

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY CONFERENCE



**Trusteeship Council Chamber
United Nations Headquarters
New York, United States**

Wednesday 21 March 2018

10am-6pm

“What I bring to the workplace”

***Enabling all people with Down syndrome to contribute and live valued working lives, to
be fully included in the community***

<https://worlddownsyndromeday.org/wdsd-conference>

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The Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Poland and the United Kingdom, International Labour Organization, International Disability Alliance and Inclusion International. Co-organised by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

THANK YOU

CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS



MESSAGE FROM DSi PRESIDENT

Dear Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of the Trustees of Down Syndrome International, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 7th World Down Syndrome Day Conference at the UN Headquarters in New York. 21 March 2018 marks the 13th anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day. Annually events are celebrated globally.

This year's overall WSD theme is "What I bring to my community". All people with Down syndrome must have opportunities to contribute to the community and live valued lives, included on a full and equal basis with others, in all aspects of society. People with Down syndrome can and do bring so much to the community, wherever they live around the world, when given the opportunity. But many are prevented from making meaningful contributions. So we are calling upon every person with Down syndrome and those who advocate with them, to tell the world what they contribute.

This campaign draws from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in a wide sense, capturing the essence of the general principles of Article 3 - full and effective participation and inclusion in society and equality of opportunity. More specifically, the rights promoted and protected by Articles 24 (Education), 27 (Work and employment), 19 (Living independently and being included in the community), 29 (Participation in political and public life) and 30 (Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport) ensure persons with Down syndrome and disabilities have opportunities to participate and make meaningful contributions.

The campaign also draws from the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's); Goal 10, (Reducing inequalities within and among countries). Goal 10.2 aims by 2030 to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. All SDG's which ensure the opportunity of persons with Down syndrome to participate and contribute fully in society by 2030, such as Goal 4 (Quality education) and Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth), are relevant to this campaign.

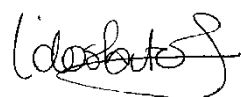
A key part of adult participation is of course work and employment and this year's WSD Conference is called "What I bring to the workplace". Our aim in New York is to reach out to key employment stakeholders to ensure they see the benefits of enabling people with Down syndrome and disabilities to make meaningful contributions in the workplace; then encourage these stakeholders to help us bring about positive change.

This conference provides an opportunity to hear from speakers from around the world. The event will consider the benefits and challenges of employing persons with Down syndrome and disabilities, both for employees and employers; consideration of this from the individual person right up to the strategic (macro) level; we will hear about innovative programmes which provide support both to potential employees and employers and finally how to disseminate the message that persons with Down syndrome and disabilities add real value to the workplace with the right support.

Down Syndrome International is extremely grateful to our sponsors the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Poland and the United Kingdom, International Labour Organization, International Disability Alliance and Inclusion International.

I trust you will enjoy the conference and thank you for your participation.

Yours truly,



Vanessa dos Santos

<https://worlddownsyndromeday.org/wdsd-conference>

PROGRAMME

10:00am – 10:45am

Official Opening and Launch of World Down Syndrome Day Conference “What I bring to the workplace” - Enabling all people with Down syndrome to contribute and live valued working lives, to be fully included in the community

With the adoption of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/149, the international community agreed to formally recognize World Down Syndrome Day every 21 March, to continue to raise public awareness of Down syndrome. The resolution also calls upon the international community to continue to advocate for the rights of those with Down syndrome. The speakers on this opening panel will touch on the multiple ways that United Nations Member States and agencies across the UN system are addressing this topic.

Welcome & Introductions – Bridget Snedden, Vice President, Down Syndrome International

H.E. Ms Joanna Wronecka – Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the UN

H.E. Dr. Toshiya Hoshino – Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN

Collette Divitto, Owner, Colletley’s Cookies, United States – *“Not taking ‘no’ for an answer; forging my own path in the world of employment”*

10:45am – 12:00pm

Representatives from Down syndrome/disability employment focused organisations will share varied, effective employment programmes and best practice. This session will include perspectives from employees and employers, considering positive impact, challenges and strategies.

