

**5. Congress of the European Network of (ex-)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry
(A joined congress of ENUSP and the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry - WNUSP):**

**"Networking for our Human Rights and Dignity"
(July 17 - 21, 2004 in Vejle, Denmark, Idrætshøjskole)**

**Workshop 7
Strategies to influence and promote the UN convention on human rights and disability**

Facilitator: Tina Minkowitz, USA

Summary of Workshop on the United Nations Convention on Human Rights and Disability, Vejle July 19, 2004

29 users and survivors from 17 countries signed a mailing list to participate in further discussions and work on the disability convention. (Additional users and survivors also signed up in response to an invitation in the keynote speech).

The workshop decided to draft a resolution to be adopted by general assembly, and discussed the following elements to be incorporated into the resolution:

- user/survivor concerns, including self-determination and the right to make our own decisions, to be fully part of the convention
- assistance without taking away rights
- call on membership to lobby national governments to adopt articles 9, 10, 11, 12, 15 in relevant parts
- call on board to take action to pursue these goals
- WNUSP should address follow-up & monitoring of convention

We had an extensive discussion about the insanity defense, and agreed that we support equal rights and responsibilities, also there is a need to look at the issue in a broader context of how and why states punish people, look at restorative justice.

Other issues raised were:

Children with disabilities

Need for modification of judicial & evidence procedures to make them accessible to PWD

Information on emerging issues (e.g. HIV/AIDS) needs to be promptly distributed in all accessible formats

Plain language format needs to be specifically mentioned

Need to deal with issues of medication, good health, development

We support assistance without depriving people of right to decide, there need to be alternatives for meaningful choice.

Right to assistance and services

We should make sure convention deals with rights of PWD in armed conflict and humanitarian disasters.