

The 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress  
on Adult Guardianship

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SEOUL DRAGON CITY Convention Center  
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## Two Presentations by Dr. Nora J. Baladerian at World Congress

### *Autonomy: Supported Decision-Making in a Culture of Compliance (General)*

Supported decision-making arrangements are being widely promoted throughout the world as an alternative to adult guardianship.

Protecting a person's civil right of autonomy is at the foundation of the trend toward supported decision-making. However, what is often overlooked by proponents of SDM is that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live in a culture of compliance. They are taught and trained to obey those in authority.

This presentation acknowledges the difficulty of achieving truly independent decision-making in a SDM arrangement, calls for a realistic pre-SDM assessment of decision-making skills, and insists that post-SDM monitoring be done periodically to reduce the risk of undue influence by the SDM supporter on the decision-making process.

Protocols for pre and post SDM assessments need to be developed and incorporated into laws regulating SDM agreements and arrangements.

### *Disability and Abuse: Developing a Risk Reduction and Response Plan (Workshop)*

Abuse is rampant for people with disabilities. To reduce the incidence and impact upon the victim

and circle of loved ones, it is essential to plan for the potential disaster of abuse, as is done for any other unwanted type of disaster, such as a typhoon or earthquake. A detailed plan of action is called for – to prepare the individual with a disability and their carers. Each has a role to learn and to implement when abuse may occur.

An Individual Response Plan (IRP) can build skills for people with disabilities and their plan partner (parent, sibling, carer) – skills that are needed before, during and after an assault. This not only reduces the risk of abuse, but can decrease the impact of trauma when abuse occurs.



Nora J. Baladerian, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist who provides therapy to trauma victims with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She also conducts trainings for parents, service providers, protective services agencies, and law enforcement officers on how to reduce the risk of abuse and how to effectively respond to abuse. She also serves as an expert witness in civil cases when victims sue perpetrators and the agencies whose negligence has contributed to abuse. She is the director of the Disability and Abuse Project of Spectrum Institute. More information about her work may be found at: [www.disabilityandabuse.org](http://www.disabilityandabuse.org)  
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