



Franklin TX, August 29, 2006- International Mosaic Down Syndrome Association (IMDSA) was stunned to hear the news that the radio station Q92.5FM outside of Canton, Ohio has a regularly aired program titled “Mongoloid Mike.” In this program, an individual sings a song as if he has “mental retardation,” and listeners are encouraged to call into the radio station to guess what “the Mongoloid” is singing. If the caller is correct, he or she wins a prize.

In 1862, John Langdon Down characterized persons with Down syndrome as Mongoloids because of the similarities in the epicanthal folds around their eyes. Up until the mid-1970’s, “Mongoloid” was used as a term describing a person with Down syndrome. Down syndrome occurs when an extra copy of genetic material is present in the 21st chromosome and affects about 1 in 800 individuals in America today. It is now considered a great insult by anyone who has Down syndrome to be called a “Mongoloid.”

Gary Tonks, Executive Director of The ARC of Ohio, contacted Q92.5FM Program Director, John Stewart, concerning the offensiveness of this program and was told that the program would continue and it would not be taken off the airways.

International Mosaic Down Syndrome Association has made great strides to spread awareness and improve acceptance to all of those with any form of Down syndrome. Q92.5 had taken us back three decades by using this term. IMDSA considers the use of the word “Mongoloid” a racial slur and offends not only those in the Down syndrome community but also those from Mongolia.

“Using the word Mongoloid is unacceptable in 2006. It will no longer be tolerated by this community and is considered a racial slur. Individuals with Down syndrome will never reach their full potential until they receive the dignity that they so fully deserve,” said Kristy Colvin, co-founder and President of International Mosaic Down Syndrome Association.

According to the laws of FCC, the program “Mongoloid Mike” breaks the law concerning profanity. The FCC defines profanity as language that “denote[s] certain of those personally reviling epithets naturally tending to provoke violent resentment or denoting language so grossly offensive to members of the public who actually hear it as to amount to a nuisance.”

This racial slur grossly offends IMDSA and its community, and we request that the program be pulled from the airways immediately. In addition, we ask that a sincere apology be made to the public and that the FCC continue with their guidelines concerning the regulations on profanity.

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