



NEWS REPORT

Date:	6 April 2011
Expert:	Theodoridis Athanasios
Title:	Exclusion of a disabled student from a school parade
Country:	Greece
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Discrimination against a disabled student during educational activities such as a school parade
Ground of discrimination:	Disability
Source:	Political development
Field:	Education
Legislative provisions:	Article 21, par. 6 of Greek Constitution

Content

Political development: At the occasion of the public celebration of the national holiday of the 25th of March (anniversary of Greece's independence), the Principal and the gym teacher of the 25th Primary School of Larissa have been reported to the media to have deprived a student with Down syndrome of his right to parade (note from the expert: right enshrined in the Constitutional provision as referred to below), and they did not change their decision even when the boy started crying as he felt excluded. In particular, before the march they asked his parents to submit an official medical certificate stating that the disabled boy had the capacity to walk in line with the other students. The parents refused to submit such a document, claiming that there was no need to do so since the gym teacher would be all the time next to the students' group during the parade. However, the Principal and the gym teacher insisted on their initial decision by arguing that if the boy paraded he would suffer high emotional stress, which would be harmful for him. In the expert's opinion, although there is no specific law regulating the particular issue of access of disabled persons to educational activities such as school parades, the above practice of the specific school contradicts Article 21, par. 6 of the Greek Constitution, which stipulates that "people with disabilities have the right to benefit from measures ensuring their self-sufficiency, professional integration and participation in the social, economic and political life".



Internet link source: <http://news.disabled.gr/?p=39302#more-39302>