



**World Autism
Awareness Day**
2 April

'Addressing stigma, lack of awareness and inadequate support structures are essential', SG Ban Ki-moon on [World Autism Day](#) .

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that manifests itself during the first three years of life. The rate of autism in all regions of the world is high and it has a tremendous impact on children, their families, communities and societies.

Throughout its history, the United Nations family has promoted the rights and well-being of the disabled, including children with developmental disabilities. In 2008, the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) entered into force, reaffirming the fundamental principle of universal human rights for all.

Message by Mrs Ban Soon-taek, Spouse of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, on the occasion of World Autism Awareness Day 2013.

Full text: World Autism Awareness Day has succeeded in calling greater international attention to autism and other developmental disorders that affect millions of people globally.

At the United Nations, we are committed to raising awareness about autism worldwide.

Let us continue to work hand-in-hand with affected an individual which strengthens their lives and helps society as a whole.