

# THE VANCOUVER DECLARATION 1992

## *DISABLED PEOPLES' INTERNATIONAL*

Eleven years ago in Singapore, over 400 delegates from some 53 countries witnessed the birth of DPI and called to disabled people throughout the world

**\* to unite in organizations**

**\* to fight for human rights**

Now, in Vancouver, after exciting years of development, lobbying, networking and struggle we, the 2000-plus delegates from over 100 countries, representing the sole international, unified voice of people with physical, mental and sensory disabilities, recognize:

- That our struggle is not yet over.
- Disabled people are still the poorest of the poor in every country.
- We still live in societies that discriminate against us and set up environmental and attitudinal barriers against our full integration.
- Disabled women, refugees, children, elderly people and under-represented groups still face increased discrimination.

**WE DEMAND** that all governments recognize our right to full and equal participation in society through the implementation of legislation in support of our human rights.

**WE DEMAND** that the UN World Program of Action be used by all member states as a working document and as the basis for national strategies regarding disabled people.

**WE DEMAND** that governments, statutory authorities and agencies, professionals and aid and development agencies recognize disabled people and our organizations as the true experts in disability and that they consult us and directly involve us in all issues that affect our lives, and that our organizations are properly resourced.

**WE DEMAND** that the principles of Independent Living, as defined by disabled people, are applied and resourced.

**WE DEMAND** that disability be defined within the framework of social change and not be seen as the problem of an individual.

**WE CALL UPON** the world's media to recognize us as equal members of our own societies and to portray us as such and not as passive objects of charity.

**WE INVITE** all organizations of disabled people to work with us at the national, regional and international levels to achieve human rights for disabled people.

**WE SUPPORT** our brothers and sisters in the newly emerging countries in their efforts to define their own needs and solutions.

***WE CALL UPON ALL DISABLED PEOPLE TO JOIN US IN OUR STRUGGLE***

***FORM YOUR OWN ORGANIZATIONS***

***FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS***

***JOIN US IN OUR CALL FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD***

***OUR TIME HAS COME - WE SHALL NOT GO AWAY***

**STRENGTH IN UNITY!**