

The United Nations presents

Life, Animated

A film from Academy Award® winning director Roger Ross Williams

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with:



Dima Yared

Dima Yared is a human rights officer at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional office for Europe (ROE) in Brussels. Prior to joining the Brussels office, she worked in OHCHR headquarters in Geneva where she was assisting the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Previously, she worked on the Universal Periodical Review as well as within the Rule of Law section at OHCHR, and at an NGO engaging armed non-state actors on the involvement of children in armed conflict.



Peter Vermeulen

MSc and PhD in Psychology and Educational Sciences. Worked with people with ASD and their families for more than 25 years. Now co-director of Autisme Centraal, a training and education centre for autism spectrum disorders. Peter Vermeulen is an internationally respected lecturer/trainer and he presents all over Europe and beyond. Peter wrote more than 15 books and several articles on autism. Published more than 15 books and several articles on autism, a.o. *"This is the title: on autistic thinking"* (2001), *"I am Special: handbook for psycho-education"* (2000, revised edition 2013), and *"Autism as context blindness"* (2012), a book that won several awards in the USA.



Aurélie Baranger

Aurélie Baranger has been the Director of Autism-Europe (AE) since 2007. Her mission includes the overall coordination of the network of member associations, and the management of AE advocacy and policy work, liaising with EU decision-makers and other key stakeholders. She has worked on a wide-range of European projects and policy issues to promote a right-based and evidence-based approach to autism. Aurélie has conducted several European-wide surveys and co-authored European reports on good practices in the field of autism. She has also contributed to the organisation of Autism-Europe International congresses. Prior to joining Autism-Europe, Aurélie worked for the European Disability Forum and completed training at the European commission.



Carlos Jimenez

Carlos Jimenez is a Desk Officer for Spain and Andorra at the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels. Mr. Jimenez started his career at the United Nations in 1984 and has since worked at UN offices in New York, Madrid and Geneva. He studied journalism at the School of Communications of American University in Washington and was a correspondent at EFE, Spanish News Agency.

MODERATED BY:

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UNRIC is the communication hub for the United Nations in Europe. Based in Brussels, the Centre covers 22 Western European countries and maintains a website in 13 languages. Visit www.unric.org for more information.



Autism and other forms of disability are part of the human experience that contributes to human diversity. As such, the United Nations has emphasized the need to mainstream disability in the Organization’s development agenda. Mainstreaming disability requires an integral approach in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that inequality is not perpetuated.

People with autism have fundamental rights that are enshrined in international, European and national laws. Although people with autism have the same human value and human rights as everyone else, their needs in education, habilitation and health care are not always fulfilled.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the ambitious new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and 169 targets that promise to leave no one behind.

While all SDGs are universally applicable, disability and persons with disabilities are explicitly referenced in the following goals: 4) Quality Education; 8) Decent Work and Economic Growth; 10) Reduced Inequalities; 11) Sustainable Cities and Communities; and 17) Partnerships for the Goals.

OHCHR Europe

The [Regional Office for Europe of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) is a vocal advocate for social inclusion of persons with disabilities in Europe, drawing on the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#). Under this Convention, persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments. When ratifying the CRPD, States commit to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability and to remove barriers that hinder persons with disabilities from participating in society. The European Union and 27 of its Member States are party to the CRPD.



Autism Europe

[Autism-Europe](#) is an international association whose main objective is to advance the rights of people with autism and their families and to help them improve their quality of life.

It ensures effective liaison among more than 80 member autism organisations in over 30 European countries, including 26 Member States of the European Union, governments and European and international institutions.

Autism-Europe plays a key role in raising public awareness, and in influencing the European decision-makers on all issues relating to the rights of people with autism. One of its core mission is to promote the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in Europe.

Autism-Europe has established a structured dialogue with the European Institutions, the United Nations, and is also active towards the World Health Organisation.



Autisme Centraal

[Autisme Centraal](#) is a training and expertise centre that provides specialized and customized training courses, lectures and workshops on autism (we use the word autism as synonym for autism spectrum disorder / condition).



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