

Europe in Action 2019

Self-Advocacy and implementation of the CRPD in Japan -Sagamihara Attack and Community-Living

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- Professor, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan (2012-)
- Council Member/Asia Pacific Regional Representative of Inclusion International (2004-2016)
- Chair, Membership Committee, Inclusion International (2018-)
- Officer, Inclusion International (2019-)
- Vice Chair, CRPD Committee, Japan Disability Forum (2016-)

What I am going to share with you today

- Sagamihara Attack, 26 July 2016
- Importance of international solidarity and network
- New Self-Advocacy Group
- Inclusion International's Call to Action: Closing Institutions



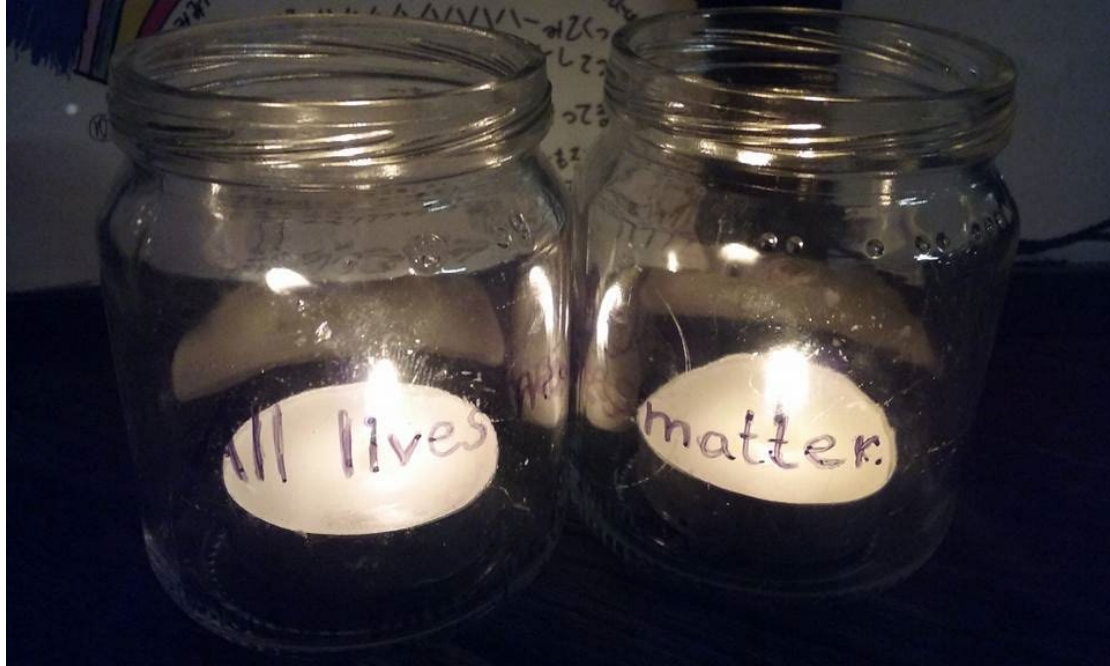


What happened on 26 July 2016: 19 persons with intellectual disabilities were killed in an institution

- 19 persons with intellectual disabilities were knifed to death in a residential institution by a former-staff person, who believed that their life was not worth living. The killer also injured 24 residents and 3 staff persons.
- Those killed were 10 women, aged from 19 to 70, and 9 men aged from 41 to 67.
- The residential institution, established by the prefectural government in 1964, had a capacity of 180 persons and on that day accommodated 149 persons with intellectual disabilities.



July 27 2016, Vigil in New Zealand



July 29 2016, Seoul, South Korea



4 August 2016, London, U.K.



季軍（中国） 母親



- 大変不幸な出来事で心が痛みます。特に以前その施設に勤務していた職員による犯行で大変驚きました。
- 人の命は尊いもので、たとえ障害者であっても命の重さに変わりありません。この事件を教訓に、改めて命とは何なのかを考え直して、障害者一人ひとりの尊厳と人格を尊重し、安全に
- 暮らせる環境構築に努力すべきです。（原文）

賀曉星 南京大学教授



- 相模原の障害者殺害事件で命を奪われた19人の被害者にたいし、深い哀悼の意を表します。「障害者なんていなくなってしまう」と命の尊さを知らない容疑者に、怒りと悲しみを感じます。（原文）

