**A Message from Yaffa Ben David, General Secretary of Israel Teachers Union**

Today we mark the International Day for Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities.

As educators, it is our duty to constantly raise awareness for this important equality and help lead a society as free from barriers as possible for each and every girl and boy. For every person.

In the last two years, Israel Teachers Union has been almost the only body that has struggled regarding the reform that is currently taking place in special education and aims to integrate children with special needs into regular classes.

The struggle revolved around the issue of resources. ITU has argued all along and we still do that every child who moves from a small class in special education into a regular classroom needs resources: professional support, paramedical support, emotional support and every teacher who needs to integrate a child into a regular class needs appropriate training.

Unfortunately, our demands have not been met yet and we are already seeing in the field students who get hurt and get a small personal resources "basket" that is not enough for the required needs.

Israel Teachers Union will continue to work harder in order to encourage the proper allocation of resources to special education students in Israel out of a desire to provide them with the enveloping frame they deserve to ensure that they receive all the tools for success in their lives.

Every child is entitled to an equal opportunity to start their journey in the world on the right foot.

Yaffa Ben David, General Secretary

Israel Teachers Union