



World Autism Awareness Day

2nd APRIL

2016 Theme

“Autism and the 2030 Agenda:
Inclusion and Neurodiversity”

THE WORLD FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

What is Autism?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors.

ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances. Individuals with ASD excel in visual skills, music, math and art.

How common is Autism?

The world prevalence rate of ASD is estimated at 1 case per 161 people. This prevalence rate is much higher in some countries (eg. 1 out of 68 people has ASD in the USA). ASD is about 5 times more common in males than in females.

What causes Autism?

ASD is caused by a combination of genetic predisposition, gene mutation and environmental factors affecting early brain development.

What you can do?

- Be friends with someone with ASD. Take the initiative to include him or her. Be persistent and patient.
- Encourage families with a child with ASD to seek professional psychosocial support.
- Seek information on ASD and share on social media using the hashtag **#LIUB**.
- Raise awareness by turning your Facebook and Twitter profile picture blue during the month of April. You can do that by visiting: www.twibbon.com/support/light-it-up-blue-4

For more information on autism spectrum disorders visit:
www.autismspeaks.com