



Committee
For the Protection
Of Persons
With Intellectual
Disability



THE RIGHT TO LOVE AND TO HAVE A FAMILY THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE OUR RELATIONSHIPS

STYLIANI PAFITI
SELF-ADVOCATE FROM CYPRUS
2 DECEMBER 2025

Who I am

Hello, my name is Styliani Pafiti

I work at Christou Steliou Ioannou Foundation
and I come from Cyprus.

At Ioannou Foundation
we have a group of self advocates.
We meet every week



Self – Advocate Groups from Cyprus

We participate in meetings with other groups of self advocates.

The meetings are organized by the Committee
For the Protection of the Rights of People with Intellectual Disabilities

We meet every two or three months
and we discuss issues that have to do with our rights

I am here to represent the 10 groups
of Self Advocates from all over Cyprus

Until now, we have discussed about:

- ✓ independent living
- ✓ employment
- ✓ education
- ✓ bullying
- ✓ self-advocacy
- ✓ legal capacity
- ✓ political participation
- ✓ accessibility including documents in easy to read



Hear Our Voices Event in Cyprus

For the event Hear Our Voices
we had two workshops in Cyprus.

On fifteen and sixteen of October in Nicosia and Limassol
and one general meeting on twenty of November in Nicosia.

The subject we discussed was
**“The right to love and to have a family
– the freedom to choose our relationships”**



Our main messages are:

- **We have the right to love and to be loved**
- Love means giving hugs, kisses, giving presents, being happy, listening to music together
- Love also means showing kindness, trust, understanding and respect
- Love is the feeling between all people – of all genders and sexualities
- We have the right to be loved as we are, without anyone trying to change us



Our main messages are:

- But our families prevent us from having a relationship and from expressing our love
- Some parents often violate our right to love
- Society and people prevent us from expressing our love.



Our main messages are:

- **We have the right to create our own family**
- Family means having your own children, marrying your partner and living together
- Creating a family is something beautiful but also very difficult
- We have the right to decide when we are ready to have our own child



Our main messages are:

- Having a family is a huge responsibility:
- you need to have a job, your own money, your own house
- We are afraid to have our own children, because they might also have disability or the same syndrome as us
- We need support to be able to have our family and raise our children



Our main messages are:

- **We have the right to choose our relationships**
- Relationships may be friendly, romantic or sexual.
- My family only allows me to have friendly relationships, not romantic ones
- We have the right to walk around with our partner without people commenting on us



Thank you for listen to me!!!

Self Advocate Groups from Cyprus

1. Christou Steliou Ioannou Foundation
2. Cyprus Association for People with Autism (B' Day Center in Nicosia & A' Day Center in Limassol)
3. Marios' House Day care
4. Ekaterineio Day care
5. Prosvasi Day care
6. Apostolos Loukas Day Center
7. Margarita Liasidou Foundation
8. Day Care Center for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities of Morphou Communities
9. Toxotis Foundation
10. Agios Stefanos Foundation