



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Celebration of the
**INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES**



*Permanent Delegation
of the Russian Federation
to UNESCO*



Photo: ©Patrick Baldwin

EVENT OUTLINE

GLOBAL COMMITMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES THROUGH INCLUSIVE ARTS

4 December 2017

Room II: 15.00 – 18.00

Room I: 19.00 – 21.00

UNESCO
in cooperation with the
Permanent Delegation of
the Russian Federation
to UNESCO
and the Inclusion Arts Centre
(Russian Federation)

UNESCO Headquarters
125 Avenue de Suffren,
75007 Paris, France

**Entrance for persons
with disabilities only:**
7, place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France

BACKGROUND

Since 1992, the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been celebrated annually on 3 December around the world. IDPD mobilizes support for critical issues relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, promotes awareness-raising about disability issues and draws attention to the benefits of an inclusive and accessible society for all. UN agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector are encouraged to support IDPD by collaborating with organizations for people with disabilities to arrange events and activities.



UNESCO'S RESPONSE

UNESCO's vision is the creation of knowledge societies that are inclusive, pluralistic, equitable, open and participatory for all citizens. Within the context of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and disability-inclusive Sustainable Development Goals, UNESCO recognizes the need to:

- Prepare national policies and strongly encourage local governments to introduce specific legislation to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Define governments' aspirations regarding services for persons with disabilities, including equal access to information and knowledge, education and the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).
- Develop national standards for public goods in terms of products and services, such as accessibility guidelines, recommendations, curricula and other mechanisms to ensure that these standards are maintained.
- Build the capacity of professional communities and persons with disabilities to provide access to information and knowledge, including hardware and software developers, and teachers.
- Adapt and personalize ICTs to the nature of specific disabilities, particularly for learning and teaching purposes.
- Enhance social and economic integration through improved access to information and knowledge.
- Collect statistical data and carry out research.

THEME FOR 2017: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies for all

The theme for this year's International Day is 'Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies for all', with a focus on enabling conditions for the transformative changes envisaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Pledging to 'leave no one behind', the Agenda is based around the resilience of those in vulnerable situations and the reduction of their exposure to economic, social and environmental shocks, as well as disasters. Resilience is thus central to the entire Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UNCRPD encourages all Member States to strengthen the role of persons with disabilities as agents of change, through the removal of barriers and the provision of equal opportunities for participation. Governments are encouraged to strengthen the resilience of society through improved infrastructure, cities and human settlements, and responses to climate-related and natural disasters, as well as inclusion through arts, music, dance and other cultural expressions. The transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies provides an opportunity for persons with disabilities to address their concerns and challenges through their full and active participation, together with other stakeholders, in the design, development and implementation of affordable and innovative solutions.

Commemoration event at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris

In 2017, UNESCO's event will focus on the role of inclusive arts in creating sustainable and resilient societies, where persons with disabilities will be entirely integrated among the main actors. This event echoes the UNCRPD, which promotes the cultural rights of persons with disabilities to participate in cultural and artistic activities and recognizes their right to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential. The artistic and cultural integration of persons with disabilities is interconnected with the improvements of other disability-related issues and gender equality.

The half-day event will include:

- Round-table discussion with high-level speakers, international experts and artists on the role of inclusive arts towards creating sustainable and resilient societies;
- Theatrical performance of In Touch by the Inclusion Theatre Company and The Theatre of Nations (co-production);
- Concert by Zarifa Mgoyan (Zara), UNESCO Artist for Peace; and,
- Sign language masterclass.

IN TOUCH.

The theatrical performance *In Touch* is co-produced by the Inclusion Theatre Company (Russia) and the State Theatre of Nations (Russia), in association with the Graeae Theatre Company (UK) and the National Theatre (UK). *In Touch* captures the real stories of deaf-blind, blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard-of-hearing, sighted and hearing people, told through an eclectic style of spoken, signed and physical theatre. The show explores the emotional rollercoaster of being human, how we each navigate our lives and what happens when these two very different worlds collide and unite.

In Touch is part of a long-term programme between the Inclusion Theatre Company and the State Theatre of Nations, using the arts to connect deaf-blind, sighted and hearing people through professional theatre, common humanitarian actions and cultural projects. The original production, *Touch-Ables*, based on the real stories of the actors and their interactions with the world and the diaries of a deaf-blind woman from twentieth-century Russia, had its premiere in Russia in 2015 at the Theatre of Nations. The play was shown at leading venues in Moscow and St Petersburg, and was nominated for the prestigious Russian 'Golden Mask' theatre award. In the new *In Touch*, deaf-blind and hearing and sighted actors from Russia, France and the UK will share their stories.

Zarifa Mgoyan (Zara) UNESCO Artist for Peace



Zara with a group of young female singers. ©Zara.Eritemos doluptaque duciatio

UNESCO Artist for Peace and Emeritus of the Russian Federation, pop singer and actress Zarifa Mgoyan, known as Zara, has a long-standing commitment to charities and programmes helping people with disabilities. The aim of these charities and programmes is to involve children, who are visually impaired and hard of hearing, in artistic activities and to raise awareness of the difficulties they encounter.