Message from Taiwan



問：兇手說：想讓所有的障礙者消失。你的想法是？

答：兇手不是智能障礙者，
他怎麼可以幫智能障礙者決定，
智能障礙者要不要活下來。

問：因為他覺得他們活得不快樂。

答：哪有可能不快樂？
他又不是代表智能障礙者，
怎麼可以把他（們）殺掉。

Members of Chosen Power send condolences to friends in Japan



LUIS GABRIEL VILLARREAL PERALTA

Council member of Inclusion International from Colombia



- I am writing you from the Americas to express my condolences with you for this despicable tragedy. As we all have seen, these are extremely dangerous, chaotic, unstable times, when our lives are continuously exposed to so many bad things, bad people. And sadly, people lose their lives or their loved ones because of the mental or social instability of others.
- But no matter how unpredictable the world has become and how many harmful things may happen, we must not lose our faith, our hopes and our dreams in our own humanity, stay together and support each other so we can have a better future and improve our world for many generations to come.
- I pray for you, and for the rest of families who are facing these difficult times in order to have peace and love inside their hearts, their minds and their souls.

Jameela Al-Qasimi

United Arab Emirates



- "We share your sorrow and loss and pray that your loved ones find peace and blessings. They deserved to live in dignity and as advocates for persons with disabilities we will always stand in solidarity with our children, brothers and friends to protect and empower them. "

Robert Martin, CRPD Committee Member



My heart goes out to the people of Japan, especially disabled people of Japan. My thoughts and feelings are with you in this time of tragedy. We need to remember disabled people just like we remember people that are part of other tragedies. **In my role on the United Nations Committee for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities I will work hard to make sure disabled people are seen as valued citizens so that tragedies like this do not happen again.. We need the world to see disabled people as fellow human beings, as real people.**” Kia kaha (stay strong)



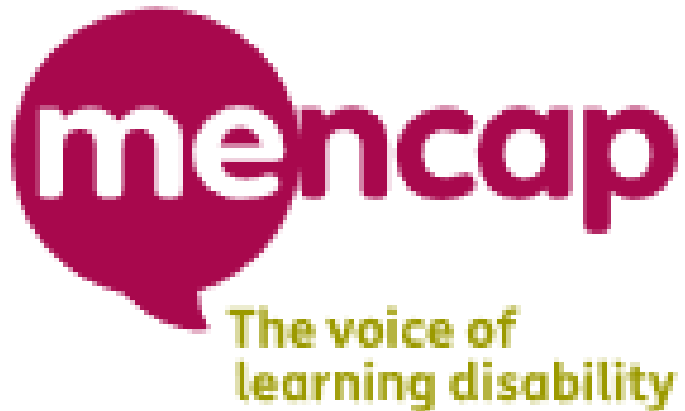
Message from Sue Swenson



Sue Swenson (USA), President-elect (then), Inclusion International

- Our hearts are heavy with pain and love as we think of your loss at Tsukui Yamayuri En, Sagami City, Kanagawa Prefecture on 26 July 2016.
- Please know that, like you, we continue to hope and work for dignity and brotherhood for all members of the human family, in every nation and every community. We must be especially devoted to those with the most severe disabilities and intellectual disabilities, for they are the most vulnerable.





- From all the staff and volunteers at Mencap, the UK's largest learning disability charity, we wish to express our deepest sorrow and condolences to families who have lost loved ones in this horrific attack. We also wish to express our solidarity with the disabled community in Japan and people with intellectual disabilities and their families as we all struggle to come to terms with such inexplicable violence towards vulnerable people.



Klaus Lachwitz

President of Inclusion International (then)

- We are deeply devastated and endlessly sad about the death of 19 persons with intellectual disabilities who were brutally attacked and killed last week in Sagamihara by a former staff member of the care home where the victims lived. You are gathering on Saturday in the University of Tokyo to show your solidarity with these innocent people. Many of our members all over the world have offered their condolences. The victims are persons who deserve our deep appreciation and respect. They belong to us. They are individuals whose life and fate shows that it is of utmost importance for persons with intellectual disabilities, their families and supporters to never give up to fight for the inherent dignity, equality and non - discrimination of all persons with disabilities.
- I bow down in sadness.

