

Poland does not have a clear vision of social policy concerning disabled citizens. The fundamental question of ‘Whom and in what way should the state support?’ has not been answered as yet. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has not been ratified. Poles with disabilities have no support system and experience discrimination in basic aspects of life (education, health care, including rehabilitation, employment, accessibility).

The citizens’ campaign “We are Poles” aims to encourage disabled Poles to assert their equal participation in mainstream society. To express their need for radical reform of policies regarding the support for disabled citizens in Poland. To show that they constitute a large group of Polish citizens and they have the right to lead a dignified life in their own country.

They can do so by:

- organising events under the “We are Poles” Campaign name
- sending “Do not exclude us!” appeal to MPs, local authorities, civil servants, people working in culture, education, health care, local communities, neighbours, etc.
- participating in our ‘virtual demonstration’ through presence in social media (Picasa, Facebook, YouTube, blog)

.The campaign is organized by the Polish Forum for Disabled Persons and starts on the Independence Day, 11 November 2010.

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**We have launched this campaign so that disabled people in Poland have the same opportunities for full participation in society and can realize their life goals in the same way as people with no disabilities.**