

The champions of rights enforcement Peer-Counsellors, the effective Human Rights Defenders

The May 2025 appeal

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are writing to ask for your support in consolidating the development of the Peer-Counsellor® training program presented in the attached brochure, which can be downloaded [here](#).

This training program, inspired by the DPI group ([GFPH](#)) and implemented by ARIFTS, is based on principles proven by over 30 years of associative practice nourished by the culture of the international “Independent Living” movement. Adjusted over five sessions from 2020 to 2025, it has proven its relevance in many situations. The 71% activity rate of the 61 Peer Counsellors trained to date is indicative of the appetite of all stakeholders for the experiential dynamic they bring to the table, and their astonishing creativity is expressed in a wide range of interactions. These are all qualities that can fuel the difficult reforms needed to ensure that assistance to individuals is respectful of everyone's rights, an essential step towards deinstitutionalization.

With six months to go before the opening of the sixth session, and the ARS (Regional Health Agencies) having just announced its funding, a quarter of the budget has yet to be found. This uncertainty is repeated every year and limits our ability to build the framework and tools needed to train new Peer Counsellors®, but above all reduces our limited capacity to support those already in post, whether in terms of training, analysis of practices or network animation.

While the 2025/26 session is now partly assured, a quarter of the budget remains to be found, and we therefore invite you to send us:

- A letter of support to our address and that of Intervenants-Pair®. Please feel free to use the enclosed proposal.
- Your recommendations to potential donors, individuals within French and international institutions, companies or civil society organizations likely to contribute to the financing of our initiative. The productions initiated by Intervenants-Pair® never cease to amaze. They offer a wide range of innovative and unifying lines of communication that can be used in campaigns to promote citizenship, solidarity and sustainable development.

What's needed is a reflex of alliance, a search for balance between the strengths and deficits of each individual, the forging of alliances so that those who carry and those who are carried gain confidence, determination and self-fulfillment. Each individual gains in freedom and strengthens his or her capacity for self-determination. And society as a whole will find it a source of resilience to better face the collective challenges ahead.

Thank you very much for your commitment.