

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Public Statement

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## **Bulgaria: Program of the International Forum on Discrimination of People with Mental Disabilities**

**JOINTLY ORGANIZED WITH THE BULGARIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE**

**Hotel Rodina  
8 bul. "Totleben". 1606 Sofia,  
10 October 2002  
9.00 to 14.00**

9.00: Registration and Coffee.

9.30: Opening of the Forum by Ivan Fisser, Amnesty International's researcher for Bulgaria.

9.35: Screening of Amnesty International's documentary film "*Far from the eyes of society*" (20 minutes).

10.00: Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International, presents AI's report "*Bulgaria: Far from the eyes of society. Systematic discrimination against people with mental disabilities*".

10.10: Krassimir Kanev, Chairperson of the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee.

10.20: Representatives of the Bulgarian Government.

10.40: Karl Bach Jensen, World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, addressing the forum also on behalf of Bengt Lindqvist, UN Special Rapporteur on Disabilities.

10.50: John Dalhuisen, private secretary to the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe.

10.55: Discussion on the report's concerns and recommendations (45 minutes).

11.30: Coffee break.

12.00 - 13.30: Krassimir Kanev, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, chairs a discussion on the "next steps": participants are invited to speak about their programs to speed up reform and/or their concerns about the current situation; IGO representatives are invited to speak about their ability to support reform in Bulgaria and about any similar programs they may have supported in other countries.

13.30 - 14.00: Lunch.

**For more information, accreditation to the Forum and media enquiries, please contact:**

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