



**World Network of Users
and Survivors of Psychiatry**

WSO

World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry

We Shall Overcome, Norway

STATEMENT AT THE 27TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

NORWAY'S UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OUTCOME

Statement delivered by Hege Orefellen, Geneva, 18 September 2014

Thank you Mr. President;

This statement is made on behalf of the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP) and our Norwegian member organization We Shall Overcome (WSO).

We welcome Norway's ratification last year of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). However, disability-based discrimination is an ongoing problem in Norway, and fundamental changes in Norwegian law are required, along with other measures, to combat this and fulfill the obligations set forth by the CRPD.

We regret that Norway has not accepted to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRPD. Already in 2007 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs promised to evaluate the consequences of such ratification. Today, 7 years later, with little viewable progress, we urge Norway to move forward.

Norway has rejected to withdraw its declarations on Articles 12 and 14 of the CRPD. These declarations are discriminatory and are a major obstacle for proper implementation of the convention. We strongly urge Norway to reconsider its position and withdraw the declarations. In this regard, we encourage Norway to take necessary action to develop laws and policies to replace regimes of substitute decision-making by supported decision-making which respects the person's autonomy, will and preferences.

We note with concern that the Norwegian Government has no plans to make changes in legislation with regard to mental health detention and forced treatment. The CRPD prohibits detention on mental health grounds, and we urge Norway to repeal legal provisions authorizing such detention. We also urge Norway to act on the recommendation given last year by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to incorporate into the law the abolition of the use of restraint and the enforced administration of intrusive and irreversible treatments such as neuroleptic drugs and electroconvulsive therapy.

Thank you.