

Israel tells people with disabilities: "We will overcome together"

Israel PM tells Shalva Center: We have passed this law so that people with disabilities and their families won't have to do it all alone.

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, July 27, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- "Every person with disabilities is different, every disability is different; but there is something in common: the need for help, the exhaustion of the parents, the frustration with bureaucratic hurdles," said Prime Minister Lapid, outlining the need for reform. "When Yaeli was five-years-old and we were completely drained, there was something I didn't realize: That one day she would turn 21, and on that day the State of Israel would say, 'I'm done, this is no longer my problem.' Now this is being revolutionized," said Prime Minister Lapid, referring to his experiences raising his daughter with disabilities.



Yochanan Samuels, CEO of Shalva with PM Lapid

The conference was held at the [Shalva](#) National Center in Jerusalem which is home to rehabilitative programs serving over 2,000 people with disabilities and their families. The Shalva center also acts as a hub of inclusion with model inclusive workplaces and social enterprises, community initiatives, and educational programs that draw about 200,000 people from the broader community to the center throughout the year.

Kalman Samuels, whose contribution to Israeli society through the work of Shalva was recently recognized with the honor of Lighting a Torch at the National Yom Haatzmaut Ceremony, welcomed Lapid to the conference at the Shalva center, relating to one another as fathers of adults with disabilities. "It is an honor to be part of this incredible new future for people with disabilities and their families.

A first for Israeli law, the new measure legally recognizes independent living as a right of people with disabilities and also stipulates improved rehabilitative services for children, adults and families. The transition of thousands of adults with disabilities to independent living in the community is expected to change Israel's standards of social inclusion across the board and require amended standards of disability accessibility in community-based infrastructures. Additionally, adults with disabilities will have full involvement in comprising their government-subsidized support services package based on their personal understanding of their needs, rather than relying solely on professional assessments. Some of the new options for support services include professional guidance in domestic living, transliteration and sign language services, technology-based assistive devices, social support groups and more.



The conference was held at the Shalva National Center in Jerusalem



Kalman Samuels, founder of Shalva

“Community inclusion is one of our chief priorities at Shalva and our employment and independent living programs for adults have successfully proven that the more we promote inclusion, the more people with disabilities will be able to lead lives of dignity, meaning and independence. We thank the State of Israel for this important law,” says Yochanan Samuels, CEO of Shalva.

“This is a historical moment for the community of people with disabilities and their families,” said Minister of Labor and Social Welfare Meir Cohen. “No longer ‘out of sight, out of mind.’ In a short period of time, people with disabilities will be living among us as an inherent part of who we are.”

Commitment to enforcing the law will demand the partnership of existent municipal and community services, the involvement of cross-sectorial implementation committees, as well as an annual budget of about two billion shekels.

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