

# Executive Summary

## Some ways to achieve more understanding of stuttering in your own Country.

The mission of the International Stuttering Association (ISA) is to work to achieve

### **A World that Understands Stuttering**

This draft document, for Members Associations to discuss, is based on

- The Bill of Rights and Responsibilities of People Who Stutter (see [http://www.stutterisa.org/Mission\\_R&R.html#mission](http://www.stutterisa.org/Mission_R&R.html#mission))
- Work in hand, started by the ISA 10 Recommendations Committee (formed in 2007). The committee began with Thomas Krall, Dr. Moussa Dao, Shinji Ito, Masuhiko Kawasaki, Benny Ravid and Michael Sugarman. Other members of the ISA helped with the work. Benny Ravid left the committee when he resigned from the ISA and Michael Sugarman left when he became ISA Chair.
- Draft #5 was presented to the ISA Board in February 2010 for consideration.
- The ISA Board amended Draft #5 to create Draft #6, for consideration by Member Associations who do not have English as a first language.
- The ISA Board wants to thank everyone who helped in the creation of draft #5.

# Executive Summary.

## **The purpose and intent of the 10 Recommendations.**

Three documents are attached. Draft #6 10 Recommendations / Draft #6 Further Information Package / Draft Questionnaire. These three documents are work in hand by the 10 Recommendations Committee, and are not formal policy documents from the ISA. The ISA Board has agreed to circulate the drafts to Member Associations on the understanding they still need considerable work.

The 10 Recommendations Committee spent considerable time with 10 basic dreams or ideals that the ISA should work towards. They carried out research to find out what some other countries thought and included some experiences. There is useful information contained in the Draft #5 10 Recommendations, if a Member Association wants to pursue one or more of the recommendations and has access to good translation.

The Summary below is a good start.

The ISA Board thought there would be additional benefit to be gained by placing the recommendations in the context of our Mission statement and summarizing the 10 recommendations whilst adding, [in blue](#), how Countries can begin to implement various recommendations. If any further implementation ideas are needed, the ISA will be pleased to help where it can. It will be easier to translate this shorter Executive Summary so that Associations can select which recommendation(s) to concentrate on first. The first three are essential early steps. As your Association grows you may want to look at more.

## **A Summary of the 10 recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1: Education - Kindergarten, Primary, and Secondary Schools**

Teachers and staff at schools of all levels should be trained to respond to the needs of children/students who stutter, so as to enable each to reach his/her full potential with a safe and quality of life experience. [Member Associations and their members \(Self Help Groups / Chapters\) can be part of the staff training process. Talks given to schools / teacher training colleges / government staff will all help in classroom management and a child's response.](#)

### **Recommendation 2: Stuttering and Employment**

Representatives of potential employers (recruiters, supervisors, etc.) should not discriminate against job applicants and employees who stutter but should evaluate them based on their relevant skills, character, and ability to perform duties of a position as listed in the job description. [Member Associations and their members \(Self Help Groups / Chapters\) can be part of the Employers' training process. Talks given to employers / government staff will help them to understand about a need to improve communication and leadership skills for all staff. Both Self Help Group / Chapter and Toastmaster clubs at an office will help staff. India is an example of how this works.](#)

### **Recommendation 3: Self-help**

More self-help groups (or local chapters of national associations) for people who stutter should be organized so that such groups will be established in all towns and cities, worldwide. This will give maximum convenience to those who stutter. [Member Associations and their members, existing Self Help Groups / Chapters, can be part of growth process. Growth starts by forming a National communication group \(Yahoo groups / Face book / etc.\) Get National discussion, referenced on the website and expand to new cities. Two PWS are enough to start a Self help group or Chapter.](#)

### **Recommendation 4: Therapy**

Therapy should be available to those who stutter and accurate information about stuttering, with guidance and support should be available to every person who stutters and to their family who seek therapy. [Member Associations need to collect information about what is happening in their Country and put it on their website and pass this to Self Help Groups / Chapters. Also Self Help Groups / Chapters can pass information / experience back to their Association.](#)

### **Recommendation 5: Research and Database on Stuttering**

Research – some of which is presently ongoing – as to the causes, nature, development, and treatment of stuttering should be accelerated until the “riddle of stuttering” is solved and the world better understands both stuttering and people who stutter. To do this, additional funding from government, industry, and private donations should be solicited as well as raising money to fund students doing a Master or Ph.D. [Member Associations and their members \(Self Help Groups / Chapters\)](#) need to be involved in building the database; fund raising and lobbying for additional donations for the research and collecting statistics on efficacy.

### **Recommendation 6: Advancing the Cause of Stuttering**

The cause of stuttering merits a higher priority worldwide and should be advanced by lobbying, legislation in various countries, fiscal allocation, and planning. [Member Associations and their members \(Self Help Groups / Chapters\)](#) need to be involved in this process. Giving talks to a wide spectrum of organizations and in the media is required.

### **Recommendation 7: Changing Public Attitudes about Stuttering**

More effort should be made to change the attitude of those who continue to hold negative and stereotypical views about stuttering and about people who stutter. [Member Associations and their members \(Self Help Groups / Chapters\)](#) need to be involved in this process. They can build on the online stuttering conference; ISAD in October and give talks to a wide spectrum of organisations and in the media.

### **Recommendation 8: Screening and Diagnostic Evaluation of Stuttering**

Funding should be made available so that a qualified speech-language pathologist can properly monitor children in order to detect and treat stuttering and other speech disorders promptly. Once diagnosed the child needs to be monitored for efficacy of the treatment. [Member Associations and their members \(Self Help Groups / Chapters\)](#) need to be involved in lobbying for additional donations to make this happen.

### **Recommendation 9: The Importance of Parents and the General Public to Understanding the Stuttering Experience**

*(This is more of a dream than a recommendation!)* Efforts by many are needed to achieve a world characterized by tolerance of people with differences (including stuttering) and also a world that will nurture those differences in order to enable people who stutter to aspire to their dreams. [Member Associations and their members \(Self Help Groups / Chapters\)](#) need to think about this and get out and talk to make this happen.

### **Recommendation 10: Stuttering and Film, Literature, and the Media**

Too often, in films, literature, and media, people who stutter are portrayed from a negative and demeaning perspective; therefore, efforts by many are needed to achieve a more realistic and positive perspective towards stuttering and people who stutter. [Member Associations and their members \(Self Help Groups / Chapters\)](#) need get out and talk to make this happen. Watch for the unacceptable and talk to all media organizations / authors / etc. Explain why it is unacceptable.

More advice on these Recommendations is available at

<http://www.stammering.org/>

<http://www.bvss.de/>

<http://www.stuttering.ws/>

<http://www.stutteringhomepage.org/>