



## PRESS RELEASE

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# Hitting the Home Stretch: 4th World Congress on Adult Guardianship is all set

Board of the German Association for Betreuung is pleased with the preparations for the congress against incapacitation in September.

Bochum/Hannover, 5 June, 2016      This weekend, the honorary board of the German Association for Betreuung (BGT) has completed preparing the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Adult Guardianship. **81 experts for the legal protection of adults from all five continents, 34 of them from abroad, have confirmed their participation as speakers for September 14-17, 2016 in Erkner near Berlin.**

The 560 participants from all over the world will for example meet vice-chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Prof. Dr. Theresia Degener, herself affected by thalidomide, or the president of the Japanese Adult Guardianship Law Association, Prof. Makoto Arai.

“That so many international experts accepted our invitation, shows the significance attributed to the congress,” Peter Winterstein, first chairman of the BGT, is pleased to assert. “Our top-class speakers and discussants alone have helped us develop a conference programme of high professional quality.”

On these three days, the expert reports of persons affected, scientists, lawyers and practitioners will provide the foundation for an advancement towards a global legal protection of adults.

The basis is the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by the Federal Republic of Germany in 2009. Topics range from the protection against abuse, such as restraint and immobilisation by means of psychotropic drugs, to the right to self-determination and transactional capacity despite “Betreuung”, up to a qualification of legal representatives.

“Only if all components are taken into consideration can we adopt expedient international guidelines on the legal protection of adults and firmly oppose incapacitation,” Peter Winterstein states.

The World Congress on Adult Guardianship 2016 will be held under the auspices of the German Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection, Heiko Maas, and the Federal Minister for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth, Manuela Schwesig. It is hosted by the German Association for Betreuung in collaboration with the International Guardianship Network.

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**Hitting the Home Stretch: 4th World Congress on Adult Guardianship is all set – Press release 6 June 2016**

Page 2

The programme of the 4th World Congress on Adult Guardianship 2016 accompanies this press release. Further information at: [www.wcag2016.de](http://www.wcag2016.de).

For interviews, reports, as well as panel discussions and talk shows, we are happy to establish contacts with persons being legally represented, legal representatives/attorneys, lawyers, as well as academic experts.

On request we are happy to provide you with a current photo of the BGT board and case studies from the everyday practice of legal representation.

The World Congress on Adult Guardianship has been taking place every two years since 2010. Previous hosts were Japan (2010), Australia (2012), and USA (2014). This year's host is Germany. The 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress will be held from September 14-17, 2016 in Erkner near Berlin.

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