RUDERMAN INCLUSION SUMMIT | ARE YOU IN?

Dan Habib

Filmmaker and Parent Advocate

Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire

Dan Habib (pronounced “Habeeb”) is the creator of the award-winning documentary films including *Samuel*, *Who Cares About Kelsey?*, *Restraint and Seclusion: Hear Our Stories*, and many other films on disability-related topics. Habib is a filmmaker at the University of New Hampshire’s Institute on Disability. In 2013 he received the Justice for All Grassroots Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities. In 2014, Habib was appointed by President Barack Obama to the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Habib and his wife, Betsy, live in Concord, New Hampshire with their sons Isaiah, 18, and Samuel, 15.

Why I’m IN?

We systematically segregate millions of students with disabilities. But research is definitive: they will have better outcomes if they are included. Let’s end the segregation.

Jacob Kamaras

Managing Director and Editor in Chief

Jewish News Service

Jacob Kamaras is managing director and editor in chief of the Jewish News Service (JNS.org), overseeing all editorial operations for a newswire service that provides content to more than 75 Jewish and Christian publications. He has been the editor of JNS.org since its founding. Jacob has also worked for AOL's hyperlocal news venture, Patch.com; The Jewish State, a weekly newspaper in central New Jersey; and The Jersey Journal daily newspaper in Jersey City, New Jersey. He was also editor in chief of the student newspaper at Brandeis University.

Why I’m IN?

I want to raise awareness about the power of language and how our words shape the debate on important social issues like disability inclusion.

Professor Arlene S. Kanter

Distinguished Professor of Law, Director, Disability Law and Policy Program
Syracuse University College of Law

Arlene S. Kanter is the Bond, Schoeneck & King Distinguished Professor of Law, the Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith Professor of Teaching Excellence, and director of the Disability Law and Policy Program at Syracuse University. Professor Kanter's research, writing, teaching and practice focus on disability, inclusive education and human rights. She worked with the UN on drafting the Convention on the Right of People with Disabilities and has traveled to over 10 countries to work with organizations and governments to implement this treaty. She is the recipient of many awards and was a Fulbright Scholar at Tel Aviv University and visiting professor at Hebrew University. Her most recent book is *The Development of Disability Right Under International Law: From Charity to Human Rights*. Professor Kanter received her JD from NYU and her LLM from Georgetown University.

Why I'm IN?

The full inclusion of people with disabilities in our families, neighborhoods, schools and workplaces is not an option; it is a basic human right.

Barbara A. L'Italien

State Senator
Massachusetts State Senate

Senator Barbara L'Italien represents Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury in the Massachusetts State Senate. She chairs the committees on Municipalities and Regional Government and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure and serves on eight additional committees. Senator L'Italien is well known for her advocacy on behalf of the disability community, specifically in the area of Autism. She chairs the state-wide Autism Commission, and has worked throughout her career to make Massachusetts a nationwide leader in Autism care. She is also a recognized advocate for seniors and a leader on education related issues.

Why I'm IN?

Because we must keep talking and organizing to make positive changes that improve the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

Rabbi Edie Mencher

Rabbi Edythe Held Mencher, LCSW
URJ Faculty for Sacred and Caring Community
Coordinator URJ Ruderman Initiative on Disabilities Inclusion
Union for Reform Judaism
URJ Ruderman Disabilities Inclusion Center

Rabbi Mencher serves as URJ Faculty for Sacred Caring Community and Coordinator of the URJ-Ruderman Family Foundation Partnership for Inclusion of People with Disabilities and is an adjunct faculty member of Hebrew Union College-JIR's Interfaith Doctor of Ministry Program in Pastoral Counseling. She serves on the Steering Committee of the Mental Health and Faith Community Partnership, created to foster dialogue between psychiatrists and faith leaders. She is the co-author of Resilience of the Soul: Developing Emotional and Spiritual Resilience in Adolescents and Their Families. Ordained by HUC-JIR in 1999, Rabbi Mencher is also a graduate of the Westchester Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy and of Hunter College School of Social Work.

Why I'm IN?

I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn, share and grow with others committed to creating a Jewish community to which we all can contribute!

Ari Ne'eman

President
Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Ari Ne'eman is the President of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, a national advocacy organization run by and for autistic people. From 2010 to September 2015, Mr. Ne'eman served as one of President Obama's appointees to the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency that advises Congress and the President on disability policy. He currently serves as a member of the Department of Labor's Advisory Committee on Competitive, Integrated Employment

Why I'm IN?

As a Jew and a person with a disability, I believe that true Tikkun Olam requires us to make accessibility and inclusion a basic and non-negotiable requirement of our communal life.

Tom Sannicandro

State Representative Massachusetts Legislature
Chair, Joint Committee on Higher Education
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Tom Sannicandro is a leader in Massachusetts on the civil rights of persons with intellectual disabilities. He is a State Representative and Chair of the Committee on Higher Education. He is the author of a number of ground breaking laws that empower people with disabilities. As an attorney he represents students with disabilities to insure they receive the highest quality education. He has degrees from Suffolk University Law School, Harvard University, College of the Holy Cross, and is completing a PhD at Brandeis University. His dissertation is entitled: *The Effect of Postsecondary Education on Employment for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities*.

Why I'm IN?

It is critical that everyone is welcome and valued. All of our futures are at stake.