demand that the UN Convention of Rights of People with Disabilities (CDRP)^[1] should be realised to full extent and implemented globally. The better disabled people can participate in the society as full members of it, the less negative impact their disability will have. Nothing about people with disabilities should be decided without people with disabilities.

The variety of different disabilities is very diverse. There are physical and sensuous impairments, as well as mental and intellectual disabilities. However, not all disabilities are visible, and sometimes invisible disabilities like Autism, and the challenges related to them are not fully recognised. This must change for the better.

The Greens consider accessibility in broad terms. This means in addition to an accessible physical environment also web pages which are accessible for visually impaired, as well as the promotion of plain language and fostering of sign language. All accessibility is equally essential.

Customised services which meet various specific needs are often crucial to enable the independent living and social inclusion of people with disabilities. In addition, the full inclusion of children with disabilities in education is of utmost importance. The Greens will furthermore strive for the subjective right for disability related services like personal assistance, interpretation and adequate technical aids for disabled people everywhere in Europe. The variety of services has to be wide enough to meet the individual needs.

Disabled people are notoriously underemployed in Europe. The Greens in Europe urge to find solutions to facilitate the employment of disabled people. We firmly encourage to support job opportunities for disabled people for instance by creating funding schemes for making workplaces accessible where they are not.

We, the European Greens strongly support the free movement of disabled people in Europe, to study and work abroad. Everyone should be encouraged to develop their full potential. Sometimes additional supportive measures are needed to enable this development. Nonetheless, creating chances for everybody is not only fair and righteous, but is also an acknowledgement of the contribution people with disabilities, along with everybody else, can give to societies in Europe.

^[1] <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-19-living-independently-and-being-included-in-the-community.html>