Bruce Uditisky (moderator) – Chief Executive Officer, Inclusion Alberta and Adjunct Professor, Community Rehabilitation & Disability Studies, Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, Canada, *“Inclusive Pathways to Employment”*

Glòria Canals – AURA Foundation Director and **Maria Cabré**, AURA Foundation Deputy Manager, *“30 years supporting people with Down Syndrome in companies: past, present and future”*

José María Batalla – Founder and Creative Director of 1000friends and La Casa de Carlota, Spain – *“I’m not Down syndrome. I’m a designer.”*

Veronica Mulenga – Employment Development Manager, Down’s Syndrome Association, United Kingdom, *“WorkFit- Connecting Employers and Employees with Down’s syndrome”*

Tom Sewell – Laboratory Assistant, Environment Agency Laboratory, Starcross, United Kingdom and **James Trout**, Manager, Environment Agency Laboratory, Starcross, United Kingdom – *“Our WorkFit Journey”*

Paola Vulterini – Valueable Project Manager, Head of the International Office of the Italian Association of People with Down Syndrome, Rome, Italy – *“ValueAble network: a dream with deadlines.”*

Palmiro Noschese – Area Director Italy Meliá Hotels International – Video: *“Meliá Hotels International and the Valueable network”*

E. Gün Bilgin – President/Turkey Down Syndrome Association – *“I Am Independent Because I Work: A Successful Job Coach Supported Employment Program from Turkey Down Syndrome Association”*

Robert Cem Osborn – Receptionist, Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel and Congress Center, Turkey – *“I love working because...”*

Tulay Bourne – PA to General Manager, Bomonti +1 Project Leader, Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel and Conference Center, Turkey and **Esra Altinors**, Director of Business Development, Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel and Conference Center, Turkey – *“Bomonti +1”*

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PROGRAMME (cont.)

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Further representatives from Down syndrome/disability employment focused organisations will share varied, effective employment programmes and best practice. This session will include perspectives from employees and employers, considering positive impact, challenges and strategies.

Debra Ruh (moderator), CEO of Ruh Global Communications, United States and **Sara Ruh**, Chief Inspiration Officer (CIO) of Ruh Global communications *“The Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Workforce”*

Emily Kaczmarczyk, #DSWORKS® Program Manager, National Down Syndrome Society, United States and **Sara Weir**, President, National Down Syndrome Society, United States – *“NDSS Employment Program: #DSWORKS®”*

Blake Pyron, Owner, Blake’s Snow Shack, United States – *“Blake’s Snow Shack”*

Heather Lavallee, President, Tax-Exempt Markets, Voya Financial, United States *“Voya Cares”*

Anna Fejcher, Public administration employee, Ministry of Health, Poland and **Monika Zakrzewska**, Psychologist, civil society representative, Poland *“Moments of my life”*

Clare Carroll, Speech and Language Therapist and Lecturer, NUI Galway, Ireland - *Video: “Adults with Down syndrome as educators on the speech and language therapy course at NUI Galway, Ireland.”*

Nurmat Echaliyev, Co-founder of "Sunterra" Public Foundation of Parents with Children with Down syndrome, Kyrgyzstan – *Video: “Employment of the first person with Down syndrome in Kyrgyzstan at a local coffee-shop “Sierra”.”*

Chultem Erdenechuluun, Executive Director of Down Syndrome Association Mongolia, Mongolia – *“Vocational Training Program for young adults with Down syndrome.”*

Carmel Ellis, Managing Director, Indooroopilly Montessori Children’s House (IMCH), Queensland, Australia *Video: “The early learnings and benefits of employing a young adult with Down Syndrome.”*

Fatema Benamer, Microbiologist at Tripoli University, Head of Libyan Down Syndrome Association Scientific Committee, Libya - *Video: “The first formal employee with Down syndrome in Libya, employed in IT at the Special Students Bureau at the Ministry of Education.”*

Desigual, Spain (working with AURA Foundation) – *Video: “A Day in a Life”*

Louis Vuitton, UK (with DS WorkFit) – *Video: “Donna Karan give opportunity to Tara”*

Daba, Exclusive Distributor for Nespresso, Spain (working with AURA Foundation) - *Video*

Carolina Pasquali – Director, Videocamp – *Launch of 2018 Videocamp Film Fund “Inclusion” with Instituto Alana*

1:00pm – 3:00pm **Lunch**

3:00pm-5:15pm

There will be two, one hour, sessions to bring together employers from small, medium and large organisations, some employing people with Down syndrome/disabilities, others considering, to engage in an open dialogue. The first panel will consider the process of integration into the workforce, training and support required, benefits and challenges, in other words, “making it happen”. The second panel will reflect on the experience of employing people with Down syndrome/disabilities, benefits and challenges and the impact on all concerned.