As part of this year's Disability Day programme, Zara will perform live in Paris with the participation of artists with disabilities. Accompanied by Yulia Samoylova, Valentin Tkachenko and the ensemble 'Singing Hands', she will perform a repertoire of beautiful songs about love and friendship in French, Serbian, English, Russian and sign language. According to Zara, it is only together, offering love and support, that we can change the world.

AGENDA



14.30 – 15.00 Participants registration

- > UNESCO, 125 Avenue de Suffren, 75007 Paris, France

15.00 – 15.30 Opening ceremony

- > Opening speech by **Mr Frank La Rue**, Assistant Director-General, Communication and Information, UNESCO
- > Welcome address by **Ms Sophie Cluzel**, French State Secretary to the Prime Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities
- > Welcome address by **H. E. Mr Alexander Kuznetsov**, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate, Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to UNESCO

15.30 – 16.45 Roundtable discussion “Global commitment towards sustainable and resilient societies through inclusive arts”

- > **Moderator: Ms Chafica Haddad**, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Grenada to UNESCO, Chairperson of the IFAP Bureau
- > **Ms Chulpan Khamatova**, Russian film, theater and TV actress and actress of the theatrical performance “In Touch” and Founder of the Charity Foundation “The Gift of Life” (Russian Federation)
- > **Ms Viktoria Violleau-Avdeeva**, Producer of the theatrical performance “In Touch” Director of “Inclusion” Arts Center (Russia Federation)
- > **Mr Dmitry Polikanov**, President of the Deafblind Support Fund “Connection” (Russian Federation)
- > **Ms Jane Constance**, Artist for Peace of UNESCO (Mauritius)
- > **Mr Jerome Dupire**, Assistant Professor, Research Center for Informatics and Communication (CNAM) (France)
- > **Mr Claude Namer**, President, Association Fama and Director of the Festival “Paris Banlieues Tango” (Uruguay/France)
- > **Ms Catherine Ruault Castera**, French Producer, Caminando Productions (France)

16.45 – 16.50 Sign Language Masterclass - **Eloise Vittu**

16.50 – 17.55 Theatrical performance “In Touch”

Theatrical performance by the Inclusion Art Center (Russian Federation), Inclusion Theatre Company and Theatre of Nations (co-production), in association with Graee Theatre Company, the British Council, and the National Theatre.

- > Written by **Ms Marina Krapivina**
- > Directed by **Mr Ruslan Malikov**
- > Associate Direction by **Ms Jenny Sealey**
- > Choreography by **Ms Alexandra Rudik**
- > Stage design by **Ms Ekaterina Dzhagarova**
- > French version edited by **Mr Adrien Violleau**
- > Music by **Ms Anneya Pashinskaya** and **Mr Mikhail Myasoedov**.
- > Produced by **Ms Viktoria Violleau-Avdeeva**

Actors: Amelie Armand, Raji Gopalakrishnan, Sally McNeil, Jonathan Bex, Ekaterina SAKHNO, Alyona Kapustyan, Irina Povolotskaya, Alexey Gorelov, Alexander Silianov, Vera Lyzhenkova, Kirill Byrkin, Roman Evdokimov, Yulia Khamitova, Olga Lapshina, Estelle Aubriot, Chulpan Khamatova, Jane Constance.

17.55 – 18.00 Closing remarks

19.00 – 21.00 Concert by **Zarifa Mgoyan (Zara)**, UNESCO Artist for Peace

- > Opening speech by **Ms Audrey Azouley**, Director-General of UNESCO
- > Welcome address by **H. E. Mr Alexander Kuznetsov**, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate, Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to UNESCO

Zarifa Mgoyan (Zara) will perform live in French, Serbian, English, Russian and sign language accompanied by Yulia Samoylova, Valentin Tkachenko and the ensemble “Singing Hands”.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Russian, as well as French Sign Language and Russian Sign Language.



United Nations
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*Permanent Delegation
of the Russian Federation
to UNESCO*

With Principal Partners

inclusion

**Inclusion Arts
Centre**

Zara

**Ms Zarifa
Mgoyan (Zara)
UNESCO Artist
for Peace**



МИНИСТЕРСТВО КУЛЬТУРЫ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

**Ministry of Culture of
the Russian Federation**

In cooperation with

connection | **inclusion**

Connection Deaf-
blind Support
Foundation (Russian
Federation)

**ART SCIENCE
AND SPORT**

Foundation "Art,
Science and
Sport" (Russian
Federation)



Interprofessional
Alliance for Vision
Protection (Russian
Federation)

**ACCÈS
CULTURE**

Accès Culture
(France)



Museum of Russian
Impressionism
(Russian Federation)

**CR
TH**

Centre Recherche
Théâtre Handicap
(France)



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Information for All
Programme (IFAP)

Graeae Theatre Company (UK)
The Theatre of Nations (Russian Federation)
The National Theatre (UK)
The British Council (UK)
Russian Peace Foundation (Russian Federation)

UNESCO Website

<https://en.unesco.org/ict-pwd-2017/>

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