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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR ALL IN NEW UN CONVENTION**

The new international convention on disabled peoples' rights provides a major boost for inclusive education development throughout the world, according to the Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education (CSIE).

The Centre said that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which was adopted by the General Assembly at the UN in New York on December 13 obliges governments to ensure an inclusive education system at all levels for disabled people to develop their talents, personality, creativity, physical and mental abilities to their fullest potential.

The rights for disabled students are stipulated in Education Article 24 of the Convention which is the result of five years of negotiations involving governments and voluntary organisations, particularly those of disabled people. The main provisions of Education Article 24 are:

- Governments to ensure an inclusive education system at all levels
- No exclusion from the general education system, primary or secondary, on the basis of disability
- Access to inclusive education, primary and secondary on an equal basis with others in local communities
- Reasonable accommodation in the general education system of the individuals requirements
- Required support in the general education system to facilitate effective education
- Effective individualised support measures in environments that maximise academic and social development consistent with the goal of full inclusion.

A spokesperson for CSIE added: 'The Convention places a legal obligation on governments to adopt all appropriate measures to ensure that each and every disabled child, whatever their impairment or difficulty, has a properly supported placement in a mainstream school. They must also take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination in education on the basis of disability. The UK Government, like other Governments around the world, will need to review its current policy and practice to make sure that this happens'.

The Disability Convention covers rights in many other areas of disabled persons' lives as well as education, and takes into account the full range of long-term impairments - physical, mental, intellectual, and sensory. In line with a social model approach, disability is viewed as an interaction between barriers in society and impairments which hinders disabled peoples' full and effective participation on an equal basis with others. The Convention - the first human rights treaty from the UN in the 21<sup>st</sup> century - marks a paradigm shift from regarding disabled people as objects of charity to individuals with human rights.

Following adoption by the UN General Assembly, the Convention is due to be opened for signing and ratification by all UN member countries, with 20 ratifications needed for it to enter into force, hopefully during 2007.

For further information on the Convention on the Rights of Disabled People please visit

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/index.html>.

And/or contact Linda Shaw, Co-Director, CSIE, on lindashaw@blueyonder.co.uk

**CSIE IS AN INDEPENDENT EDUCATION CENTRE  
SUPPORTING INCLUSION AND CHALLENGING  
EXCLUSION IN EDUCATION**