

His Excellency, Mr Ban Ki moon  
United Nations Secretary-General  
UN Headquarters  
First Avenue at 46th Street  
New York, NY10017  
USA

Iceland August 27th 2015

Your Excellency

I am writing this letter to offer my sincerest thanks to you and your colleagues at the UN for your declaration, in Chapter 26 of your report "Transforming Our World", that the UN is committed to the prevention and treatment of neurological diseases. This move by the UN is of great benefit for all humanity, as the international neurological sciences community desperately needs the help of the international community in order to improve treatment and seek cures. Up to a billion people suffer from neurological damage and diseases, and neurological disorders are becoming increasingly common. The next major breakthroughs in medicine will most likely be in the area of neurology, and this commitment by the UN will help pave the way for a knowledge revolution that will lead to major advances. As you know, lack of knowledge is the reason for the current difficulties in treating and curing neurological disorders.

I would furthermore like to thank you and your colleagues for Goal 3.6 in your Development Goals. That is also a very positive commitment. No organ system sustains more damage in automobile accidents than the nervous system, e.g. the spine and brain, and the nervous system is the organ system that can cause the most disability. By reducing the number of automobile accidents and supporting international neurological research, we can, with time, greatly reduce disability on a global scale. You and your colleagues at the UN, along with Mr. Jean Todt, president of FIA, are to be commended for your efforts.

As you know, I am a mother who has supported her paralysed daughter for many years, dealing with all the attendant mental and physical complications. Armed with motherly love, I have strived for many years to get Icelandic authorities and the Icelandic people to join my campaign for increased awareness of neurological disorders. The effort has been successful beyond all expectations, as can be seen in my letter to you dated 5 November 2014 and the letter to you from over 25,000 Icelanders, dated 15 June of last year. Icelandic authorities have promised me that they will raise global awareness of neurological disorders, and I harbour the hope that the UN will lead the way in a global initiative to increase knowledge of the nervous system. Knowledge is a prerequisite of progress.

Finally, I wish you and your colleagues at the UN good luck in carrying out your demanding work. I especially want to thank Mrs. Amina J. Mohammed for her positive and kind words for me and my daughter in her letter to me, dated 24 November 2014.

Sincerely yours,

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