Theresia Degener, Chair of the CRPD Committee (Germany)



- I do not know what prompted the killer to take the lives of these disabled persons in Japan and injure more. But it might be possible that eugenic and ableist ideology is behind this hate crime.
- An ideology which is based on the assumption that disabled persons are leading a life not worth living, that disabled persons are problems rather than subjects of human rights. This ideology, unfortunately, hasn't died with the defeat of National socialism in Germany during WW II. It is an ideology which can be found in many countries around this world and which comes in different shades and forms.
- The CRPD is the answer to this ideology. The knife killing in Japan reminds all of us how important it is to put all our energy into the implementation of the CRPD and create a just society for persons with disabilities every where!

“Families” wish to keep the names of the victims private

- The Kanagawa police has decided not to disclose the names of 19 victims stating that “the attack took place at a care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities and the need for the protection of family members is high. And also the family members asked for the privacy strongly”.
- Stigma of disability is strong in Japan.
- By keeping the identities of the victims secret and attributing the decision to families, the police has caused a huge damage to the dignity of 19 victims.

“After Mass Knife Attack in Japan, Disabled Victims Are Still in the Shadows”

- Mr. Ono, 43, survived slashes to his throat and stomach by the attacker, a former caregiver at the group home, and remains in a hospital nearby.
- (8 September 2016, Mokoto Rich, New York Times)



“After Mass Knife Attack in Japan, Disabled Victims Are Still in the Shadows”

- The Onos, who live here in Zama, a suburb of Yokohama, want the world to know more about their cherished son, who is autistic and has the mental capacity of a toddler. The assailant reportedly told the police that he wanted to “eliminate the disabled from the world.”
- (8 September 2016, Mokoto Rich, New York Times)



“After Mass Knife Attack in Japan, Disabled Victims Are Still in the Shadows”

- Osamu Nagase, a visiting professor of disability studies at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, said the public was implicitly approving the attacker’s perception that the victims “didn’t deserve life.” He added: “If we want to pay respect to those 19 victims, they cannot remain nameless. They cannot remain faceless.”
- (8 September 2016, Mokoto Rich, New York Times)
- **We have failed the victims twice, (1) before the attack, not being able to provide community-support and to prevent the violence and (2) after the Attack, not being able to pay respect to their dignity.**

Challenge of de-institutionalization

Almost half a million persons in institutions

Chart 4 Number of Persons with Disabilities

	Total number (Thousand of Persons)	Persons living at home (Thousand of Persons)	Inmates in facilities (Thousand of Persons)
Children and persons with physical disabilities	366	358	9
Children and persons with intellectual disabilities	55	42	13
Persons with mental disorders	323	290	33

Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare "Investigation of Actual Situation with Children and Persons with Physical Disabilities" (2006)

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare "Basic Investigation of Actual Situation with Children (and Persons) with Intellectual Disabilities" (2005)

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare "Investigation of Social Welfare Facilities etc." (2005) (Facilities related to the senior citizen are excluded)

Controversy of the “rebuilding” of the residential institution

- The Governor initially announced to rebuild the same big institution, responding to the voices of family members of survivors and other residents.
- DPO’s criticism in line with the CRPD, particularly article 19 on “Living Independently and Being Included in the Community” which says that “(a) Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;
- (b) Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;

14 October 2017, the Governor Announced a political compromise

- The Prefectural government will build 12 units of residential institution, each of which has the capacity of 11 persons, in two cities.
- The Prefectural government take time to ask each person where he/she wishes to live and will decide the number of units in each city in two years.
- “Third Failure”?

