**Jamie Bolling ENIL**

I am empowered, I am autonomous and I have self-determination. Thanks to the Independent Living Movement I was able to realise that as a disabled woman I have the right to live an ordinary life, the life that I lived before I had my accident. I have the right to live with my family, to be employed, to ride the bus that passes in front of my house, which isn’t the case. In Sweden, where I live, they brought inaccessible busses last year. My name is Jamie Bolling and I am the Director of the European Network on Independent Living. It took a few years after my accident to become strong, to come to terms with this body that just didn’t work the way it did before, to realise I was beautiful whether I walked or whether I sat in my wheelchair. My kids tried to hide me: a Mom in the wheelchair! She was only a fifty per-cent Mom: she could not even walk. So the struggle began in changing their attitudes and fighting the shame that they were feeling, even my own shame of having become different. Thanks to having been able to get an education, thanks to the Independent Living Movement that has taught me about my rights and through the empowerment that I’ve gained I strive to change the world, fighting for the empowerment of all disabled women. I have a voice, my voice can be used until everyone else harnesses their voice and then we all scream together for the right to live ordinary lives.