Moderator 3pm-4pm: **Fredda Rosen** – Job Path, Inc., United States

Moderator 4pm-5pm: **Ben Drew** - Open Future Learning, United States

PROGRAMME (cont.)

Company representation from:

Alix Partners, United Kingdom/United States

Barket Epstein & Kearon, LLP, United States
Environment Agency, United Kingdom

HB Fuller, United States
Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel, Turkey

La Casa de Carlota, Spain

Manion Gaynor & Manning LLP, United States
Nespresso, Spain

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), United States

Rabobank, United Kingdom

Voya Financial, United States

Peter Saville, Managing Director, London
Meaghan Schmidt, Managing Director, New York
Andy Constable, Facilities Manager, London

Bruce Barket, Founding Partner
James Trout, Manager Environment Agency
Laboratory, Starcross

Jim Owens, President & Chief Executive Officer
Esra Altinors, Director of Business Development
Tulay Bourne, Bomonti +1 Project Leader
José María Batalla, Founder and Creative
Director

Jonathan Tabasky, Partner
Carlos Carriedo, HR Director
Montse Suñé, Boutiques Director

Scott Borchardt, Partner

Margaret Mullane, Senior Associate
Tommy Flynn, Chief Operating Officer, Europe
Chad Pereira, Head of Facilities

Heather Lavalley, President, Tax-Exempt
Markets

5:15pm- 5:45pm

Closing Remarks

Consideration of the key messages from the 2018 WSD Conference. How individuals, organisations, employers and other stakeholders can deliver and promote these messages globally. The power of media communication in sharing the benefits employment makes to the lives of people with Down syndrome and how their contributions make a real positive difference for their colleagues, employers and the community.

Beth Haller - Global Alliance for Disability in Media and Entertainment, United States

Andrew Boys – Executive Director, Down Syndrome International

Introduction to “Inside Out” Exhibition - Tathi Piancastelli through the eyes of the artists - Nila Costa, Jônatas Chimen e Manu Militão (Curated by **Jade Matarazzo**).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Resolution to recognize World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day was proclaimed in 2011 by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/149, to be observed annually. The resolution was proposed and promoted by Brazil, and co-sponsored by 78 UN Member States. From 2012 onward, the Day will be celebrated by all 193 UN Member States. The resolution is available at: http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/resolutions/a_res_66_149.pdf.

World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day (WSD) was first established by Down Syndrome International and has been celebrated since 2006, being observed in over 60 countries around the world. The aim of the Day is to raise awareness and increase understanding about Down syndrome, to promote the inherent rights and dignity of persons with Down syndrome to enjoy full and dignified lives and to recognize the worth and valuable contributions of people with Down syndrome. The Day also works to ensure the inclusion of people with Down syndrome in every aspect of their community and society, in general. For more information about WSD, visit www.worlddownsyndromeday.org.

Down Syndrome International

Down Syndrome International (DSi) is an international charity, comprised of memberships from individuals and organizations from all over the World. Members include people with Down syndrome, parents, family members, friends, care givers, professionals, practitioners, researchers, organizations and more. DSi's mission is to improve quality of life for people with Down syndrome worldwide and promote their inherent right to be accepted and included as valued and equal members of their communities. DSi believes this can only be achieved through improved knowledge of the condition, sharing of information and resources, and good communication and co-operation throughout the global Down syndrome community. For more information: www.ds-int.org.

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Simply send a short email to wdsd@ds-int.org.

You will be able to access the programme, speaker biographies and presentations at the WDSO Conference webpage:

www.worlddownsyndromeday.org/wdsd-conference

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We will be posting throughout the event. You can help us spread the word by:

- Liking and sharing posts you find interesting to **your followers**
- Using the hashtags **#WDSO18** and **#WhatIBringToMyCommunity**
- Ask relevant questions/make comments on posts. We will try to respond.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PARTICIPATION

<https://worlddownsyndromeday.org/wdsd-conference>