

# **ACCESSIBILITY & RIPE**

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# MORE THAN

- Still common to think in “normal” or “wheelchair bound with paralysed legs”
- Actually many different abilities, aids and needs
- Some temporary, some long term
- Some visible, some not at all
- Many dynamic to some degree





# DISCLAIMERS

- I am more aware of different needs than most people - still only one set of experiences
- My limitations are quite light compared to many people
- Limiting to reduced mobility in this talk
- Different relations to disability
- Just wrote these slides yesterday





# DO'S AND DON'TS

- **“Disabled person” vs “person with disabilities”**
- **Never: wheelchair bound, differently abled, people of determination, handicapable, confined to a wheelchair**
- **Yes: wheelchair/rollator/crutch user: for many of us they enable, rather than confine**
- **Aids are an extension of ourselves: do not move, use, lean, use to hang your coat**



rollator

Photos 1

Collections 0

Users 0

## Rollator

Senior

Retirement Home

Retirement



Senior

Retirement Home

Retirement



# INFORM, DO NOT ASSUME

- Most people are very aware of their own abilities and limits
- Do not make assumptions on what we can and can not do
- Rather, provide thorough and checked info on what the situation is, so we can make our own decisions





# ACCURATE AND DETAILED

- Venues sometimes lie, important to be thorough
- Is the accessible toilet actually accessible? Locked? Used for storage?
- Assumptions around “it’s just one step”
- Needing to justify use





# WORKAROUNDS

- **Lifting a person with or without their aid is rarely an option**
- **Some people can walk without their aid for a bit, some can not**
- **Some aids can be lifted by others**
- **Workarounds are sometimes needed, but hurt our independence and dignity**







**If I got an IPv4 address every time  
someone said "I'm so sorry"**



# EVENT TRAVEL

- Travelling with reduced mobility is a ton of extra work, research and planning
- Transportation, hotel, luggage, medication, conference venue, social events, mobility aids
- More stressful because something will likely go wrong (photo not mine)





# RIPE87

- **The meeting team and other RIPE NCC staff have really made an effort for me on site**
- **I have not had to run anyone over with my walker (yet)**
- **I manage reasonably well because I can still do a lot, just not often, and it's harder**
- **But overall, it's actually really bad**





# RIPE87

- **Initially I was told my foldable walker would not fit in the social event buses, with the suggestion to take a taxi, which would increased my cost for this event by € 200**
- **Decided to ignore that and just show up, it was fine**
- **Had very little info in advance**





# SOME BARRIERS

(BEYOND JUST MINE)

- No accessibility information up front
- Two hotel buildings, shuttle not accessible
- Side room only by stairs
- Stairs to get to social event
- No accessible toilet at social event





Open &  
non-co  
measur  
platform





















# **WE REALLY NEED TO DO BETTER**

**(BEYOND JUST MY LIMITATIONS)**

- **The accessibility for people with reduced mobility at RIPE is really poor**
- **The RIPE NCC staff has done their best to make on the fly accommodations**
- **Someone who is unable or barely able to stand would have a miserable and expensive time here and not know in advance**
- **At least have detailed info on website - in time for early bird - do not wait for problem to appear**

