

Not Invisible: Building an Inclusive Europe for Autistic People

As a policymaker, I pledge to cooperate with and support autistic people and their families in my role and to:

- Respect and promote the rights and dignity of autistic people, recognising the diversity of the autism spectrum and the potential of autistic people across the European Union (EU). I will build on the European Parliament Resolution of 4 October 2023 on harmonising the rights of autistic people and work to ensure that the EU and its Member States fully comply with their obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), so that autistic people can enjoy their rights on an equal basis with others and without discrimination.
- Advocate for strong and comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and policies, such as the proposed Equal Treatment Directive. I will work to ensure that combating discrimination remains a political priority and that autistic people, alongside all persons with disabilities, are protected against discrimination in all areas of life.
- Support the implementation, strengthening and monitoring of the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030, including its next phase, and advocate for the allocation of adequate resources and the adoption of concrete and effective measures at EU, as well as national and regional levels to achieve its objectives, with explicit attention to the situation of autistic people.
- Acknowledge the expertise, voice and lived experience of autistic people, their families and their representative organisations. I commit to consulting and involving them in policymaking and legislative processes that affect them, in line with Article 4(3) of the UN CRPD, and to promoting their meaningful participation and representation at European, national and regional levels.
- Strive to make the EU and its Member States more accessible and inclusive for autistic people across the lifespan, by promoting the removal of physical, sensory, cognitive, communication, legal, social and attitudinal barriers, and by advocating for the provision of reasonable accommodation and personalised support whenever needed.

- Support investment in community-based services and initiatives that promote independent living, social inclusion and quality of life for autistic people, including those with high support needs, at all ages and in all regions.
- Foster the exchange of good practices and the development of common standards and guidelines on accessibility and inclusion for autistic people, in line with the European Commission's commitment to developing a common approach to autism that complements the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Encourage research and innovation on autism that is evidence-based, rights-based and co-produced with autistic people and their families, with the aim of improving quality of life, inclusion and participation. I will support the dissemination and uptake of good practices and promote cooperation and coordination of research and innovation activities on autism at EU and international levels.

By signing this pledge, I commit to working towards a more inclusive, accessible and rights-based EU for autistic people and their families. I also encourage fellow policymakers to join me in this pledge, demonstrating solidarity and commitment to the rights and inclusion of autistic people across Europe.

Name (please use capital letters):

Function:

Country:

Date: