

Disability or functional diversity?

The concept of functional diversity as an evolution of disability, despite being more inclusive and less pejorative, has not yet been consolidated.

The Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities (Cermi) and other organizations and entities have expressed the demand of using the term disability again, because they consider that the term functional diversity:

- Is ambiguous and causes serious legal and social confusion. On the other hand, the name disabled person is socially recognized and accepted internationally and is the one that which is used in the ONU Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), ratified by the Spanish State in 2008, and in the Law for the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Care for People in a dependent situation.
- It makes invisible the collective, its needs and its rights.
- It can reduce protection for people with disabilities and cause a serious setback in the achievements that had been achieved.

They give as an example that entities in the disability sector that include the term functional diversity in their statutes can have problems to access disability subsidies, as it is not recognized by legislation and by most administrations.