



Belgium condemned

Inclusive education for children with intellectual disabilities

The **European Committee of Social Rights** says that Belgium does not do enough for inclusive education.

What happened



All children with **intellectual disabilities** have the right to education.

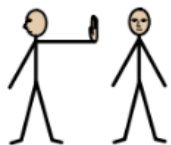
This is written in the **Revised European Social Charter**.



Inclusive education means that all children can go to the same school and learn in the same classroom.



But Belgium does not do enough to make sure that all children with **intellectual disabilities** can go to inclusive education.



And many children in Belgium still go to **special schools**.

This means they cannot go to the same school as children without disabilities.



This means that Belgium does not respect the **Revised European Social Charter**.



In the year 2015
a group of parents from **Inclusion ASBL**
wanted inclusive education to be a reality.



They worked with other organisations
to start a **complaint**.



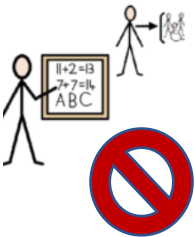
These organisations are:



- **Inclusion ASBL**
- **UNIA**
- **The General Delegate for the rights of the Child**
- **The Ligue des droits Humains**



Inclusion Europe and the
International Federation of Human Rights Leagues
joined them to make this **complaint**
in front of the **European Committee of Social Rights**.



All these organisations said that
Belgium does not do enough
to make sure that children with **intellectual disabilities**
can have an inclusive education
in the **Wallonia Brussels Federation**.

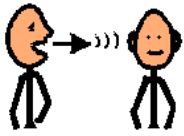
The **Wallonia Brussels Federation**
is the French part of Belgium.



On Wednesday, the 3rd of February 2021
the **European Committee of Social Rights**
condemned Belgium.

They said it is true that
the **Wallonia Brussels Federation**
does not do enough
to make sure children with **intellectual disabilities**
can have an inclusive education.

What all the organisations want



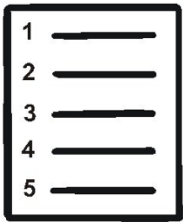
All the organisations from the **complaint** decided to ask the **Wallonia-Brussels Federation** to change many things.



The **Wallonia-Brussels Federation** must:

- accept an **inclusive education plan**
- **include** children with **intellectual disabilities**
- **support** schools.

Accept an inclusive education plan



The **Wallonia Brussels Federation** must do a plan for inclusive education.

This plan needs to have clear steps that make education inclusive for everyone.

Include children with intellectual disabilities



All decisions and texts include people with **intellectual disabilities**.



It is also important that schools have support for children with **intellectual disabilities**.

For example, therapists.

Support schools



Schools must be supported to become inclusive.

This can be done by:

- **Making classes smaller**
- **Supporting schools** with money
- **Training teachers**
- Having **support persons**

Blue words explained

Complaint



When people are not happy and want their rights to be respected they can go before the court.

The document they do with their demands is called a complaint.

Revised European Social Charter



The Revised European Social Charter is a document that protects and supports human rights in Europe.

For example:

- the right to inclusive education
- or the right to housing.



Inclusion ASBL

Inclusion ASBL is an organisation in Belgium.

Inclusion ASBL works towards

the full participation
of people with **intellectual disabilities**
and their families in society.



Inclusion Europe

Inclusion Europe is an organisation
of people with **intellectual disabilities** and their families.

Inclusion Europe fights for their equal rights and inclusion
in Europe.

Inclusion Europe also want to make a difference to the laws
in Europe.

International Federation of Human Rights Leagues



The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues
is an international human rights organisation.

In short the organisation is called FIDH.

FIDH defends the rights of people in over 117 countries.

Intellectual disabilities

If you have an intellectual disability that means it is more difficult for you to understand information and learn new skills than it is for other people.

This makes some parts of life harder.

People with intellectual disabilities often need support in learning or at work.

Intellectual disability often starts before you are an adult.

It affects you for your whole life.

There are things that can make life easier for people with intellectual disabilities.

For example information in easy-to-read language.

Some people also say learning disabilities instead of intellectual disabilities.



The General Delegate for the rights of the Child

The General Delegate for the rights of the Child is an organisation that protects the rights of children in the French-speaking community in Belgium.

UNIA

UNIA is the Belgium Human Rights Institute.

They help people that have suffered from discrimination.





Ligue des Droits Humains

The Ligue des Droits Humains is an organisation fighting for human rights in Belgium.



European Committee of Social Rights

The European Committee of Social Rights is a group of independent experts.

Together they oversee and protect human rights in Europe.

When the European Committee of Social Rights makes a decision everyone has to respect their decision.

In this case for example the European Committee of Social Rights decided that Belgium does not do enough to make sure children with intellectual disabilities can have inclusive education.

Now Belgium needs to work to make education more inclusive.