

Dear Conference Organizers & Participants,

It gives me great pleasure to send you this short message from Sweden on the 13th of May, 2023.

My name is Olle Johansson, I am a professor, retired - but still active - from the Karolinska Institute and the Royal Institute of Technology, both in Stockholm, Sweden, and I have been interested in the adverse health and biological effects of artificial electromagnetic fields, as well as in the functional impairment electrohypersensitivity, since 1977. Up till now, I have written hundreds of original research papers, conference reports, book chapters, and reviews. I have participated in more than 300 congresses, symposia and meetings as an invited speaker, and with free contributions and as an invited 'observer' at an additional 200. My studies have been widely recognized in the public media, including newspapers, radio and TV as well as on the Internet, both nationally as well as internationally, and I am a regular interview guest in magazines, journals, tabloids and newspapers, as well as in radio shows, TV programmes - including the BBC Panorama - and in the Internet-based news blogs and websites.

A lot has happened since those early years of the 1980es, and the venue for the first presentation I gave, an underground ice-cold bicycle shed, has been changed to the most posh places on Earth, including Sedgwick Park House in Horsham, the Krakow City Hall in Poland, the National Assembly of Paris, the EU headquarters in Brussels, and the foremost academic society in the world, the Royal Society in London.

Against this background, I am all the more concerned because I have been alerted by several electrohypersensitive persons about the various projects to medicalize and 'patientilize' the persons with the functional impairment electrohypersensitivity that have been taking place in recent months in several European countries, notably France, Germany, Italy, England, and Sweden, although this condition is already recognized as a functional impairment (aka disability or functional diversity); and - according to the definition given by the special human rights acts for persons with functional impairments - actually in all UN countries.

Persons with functional impairments have the legal right to "*live an equal life in a society based on equality*" (cf. UN). Nothing of this is about empathy or kindness from our society, it is only about legal conventions, laws, rules, and regulations, as formulated by the UN (cf. the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (aka the UN Special Human Rights Act for Persons with Functional Impairments)).

Persons with functional impairments, like electrohypersensitivity, are NOT here "to teach us empathy". Treating members of the community equally is not something that should be done as a favour; nor is it something that any parliament or government should politely request other citizens to provide others with. Equality is not something to be done "out of the goodness of one's heart". It is something one does since it is expected of every citizen because inaccessibility and discrimination are prohibited by international law.

I therefore recommend EHS persons that are discriminated against to always file a legal complaint, including to the UN. All of this applies if someone doesn't get compensation for loss of income, or a medical doctor tries to force a person into a given medical diagnosis, including mental illness, and/or a neighbour is bullying you.

Most recently, I have been engaged for, and spent quite a lot of work on, a website aiming to enlighten society about persons with the functional impairment electrohypersensitivity as powerful, gifted assets to our democracies, instead of as being only seen as suffering problems. By empowering the electrohypersensitive people, the aim is to empower the entire society. (Of course, this will not - in any way - take anything from the continuous struggle for human rights for the electrohypersensitive people.) Since the project still is in its infancy, I can not guarantee the outcome, but I am doing my best.

Echoing these last lines, Jenny Fry set an example for us all, not only pointing out the inconvenient reality but also what we must do to never see her fate unfold again. I will never forget her.

With these words, I wish you the very best of good luck with your highly important conference!

With my very best regards
Yours sincerely
Olle Johansson