

**Interessenvertretung "Selbstbestimmt Leben" in Deutschland e. V. - ISL**

Verein zur Förderung selbstbestimmten Lebens behinderter  
Menschen im Sinne der internationalen  
"Independent Living" Bewegung

**Representation**

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The German umbrella organization for Independent Living "Interessenvertretung selbstbestimmt Leben in Deutschland - ISL e. V." was founded in Erlangen on 18 October 1990 by eight people active in the German disability movement. The founders wanted to set up a national umbrella organization to support the principles and goals of the international Independent Living Movement.

The founding members have participated in the formation and development of liberating disability work, and their work contributed to the establishment of numerous Centers for Independent Living in various German cities since 1986.

The goal of the organization is on the one hand to protect and further these counseling and information centers and on the other hand to promote the establishment of new Centers for Independent Living, especially in the new German states. The founding members voted that after a setting-up phase, membership would be available to organizations only. The ISL is therefore a collective of member organizations which specifically represents the interests of Centers for Independent Living.

According to the statutes, an organization can join ISL on if all planning, executive work and decision-making in the Center for Independent Living are the responsibilities of disabled people. The activities of the Center must also conform to the ISL resolutions 1 and 2. ISL's major decisions are made by a three-member committee elected by the members.

Other goals of ISL include:

- promoting the principles and strict criteria of Independent Living and protecting them from misuse;
- protecting the concept of "independent living for disabled people"
- cooperating with other clubs and umbrella organizations in order to promote the emancipation of disabled people and to influence disability politics;

- developing a geographically comprehensive network of independent, empowering counseling centers for disabled people to enable disabled people to lead independent and self-determined lives in the community;
- developing alternative care and assistant systems, most especially of "personal assistance" to become less dependent on institutional care;
- maintaining and developing international networking to strengthen the Independent Living civil rights movement.

ISL therefore works closely with the ENIL (European Network on Independent Living) and, through ENIL, is affiliated with the DPI (Disabled Peoples International).

Erlangen, August 1991