The Big Challenges Remain; Living Indecently and Being Included in the Community



We do our best to
protect you:
Inclusion Japan's
statement on 27
July 2016



Only through our solidarity, local, national, regional and international

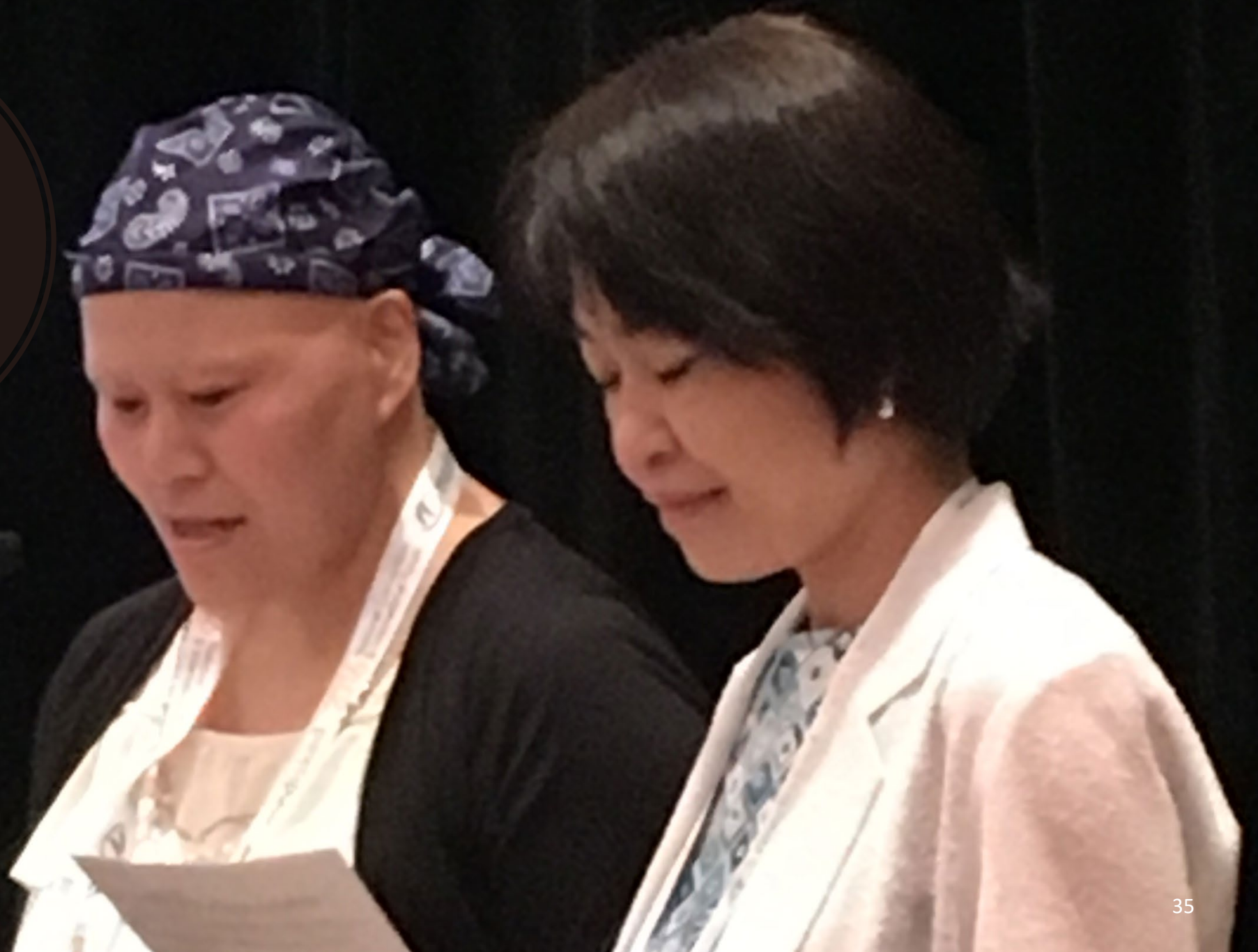
- We can “ combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life” (CRPD, article 8 on awareness-raising) **through Inclusion International**

“Niji iro de go”=Let’s go with Rainbow Colors

- Born in 2016 as a reaction to the Attack
- Initiative of a local self-advocate leader, Mayumi
- “We need to express our feelings about this attack”
- Inspired by Robert Martin when she was 25 and active with Inclusion Japan and Inclusion International



General
Assembly of
Inclusion
International
2016




“Niji iro de go”=Let’s go with Rainbow Colors

- Monthly meetings
- Organizing Workshops to think about the Attack
- Cooking lessons
- Parties
- Visiting the site of the Attack
- Visiting survivors in the temporary accommodations
- Organizing annual public symposiums on the Attack



