

# ELT NEWS

## **Disability is a human rights issue**

It is with great pleasure that ELT NEWS participates in the Disabled Access Friendly campaign. Many people think that disability is a physical incapacity which is the domain of medical and welfare professionals. We strongly believe that disability is a human rights issue.

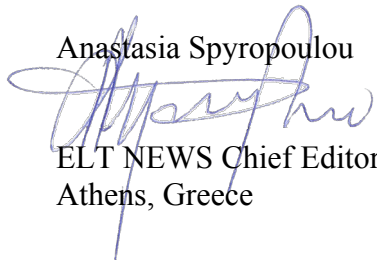
Four values are of particular importance, both in general terms and in the context of disability:

1. the inestimable **dignity** of each and every human being,
2. the concept of **autonomy** or self-determination that demands that the person be placed at the centre of all decisions affecting him/her,
3. the inherent **equality** of all regardless of difference,
4. and the ethic of **solidarity** that requires society to sustain the freedom of the person with appropriate social support.

The process of ensuring that people with disabilities enjoy their human rights is slow and uneven. But it is taking place in all economic and social systems.

The Disabled Access Friendly campaign reminds us of something that we should not need reminding about; namely that persons with disabilities are human beings and therefore share the same human rights as everybody else and the right to enjoy them to the same degree.

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