



# World Autism Organisation

[www.worldautismorganisation.com](http://www.worldautismorganisation.com)

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## World Autism Awareness Day 2017

### “We Can and We Are”

Politically, the world is seeing more boundaries being established with apparent increasing intolerance and desire for acceptance and unity with others. In contrast to this devolvement of general society, it is wonderful to witness in an increasing number of countries, the evolvement of a greater acknowledgement and accommodation of people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

It cannot be denied that the political and economic downturn is having a highly detrimental effect on the lives of people with an ASD, as well as their families, yet the strength one witnesses amongst this population offers a wonderful example to all.

Individually and collectively, there are wonderful ongoing awareness and educational campaigns, resulting in a definite increase of acknowledgement, understanding and accommodation for the diverse nature of Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Due to exhaustive lobbying chiefly by people with autism along with parents, national government legislation is slowly improving around the world as regards services for people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Putting policy onto paper does not mean action and sadly, implementation is still significantly lagging behind. Yet again we have seen parents and professionals, march along in a determined attempt to ensure the implementation of new legislation they took years fighting for.

The escalating incidence / detection of Autism Spectrum Disorders has resulted in early intervention often eclipsing the fact that children with autism grow into adults with autism. Active parents who have been at the front line of change for our ASD children, as time has passed, are now obviously turning their attention more to the dire lack of opportunities and services for adults with autism. Notably, there has, as a result of public education programmes, been a small but notable improvement in employment opportunities for adults with ASD, gratefully across a wide range of abilities.

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> World Autism Awareness Day and we may have only crossed a few more bridges due to the enhanced “promotion” of autism as a result of WAAD, but they are bridges crossed. Autism is not just for April, it is with us and needs our focus in whatever degree we can manage, 365 days a year.

**Jill Stacey, President. 02.04.2017**

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