

OSCAR

Hospitality

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Today, the world population is over 7 billion people. More than one billion people, or approximately 15 per cent of the world's population, live with some form of disability.

Definition of a disability

A disability is a condition or function judged to be significantly impaired relative to the usual standard of an individual of their group. The term is often used to refer to individual functioning, including physical impairment, sensory impairment, cognitive impairment, intellectual impairment, mental illness, and various types of chronic disease.

Since 1992, the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities has been annually observed on 3 December around the world. It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

The theme for this year is:

"Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".

This year's theme focuses on empowering persons with disabilities for an inclusive, equitable and sustainable development as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda pledges to "leave no one behind".

Persons with disabilities, as both beneficiaries and agents of change, can fast track the



OSCAR

Hospitality

process towards inclusive and sustainable development and promote resilient society for all. Evidence and experience shows that when barriers to their inclusion are removed and persons with disabilities are empowered to participate fully in societal life, their entire community benefits.

How to respectfully help those with a disability

1. Learn the proper terminology. When speaking about someone with a disability, do not say “mentally ill person” instead say, “person who has a mental illness.”
2. Communicate directly. Oftentimes, people with disabilities are assisted by interpreters, nurses, or friends during their day-to-day lives. It’s important that, when communicating with someone with a disability, you talk directly to that person.
3. Ask before providing assistance. If you see a person with a disability struggling with something, your first instinct may be to jump in and help but always ask before offering your assistance.
4. Be respectful in your words and actions. When interacting with someone with a disability, always be respectful in both your words and actions.
5. Ask questions, if they’re relevant. Oftentimes, people worry about inadvertently offending someone with a disability and end up acting off or nervous during interaction. Just ask!



Resources: <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/idpd-2018>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Help-Those-Who-Have-a-Disability>

<http://www.un.org/en/events/disabilitiesday/>