

Persephone npo

Association of women with a disability or a chronic and disabling disease

Being a woman with a disability: a specific situation

Concerning this, many themes gain their own particular emphasis. For instance, there is still a lot of work to be done about:

- privacy and help
- assertiveness and the ability to live independently
- violence against women
- the right to sexuality
- the right to be a mother
- employment
- positive image building

Disabled women can support each other very well, above and beyond the boundaries of countries and cultures. But only ... if they can reach each other.

Living with a handicap is extremely instructive. Do women with a disability sufficiently pass their wisdom on to other people, who are also searching for it? A lot of very useful information remains hidden away needlessly.

Why a specific group?

Within the existing associations for disabled persons there is usually not enough attention given to women's problems.

Within the existing women's groups there is often not enough attention for the aspects related to disabilities.

It is only when disabled women join their strengths that they can come out and show their own identity.

Objectives of our association

To bring women with a disability in contact with each other in order to exchange experiences.

To participate in the creation of a positive image by transmitting their expertise to persons and authorities who are needing it.

To increase their visibility in society and to promote their interests, especially defending their human rights and fight their discrimination.

How does the group work concretely?

On a regular basis group meetings are organized. The female participants can always propose themes. Questions from other associations are also dealt with. An important part of our time goes to policy manipulation. A report is made of each meeting.

These meetings are only open to women with a disability or a chronic and disabling disease or disorder. Do you recognize yourself in this profile, but you can't come to these meetings, don't worry, you can nevertheless become a member and receive the reports. From a distance you can also do your very best and make your wishes known!

Apart from these meetings we organize theme days for a larger public in different regions. Hereafter you will find a selection of our offers:

- discussion afternoon(s) privacy and help
- discussion afternoon(s) assertiveness and the ability to live independently
- discussion afternoon(s) motherhood
- discussion afternoon(s) sexuality
- discussion afternoon(s) domestic violence
- discussion afternoon(s) development of a relationship or the right to be disabled
- assertiveness training
- self-defence training for women with a sensory disability
- self-defence training for women with a physical disability
- relaxation training
- training to cope with bereavement or the art to regain strength
- colour and style advice

Members also provide separate information about one or the other subject. This information can be both substantive or practical. Everybody can use this service. Both men and women, disabled and not-disabled people. As years went by, a network of mothers with a disability has been set up thanks to this service.

Through the European Committee for women with a disability, we are in contact with sister groups in other European countries (This committee was founded in September 1994 within DPI - Disabled People's International. This is a world union with associations formed by people with a disability. DPI had founded a women's committee already earlier in a number of other continents.).

On request we also come to you for giving a lecture.

Interested people can always ask for our annual reports and/or our planning.

Would you like to join us?

You are a woman with a disability or a chronic and disabling disease or disorder. You know the art of not sitting down in despair. You want to share your experience with others. It appeals to you to become a member of our group, then transfer the annual membership fee of 20 EUR to account no. BE10 0013 5130 7404 in the name of 'Persephone vzw'.

You don't recognize yourself in the description above, but you want to support our union with your membership. Or your association wants to become a member of ours in order to stay up-to-date with our activities. That's also possible! Just contact us.

Our name

Most likely "Persephone" does not sound familiar to you. In search of a mythological figure that suited our purpose and character well, we discovered Persephone, one of the three vulnerable Greek goddesses. She is open to change, takes account of the subconscious, gives space to others and last but not least, she offers the most opportunities to growth.

Who knows mythology, sees something else. One fine (?) day, Persephone, daughter of Demeter and Zeus, is kidnapped by Hades. Zeus is furious at Hades and as a punishment he degrades him to the king of the underworld. Demeter wants to save her daughter and makes a complaint to Zeus. Together they reach a compromise: six months a year Persephone may stay with her family; during the other months she has to stay with her husband. The months that Persephone is in the underworld it is autumn and winter; during the other months it is spring and summer. As women with a handicap, we recognize ourselves in this mythological story. Just like Persephone we do not remain in the dark periods of our life, but we are always searching for the light at the end of the tunnel.

Contact

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