**Enabling Social Support Systems: Preparing Grassroots Communities for Inclusion of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities**

TCI and STEP (and partners) value the opportunity this year within the UN to discuss the topic of de-institutionalization. Hitherto, the discourse on DI has been on the abuse and violence, as well as the inhuman, degrading and torturous treatments therein. Calls for de-institutionalization have hinged upon legal and justice actions and changing the macro policy environment. These are vital for beginning the process of DI. However, we must zoom in on communities more closely, engage with grassroots social systems, design and implement local, neighbourhood based community actions for receiving people with psychosocial disabilities into the communities safely and ensuring that their human rights are not violated. While DI is a priority, preventing people with disabilities from being institutionalized through legal measures; as well as through community based programmatic actions are equally necessary. An inclusive psychosocial ecosystem will enable the safe and dignified passage of people from institutions to communities. This side event brings together vignettes of community led interventions in bringing generic and specific, human rights based services to people with psychosocial disabilities who have been de-institutionalized; and also experts by experience who will share their practice of inclusion in communities, as a way of building social capital, inclusion in development and inclusive psychosocial environments. Such practices keep persons with psychosocial disabilities within their natural living habitats, preventing institutionalization, and cutting the thread of the “revolving door”.

**Objectives of the side event**

* To identify and share key guiding principles for DI, preparatory steps and process in relationship to grassroots communities, neighbourhoods and households
* To share good practice community based, peer led examples on the inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities
* To propose recommendations of practice on preparation of communities for inclusion in the process of DI (including preventing institutionalization in the first place)

**Program Rundown**

Moderator, **Ms. Bhargavi Davar**, Transforming Communities for Inclusion

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| **Time** | **Topic** | **Speaker** |
| *8.30 – 8.35 AM* | Welcome | Muhammad Atif Sheikh, Special Talent Exchange Programme |
| *8.35 - 8.40 AM* | Introduction to the Side Event and panellists | Bhargavi Davar, TCI |
| *8.40 - 9.40 AM* | Community based practices on supported decision making, scalability and challenges | Michael Njenga, Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, |
| Peer support in Thailand using urban farming, supporting food security and employability in national advocacy | Kim Tiengtom, Living Association |
| HVN in peer support and community development, reimagining community in global north context | Olga Runciman, Hearing Voices Network, |
| Engagement at the provincial level, enabling a self help movement in remote and poor areas of Nepal | Matrika Devkota,  Koshish |
| Enabling low income communities for support *and* care for an inclusive psychosocial ecosystem | Kavita Nair, Bapu Trust for Research on Mind & Discourse |
| Capacity building for peer support, global training experiences of creating communities in different geographic locations | Chris Hansen, Intentional Peer Support |
| Investing in grassroots actions for creating inclusive communities | Karen Alexander, CBM Inclusion Advisory Group, |
| *9.40 - 9.45 AM* | Vote of Thanks | Waqar Puri, TCI |