

# Moldovian Government and UN Officials attend two day Human Rights conference organised by Circles Network

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Immediate Release

Circles Network certainly had no idea earlier this year that in between all of the excitement around the opening of the Olympics, they would be preparing for their own prestigious event.

Eight very senior parliamentary leaders, UN officials and government officers from Moldova are in the UK to attend a two day study tour organised by Circles Network and involving key figures brought together from Health, Education, Research and Care sectors to discuss Article 12. For Moldova, this is crucial if they are to create a vision of what their country could achieve with the inclusion of disabled people in communities that have been woefully segregated throughout time. Shrouded by large institutions where people are constrained with little or no rights to a lifestyle of purpose and fulfilment, this step will signal unprecedented change.

Circles Network, based in Rugby, Warwickshire, works throughout the UK designing and delivering cutting edge projects with disabled and disadvantaged people. Their experience of creating systems and practice that include people as equal participants is wide ranging, both for children and adults and will provide a showcase of experience. Contributing to the two day event, that will be held at the Draycote Hotel in Rugby, are accomplished speakers who will highlight their own successful stories of change.

"We may not have always got it right in the UK but we have travelled a great distance from the days of asset stripping communities and warehousing people in huge, impersonal workhouses and hospitals where they had no chance to shine and we want to take this opportunity to share what we have learnt with the Moldovan Government.

How amazing that the backdrop this weekend, at the opening ceremony of the Olympics, included so many examples of inclusion as if it's always been that way. A particularly joyous moment was the rendition of our National Anthem, beautifully orchestrated by an inclusive choir of deaf and hearing children.

This will be a historical journey for Moldova, and Circles Network are delighted to be able to support positive change for disabled people in Moldova." Mandy Neville, CEO Circles Network.

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Circles Network was created in 1994 by Chief Executive Mandy Neville, and a loyal group of people who were involved in the creation of the first Circles of Support in the UK.

The intention was to set up an organisation, which from their experience was different: an organisation that embraced the philosophy of social inclusion and where information, knowledge and practice leading to

improved, self determined lives, became widely shared, particularly amongst people who were vulnerable and lonely.

Circles Network is now a national charity and voluntary organisation with its own personal and professional development academy and offices supporting and developing its work throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland and is renowned for building inclusive communities on the foundations of justice, advocacy, empowerment and friendships.