津久井やまゆり園
芹が谷園舎





津久井やまゆり園 園舎が谷園舎

職員募集中




◎臨時的任用職員（看護師）
◎非常勤職員（看護師）
夜勤なし 常勤への途あり

◎非常勤職員（生活支援員・夜勤）
常勤への途あり

お問い合わせ 045-443-6890
タウンワーク（WEB）掲載中

当園に関する方
以外の立ち入りを
固くお断りします

A message from a self-advocate

- 是非私虹会活動会世界広めたいよろしくお願いいたします   今年また7月相模原事3年目になります。私この活動会として仲間できた事色々活動会できた良かったです。3年目なても私相模原事忘れない事有りませんやぱり涙とまなやぱり心辛い壊れいそうになります。また虹会参加者してね欲しいです。よろしくお願いいたします 
- We wish to share our activities with the world. This year, it will be the third anniversary. I am glad that we have been able to work with my colleagues. I cannot forget this incident even after almost three years. When I think about it, I feel very sad and I am afraid my mind is broken. I hope that you will join us.

Workshop in November 2016

- Ice breaker (which animal?)
- Please tell us about what you have been happy about
 - Being a couple.
 - I have a job.
 - I can go out to theme parks.
 - I can go sight seeing.
 - I can join meetings of Inclusion Japan
 - I enjoy my job.

Workshop in November 2016

- Tell us about what you have been sad about.
 - I lost my grandmother.
 - I am bullied at work.
 - I lost my mother.
 - I was bullied at school.

Workshop in November 2016

- Tell us about the Sagamihara Attack
 - It is not acceptable.
 - Innocent people were just killed because of disability
 - Why did the former staff kill them?
 - He was just under-valuing us.
- Express your feelings with pictures.

Workshop in November 2016

- What is your dream and ambition?
 - Be happy with my family
 - Stay with my job
 - Be Active
 - Save enough money before the retirement.
 - Be a celebrity
 - Finish a marathon
- What do you want to say to the suspect?

Some survivors of Sagami-hara Attack are moving into the community

- Some people and survivors of the Attack are moving into the community with different support, including PA.
- <https://michikusa-movie.com/>

We want the world to take action on inclusion



EDUCATION

We demand that all boys and girls with an intellectual disability go to school and are included in the same classroom as other children.



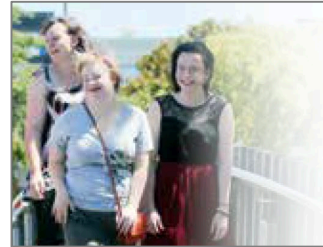
JOBS

We demand real jobs in the community with real pay and the support we need to be successful.



INSTITUTIONS

We demand that all institutions are closed and that no new institutional type settings are built again.



VALUED EQUALLY

We demand to be valued equally and for the discrimination we face to end.



FAMILIES

We demand that families are supported, included and valued.



COMMUNITY

We demand to be included and part of our communities.



www.inclusion-international.org

#ActionOnInclusion



Call to Action: Closing Institutions



We know that finally closing institutions is difficult. Closing institutions forever involves social, political, and public policy challenges.

Our movement has knowledge, evidence and experience with the closure of institutions. **We want to hear about the process of change and share it with our network.**

Throughout May and June we are collecting examples on the different ways in which our members are working to close institutions, **building support in the community and stopping new types of institutions being developed.**

Visit our website to learn how to join the conversation:

<https://inclusion-international.org/cta-closing-institutions/>

We demand that all institutions are closed and that no institutional type settings are built again.

#ActionOnInclusion



Thank You

- Ačīū
- ありがとうございます。



- Did you know about this Sagamihara Attack?
- Do you know about hate crime against persons with disabilities in your country?
- If, yes, what has your self-advocacy group been doing about hate crime?
- What kind of support can you get for your independent living in your community?

Forced Sterilizations under the Eugenics Protection Law (1948-1996)

- Aim was the prevention of birth of “inferior offspring”
- 16, 475 Forced Sterilizations (68 % women, 32% men)
- 1996 Abolition of eugenic sterilizations
- January 2018, first lawsuit demanding damages to the state: strategic litigation
- April 2019, the Parliament unanimously passed an act to offer an apology and compensation, 26000 Euro to each survivor.
- The Prime Minister also apologized.

