



**International Conference Counseling and Support “Decent Work,
Equity and Inclusion: Passwords for the Present and the Future”**
Padua, 5-7 October 2017



Inclusion is a theme addressed in several official documents, declarations and manifestoes across the world.

In the last decades some of these, among them the well-known Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10th, 1948, have drawn attention to ‘universal’ questions on inclusion. Others have stood up for specific groups of persons (e.g., people with disabilities like hearing, visual or motor deficits), children, youth, immigrants, and so on. For example:

- [The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(13th December 2006\)¹](#);
- [Salamanca Statement on Special Needs Education \(1994\)²](#);
- [European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities \(http://www.easpd.all2all.org\)](http://www.easpd.all2all.org);
- [Down Syndrome Ireland \(https://downsyndrome.ie/\)](https://downsyndrome.ie/);
- [European Social Charter³](#);
- [UK Disabled People’s Manifesto⁴](#);
- [Inclusion Scotland. Disabled People’s Organization \(http://inclusionScotland.org/\)](http://inclusionScotland.org/);
- [Inclusion London \(https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/\)](https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/);
- [Autism-Europe. Social Inclusion \(http://www.autismeurope.org/\)](http://www.autismeurope.org/);
- [Families for Dementia⁵](#).

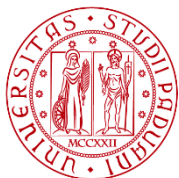
¹ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>

² http://www.unesco.org/education/pdf/SALAMA_E.PDF

³ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/turin-european-social-charter>

⁴ <http://www.allfie.org.uk/docs/Reclaiming%20Our%20Futures%20Manifesto.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/media/7462259/words%20into%20action%20-%20dementia%20manifesto%202009.pdf>



Other documents aimed at focusing attention on inclusion issues in situations particularly vulnerable to exclusion and marginalization. For instance:

- [Alliance for Inclusive Education](#)⁶;
- [Autism Europe](#)⁷;
- [Radical Inclusion](#)⁸;
- [Business Association Inclusion Manifesto](#)⁹;
- [Entelis](#)¹⁰.

Of course, many more valid documents, proclamations, declarations and manifestoes are available than those mentioned here.

Those who are interested in drafting the Manifesto for Inclusion are invited to suggest relevant documents or manifestoes on Inclusion which can be added to the list provided above.

Why another Manifesto for Inclusion?

The rich and multifaceted production of recommendations and declarations in favor of human rights is extremely positive insofar as inclusion, besides being a complex and multidimensional construct, requires great efforts to be realized in one's personal and work contexts.

Signatories of the *Manifesto for Inclusion* will commit themselves to drawing the attention of scholars and professionals working in the contexts of counseling, career guidance and counseling, economics, vocational education and training, and also the attention of those who are more generally interested in cooperation and solidarity, to address the need for professional collaboration and knowledge-sharing to:

- stimulate **a sustainable and inclusive economic development, which focuses on the dignity of individuals and on the upholding of their rights,**
- **promote the banning of any discrimination and disparity.**

The goal of the Manifesto is:

1. to make known and challenge *inadequacies and inequalities* and act to promote a *new sense of responsibility, sensitivity and sharing* in favor of more inclusive conditions;

⁶ <http://www.allfie.org.uk/pages/work/manifesto.html>

⁷ <http://www.autismeurope.org/files/files/autism-europe-s-manifesto-waad-2016-2.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.edenalt.org/a-manifesto-for-radical-inclusion/>

⁹ <http://beingchief.com/inclusion-manifesto/>

¹⁰ http://www.entelis.net/sites/all/files/entelis_manifesto_it.pdf



2. to make explicit and public any commitments in favor of inclusion that the signatories believe they can adopt in their specific work and life contexts;
3. to provide a *checklist* in order to highlight and keep track of what has been realized with respect to the expressed commitments;
4. to publicize a *list of scholars and professionals* willing to provide their knowledge and competences to foster inclusion within and without their life and work contexts.

By endorsing the Manifesto the signatories will declare their willingness to *act in defense of inclusion, to affirm that they will take care of people's wellbeing and of the adequacy of their living contexts*. They will commit themselves to reducing the persisting tendency to a separate special management of the rights of diversities, which sometimes further hinders rather than favoring inclusion.

Additionally, the signatories of the Manifesto will commit themselves to signaling possible "*enemies of inclusion*", barriers and obstacles that may reduce opportunities for participation and inclusion in education, work and in expressing one's right to citizenship. Accordingly, the signatories declare that they will sustain and promote:

- a) an inclusive vision of education, work and social life everywhere in the world,
- b) economic and social policies fostering increased inclusion in education, work and social contexts;
- c) accessibility to goods and services for everyone in a personalized way, avoiding the establishment of 'special' actions only for specific categories of citizens;
- d) the removal of obstacles and barriers that oppose the free circulation of ideas and individuals.

Steps for drafting a Manifesto for Inclusion

First step. The aim is to collect statements describing commitments and tasks that the proponents declare they will honor in order to foster inclusion (we are asking for specific undertakings rather than general principles and "universal" values). Please complete the **online** form (***click link below***) and return it to us by May 30th 2017.

[Manifesto for Inclusion form](#)

All suggestions, comments and statements received by **May 30th 2017**, including authors' names and affiliations/institutions, will be published in a booklet titled "**Ideas, thoughts, and passwords for Inclusion**", which will be distributed **free** to all participants in the International Conference.



Second step. A multidisciplinary panel of judges will analyze the texts received and select a set of approximately 15 statements as a first draft of the Manifesto. All contributors will be asked for their approval of and feedback on the draft before the Conference.

Play your part in drafting the Manifesto for Inclusion!

